

MARVEL

"A comic that will blow you away."

— *ComicVine*



AVENGERS

BY JONATHAN HICKMAN



OPENA · EPTING · KUBERT · WEAVER · DEODATO · CASELLI · CHEUNG · YU





AVENGERS

BY JONATHAN HICKMAN

WRITERS: JONATHAN HICKMAN

WITH NICK SPENCER (AVENGERS #14-17)

AVENGERS #1-3

ARTIST: JEROME OPEÑA

COLOR ARTISTS: DEAN WHITE WITH JUSTIN PONSOR (#2), MORRY HOLLOWELL (#2),
FRANK MARTIN (#3) & RICHARD ISANOVE (#3)

LETTERER: VC'S CORY PETIT

NEW AVENGERS #1-6

PENCILER: STEVE EPTING

INKERS: RICK MAGYAR WITH STEVE EPTING (#2)

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK D'ARMATA

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

AVENGERS #4-6

ARTIST: ADAM KUBERT

COLOR ARTISTS: FRANK D'ARMATA (#4) & FRANK MARTIN (#5-6)

LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT

AVENGERS #7-9

ARTISTS: DUSTIN WEAVER WITH MIKE DEODATO JR. (#9)

COLOR ARTIST: JUSTIN PONSOR

LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT

AVENGERS #10-13

ARTIST: MIKE DEODATO JR.

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER: VC's CORY PETIT

NEW AVENGERS #7-12

ARTIST: MIKE DEODATO JR.

COLOR ARTISTS: FRANK MARTIN WITH RAIN BEREDO (#7)

LETTERER: VC's JOE CARAMAGNA

AVENGERS #14-17

ARTISTS: **STEFANO CASELLI** WITH **MARCO RUDY** & **MARCO CHECCHETTO** (#17)

COLOR ARTISTS: **FRANK MARTIN** WITH **EDGAR DELGADO** (#15)

LETTERERS: **VC's CORY PETIT** WITH **CLAYTON COWLES** (#15)

INFINITY #1

PENCILER: **JIM CHEUNG**

INKERS: **MARK MORALES** WITH **LIVESAY, DAVE MEIKIS** & **JIM CHEUNG**

COLOR ARTIST: **JUSTIN PONSOR**

LETTERERS: **CHRIS ELIOPOULOS** WITH **JOE CARAMAGNA**

INFINITY #2-5

ARTISTS: **JEROME OPEÑA** & **DUSTIN WEAVER**

COLOR ARTIST: **JUSTIN PONSOR**

LETTERER: **CHRIS ELIOPOULOS**

AVENGERS #18-23

PENCILER: **LEINIL FRANCIS YU**

INKERS: **GERRY ALANGUILAN** (#18-22) & **LEINIL FRANCIS YU** (#23)

COLOR ARTISTS, #18-19 & #21-23: **SUNNY GHO** WITH **DAVID CUIEL** (#22) & **PAUL MOUNTS** (#23)

COLOR ARTIST, #20: **DAVID CUIEL**

LETTERER: **VC's CORY PETIT**

INFINITY #6

PENCILERS: **JIM CHEUNG** WITH **DUSTIN WEAVER**

INKERS: **MARK MORALES** WITH **DUSTIN WEAVER, GUILLERMO ORTEGO, DAVE MEIKIS,**
JIM CHEUNG & **LIVESAY**

COLOR ARTISTS: **JUSTIN PONSOR** WITH **IVE SVORCINA**

LETTERER: **CHRIS ELIOPOULOS**

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PREVIOUSLY IN AVENGERS

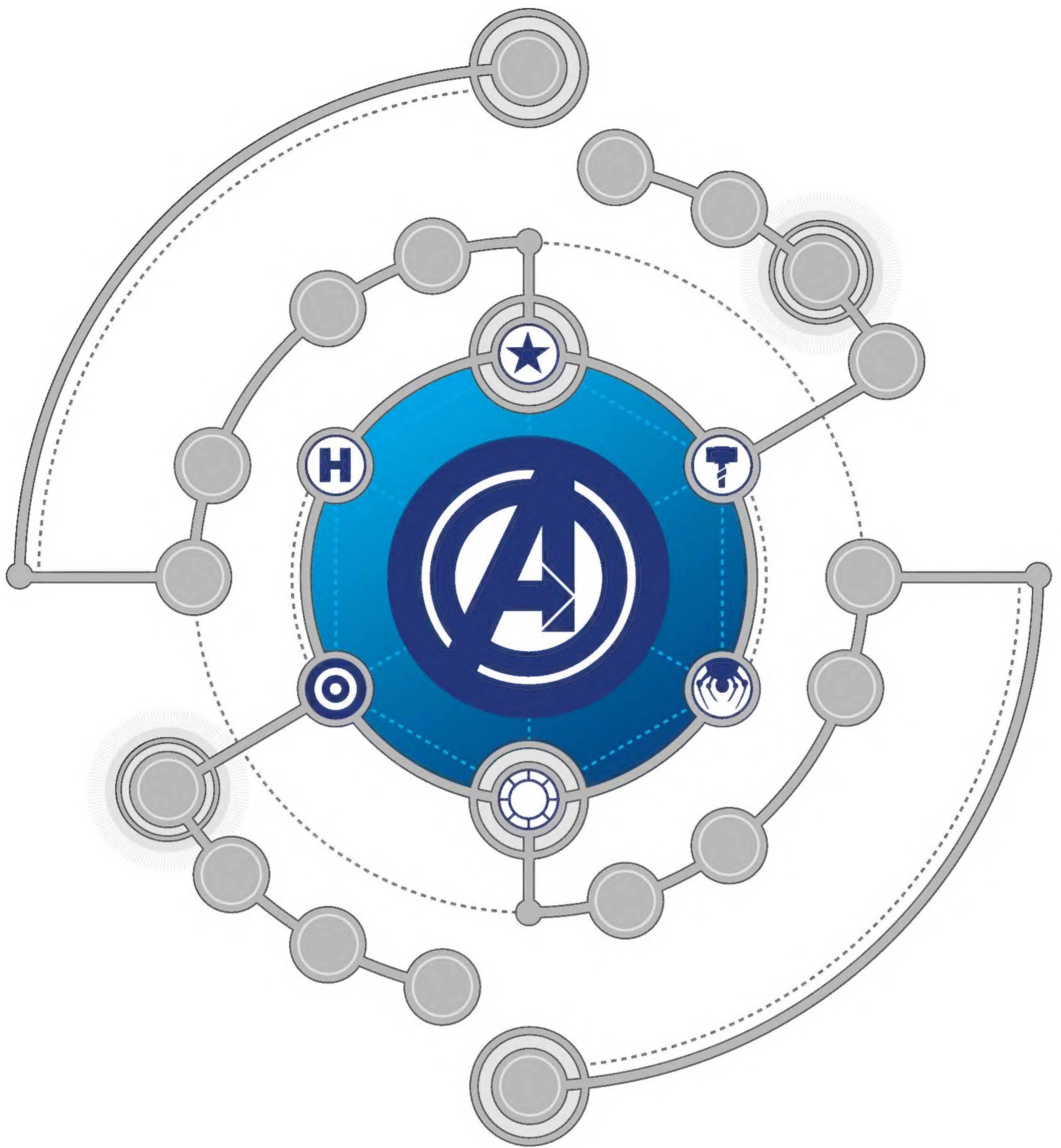
THERE WAS
NOTHING.

FOLLOWED BY
EVERYTHING.

SWIRLING, BURNING
SPECKS OF CREATION
THAT CIRCLED
LIFE-GIVING SUNS.

AND
THEN...

WE RACED
TO THE
LIGHT.



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA

(Steve Rogers)

IRON MAN

(Tony Stark)

HAWKEYE

(Clint Barton)

BLACK WIDOW

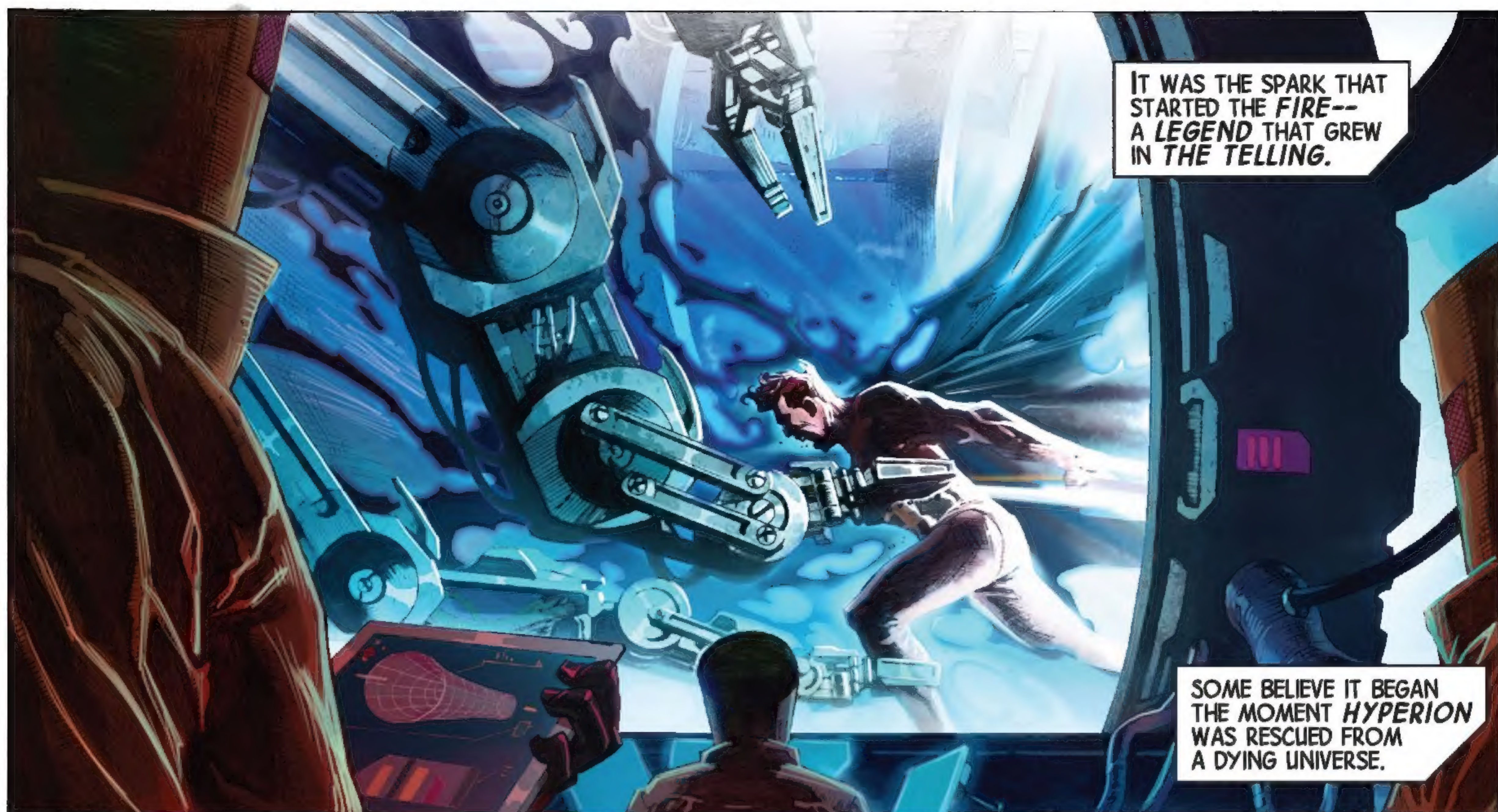
(Natasha Romanova)

THE HULK

(Dr. Bruce Banner)

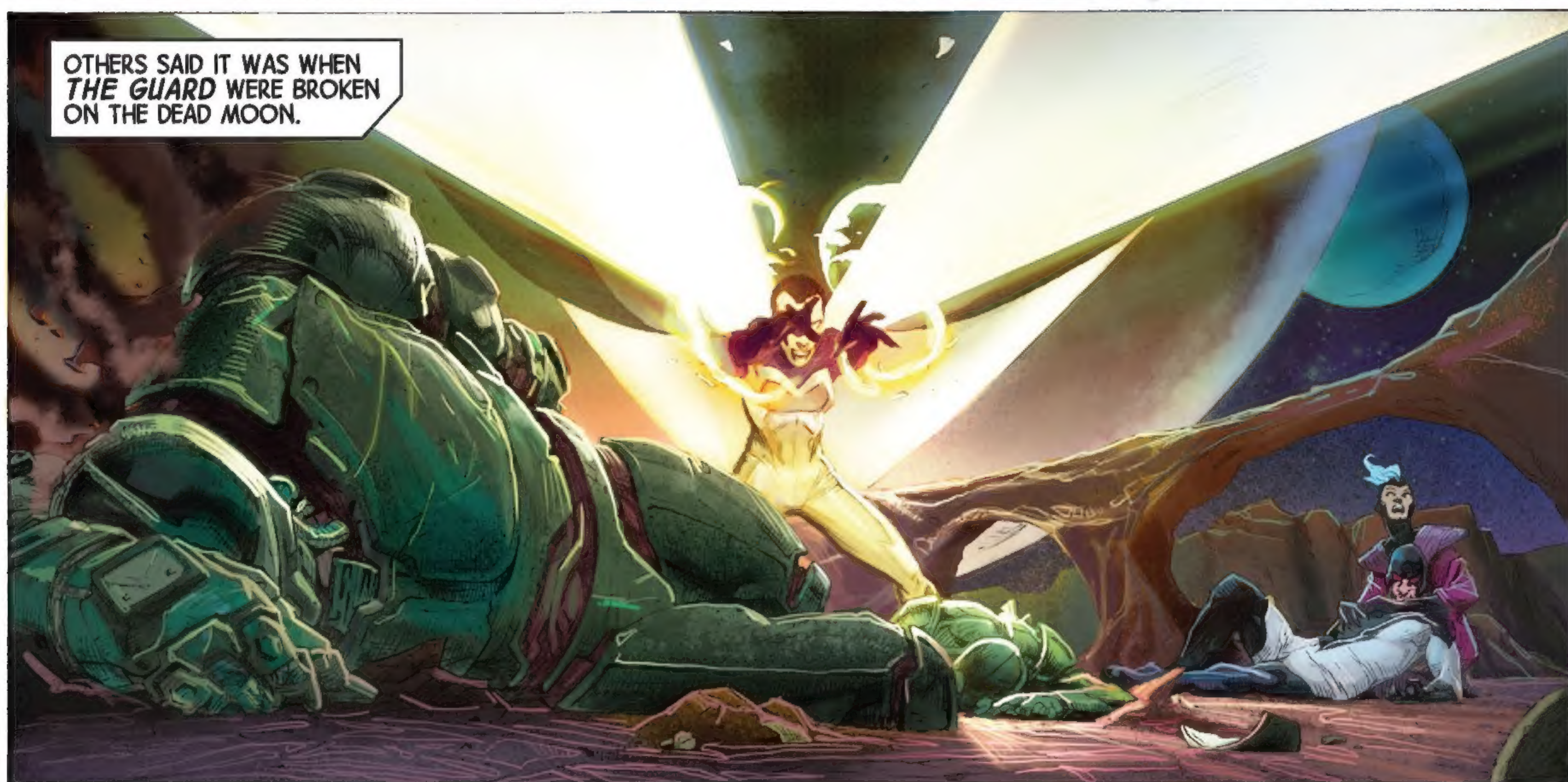
THOR

(Odinson)

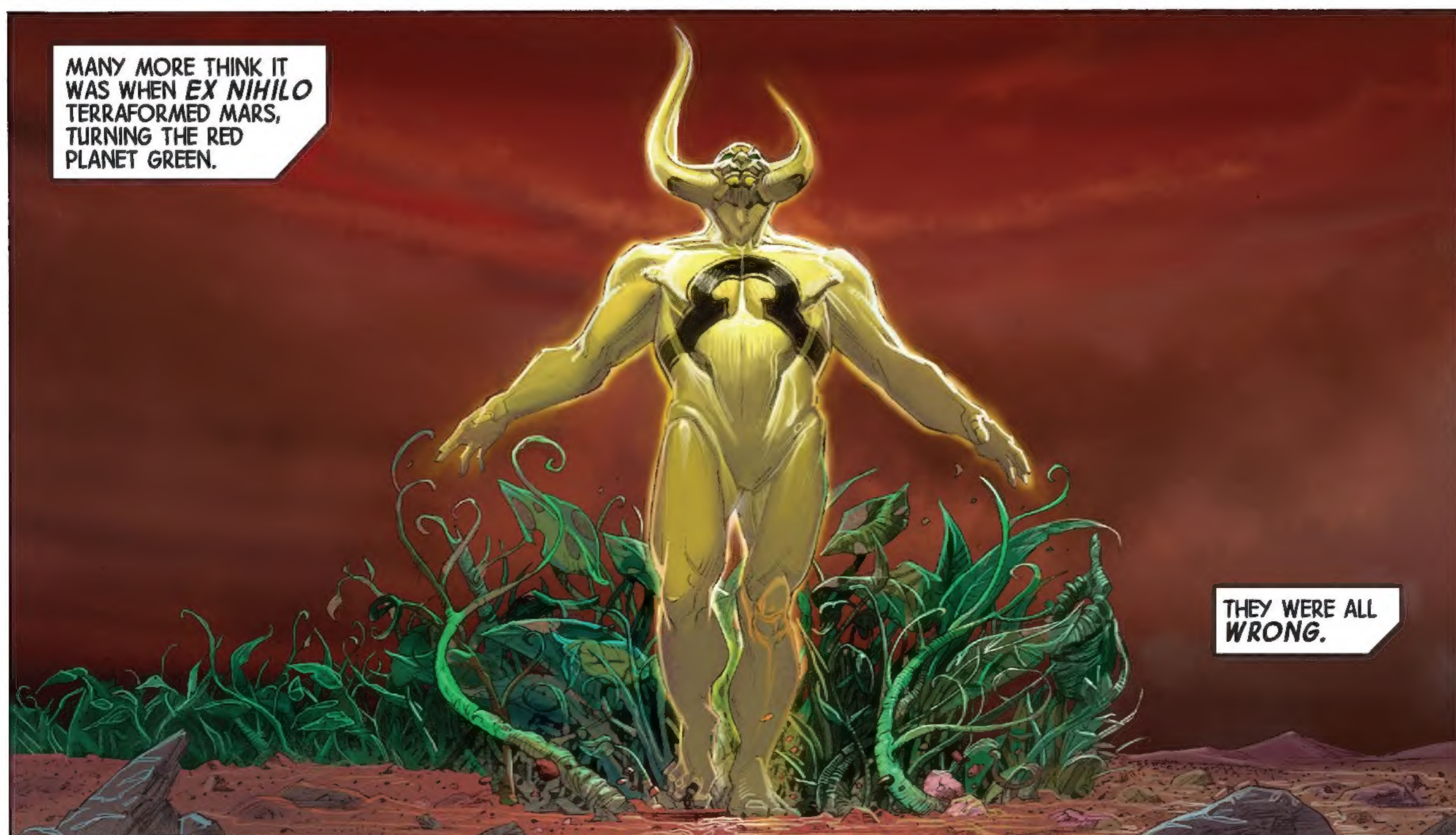


IT WAS THE SPARK THAT
STARTED THE *FIRE*--
A *LEGEND* THAT GREW
IN THE *TELLING*.

SOME BELIEVE IT BEGAN
THE MOMENT *HYPERION*
WAS RESCUED FROM
A DYING UNIVERSE.



OTHERS SAID IT WAS WHEN
THE GUARD WERE BROKEN
ON THE DEAD MOON.



MANY MORE THINK IT
WAS WHEN *EX NIHILO*
TERRAFORMED MARS,
TURNING THE RED
PLANET GREEN.

THEY WERE ALL
WRONG.

AS IT HAPPENED
BEFORE THE
LIGHT.



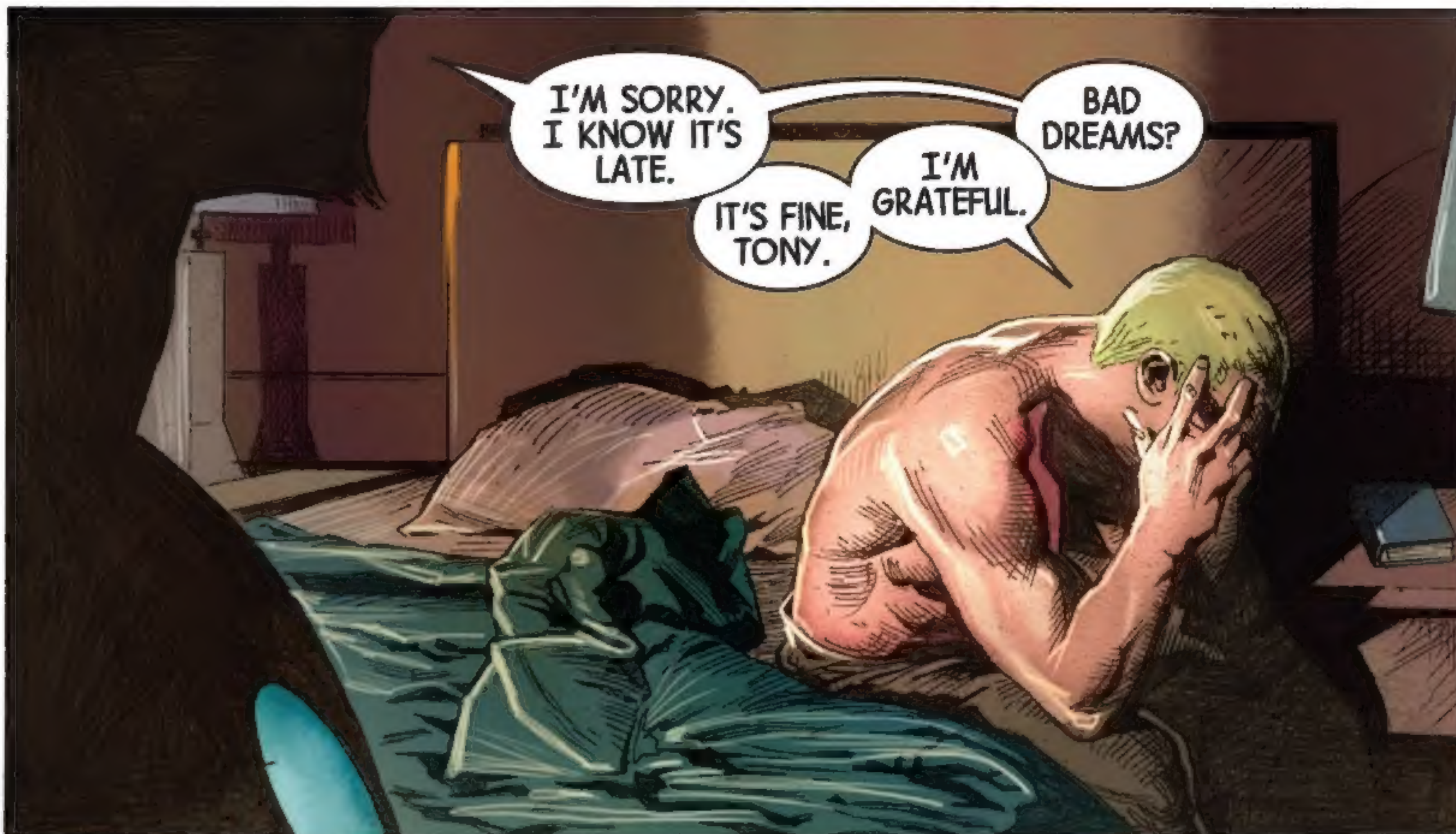
BEFORE
THE
WAR.



AND BEFORE
THE FALL.









SO...THIS
IDEA HAS BEEN
RUNNING THROUGH
MY MIND. IT'S
OVERWHELMING--**ALL-
CONSUMING**--
AND I CAN'T SHUT
IT OFF.

THE EXACT
SAME THING
HAPPENED
THE DAY WE
FOUND
YOU.

YOU
REMEMBER
THAT?



OH...I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING
ABOUT THAT
DAY.

WE STARTED
SOMETHING THAT
MATTERED.
BECAUSE OF YOU,
THE WORLD
CHANGED.

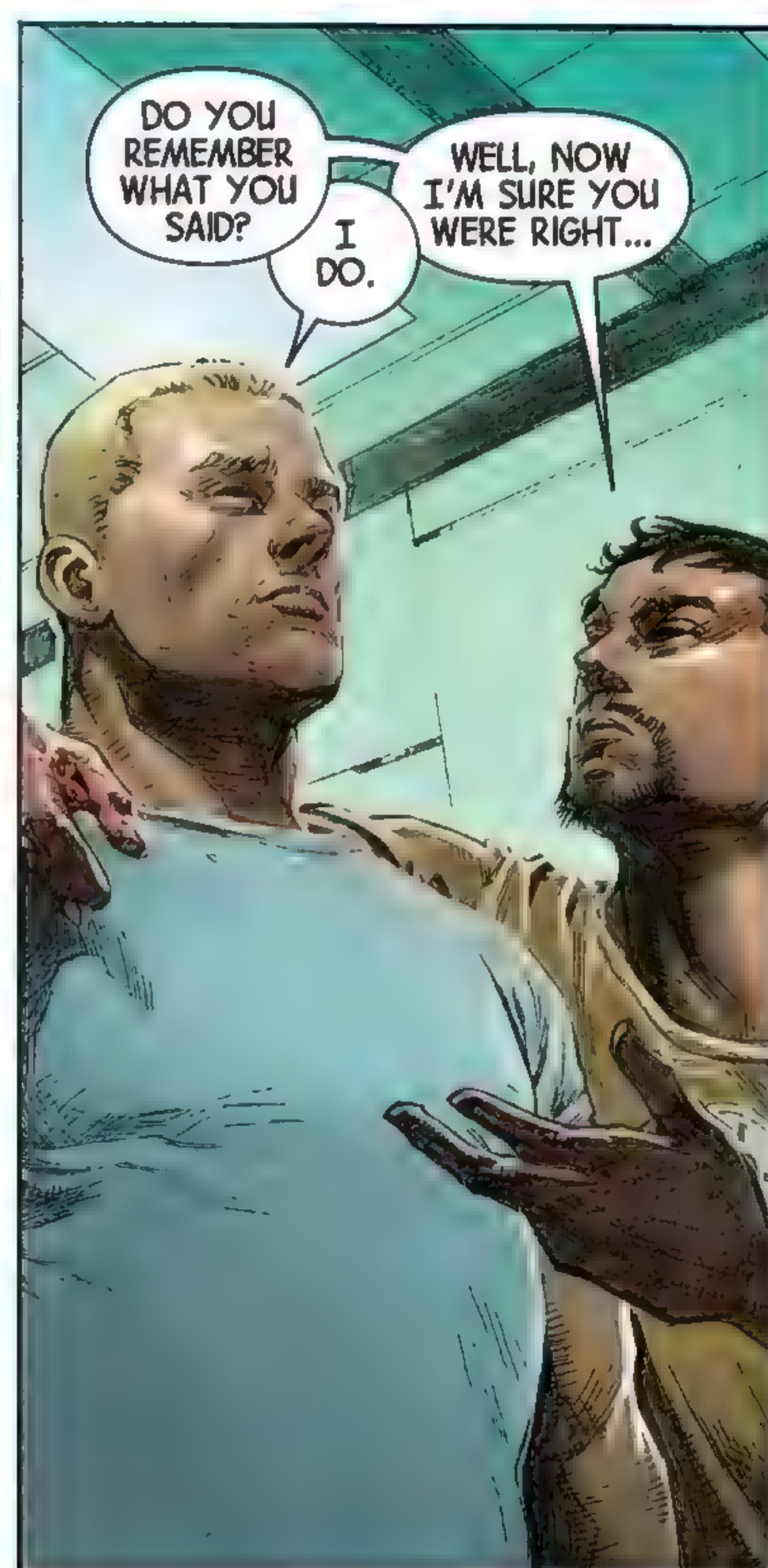
**I
CHANGED.**



SEE, THE
BEST IDEAS
ARE ALWAYS THE
SIMPLEST. AND
THE LAST WEEK
WHEN WE WERE
TALKING ABOUT
HOW THINGS KEEP
ESCALATING...

HOW THE
WORLD IS EVER
MORE DANGEROUS,
HOW THREATS ARE
MORE FREQUENT...
HOW OUR ENEMIES
ARE SEEMINGLY
ENDLESS...

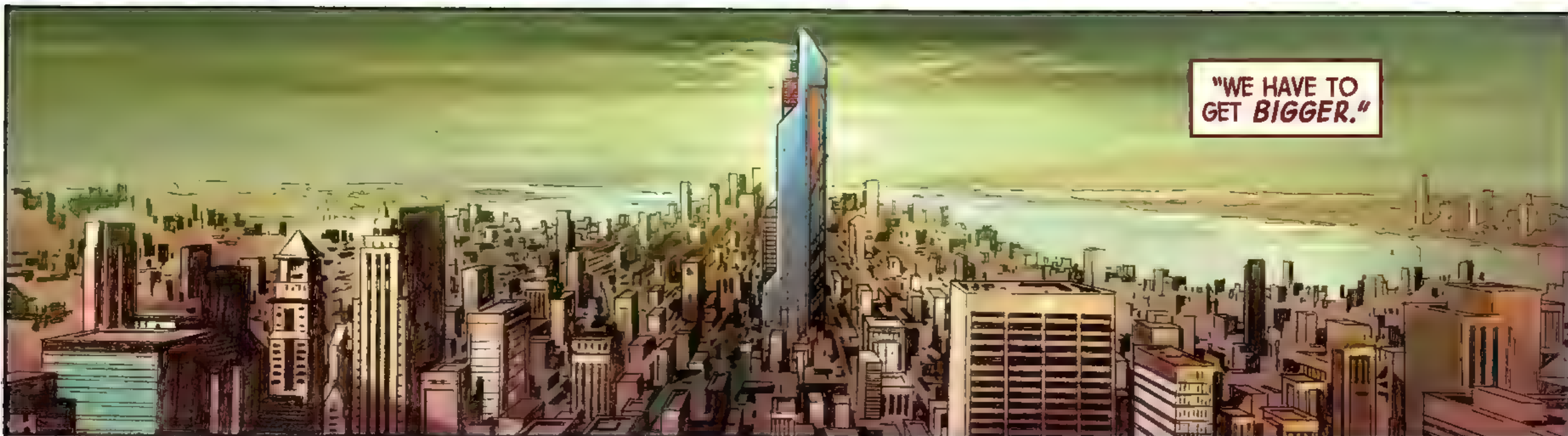
WELL, STEVE,
THAT'S A COMPLEX
PROBLEM, BUT YOU HAD A
PRETTY SIMPLE ANSWER...



DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
SAID?

I
DO.

WELL, NOW
I'M SURE YOU
WERE RIGHT...



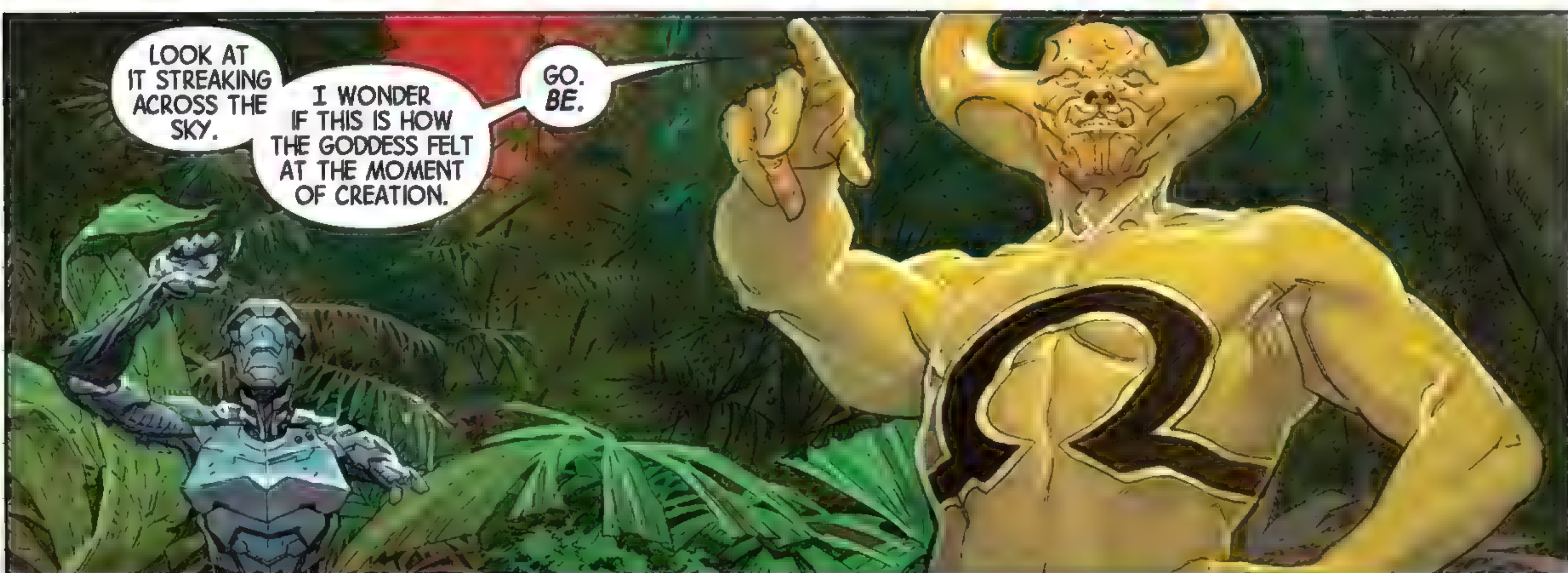
"WE HAVE TO
GET **BIGGER**."

THE AVENGERS:

AVENGERS WORLD



MARS.
ONE MONTH LATER.



LOOK AT
IT STREAKING
ACROSS THE
SKY.

I WONDER
IF THIS IS HOW
THE GODDESS FELT
AT THE MOMENT
OF CREATION.

GO.
BE.



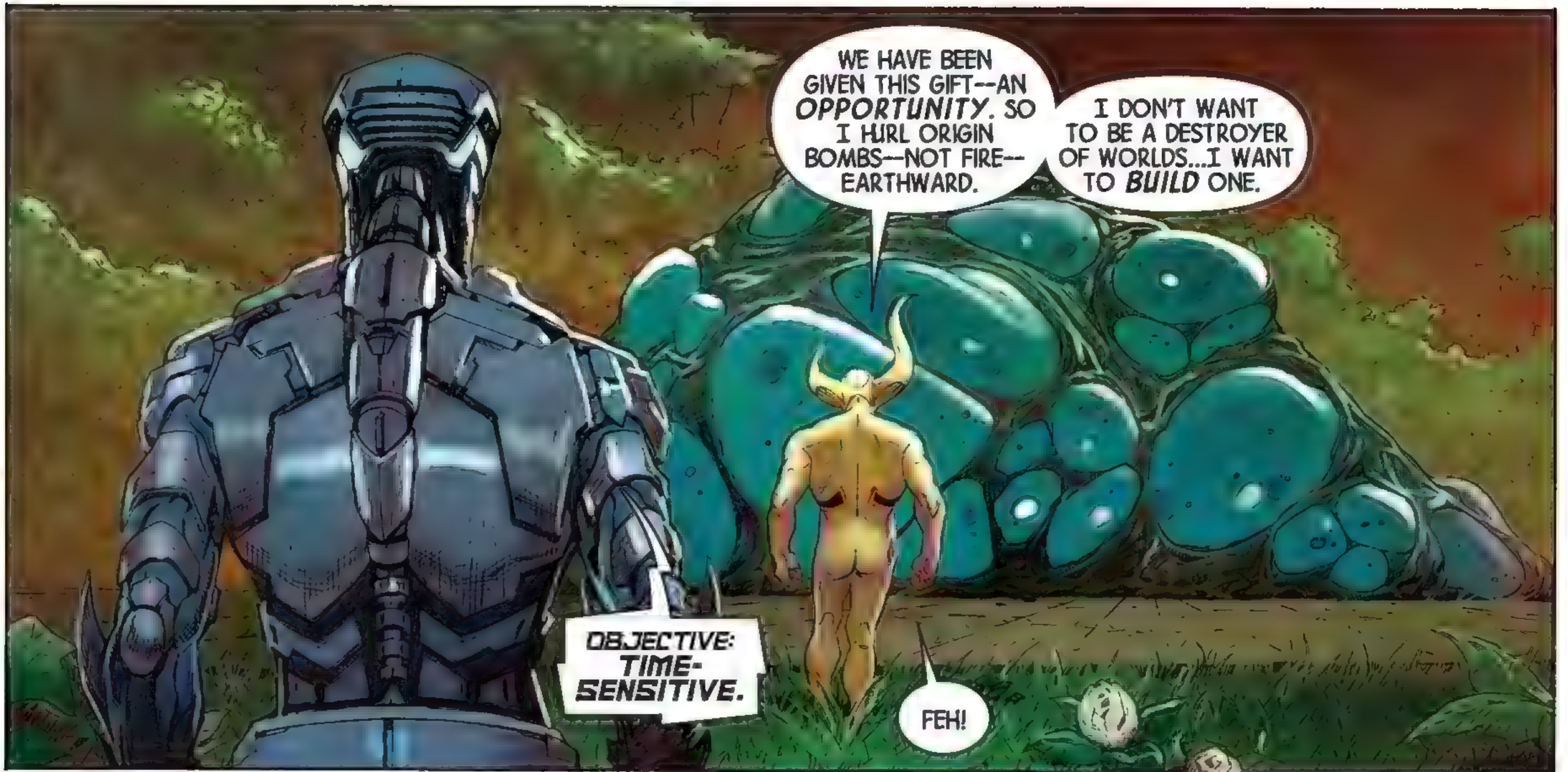
ERROR: DEITY
NEGATIVE.
CORRECTION:
RECODE, NOT
RECREATE.

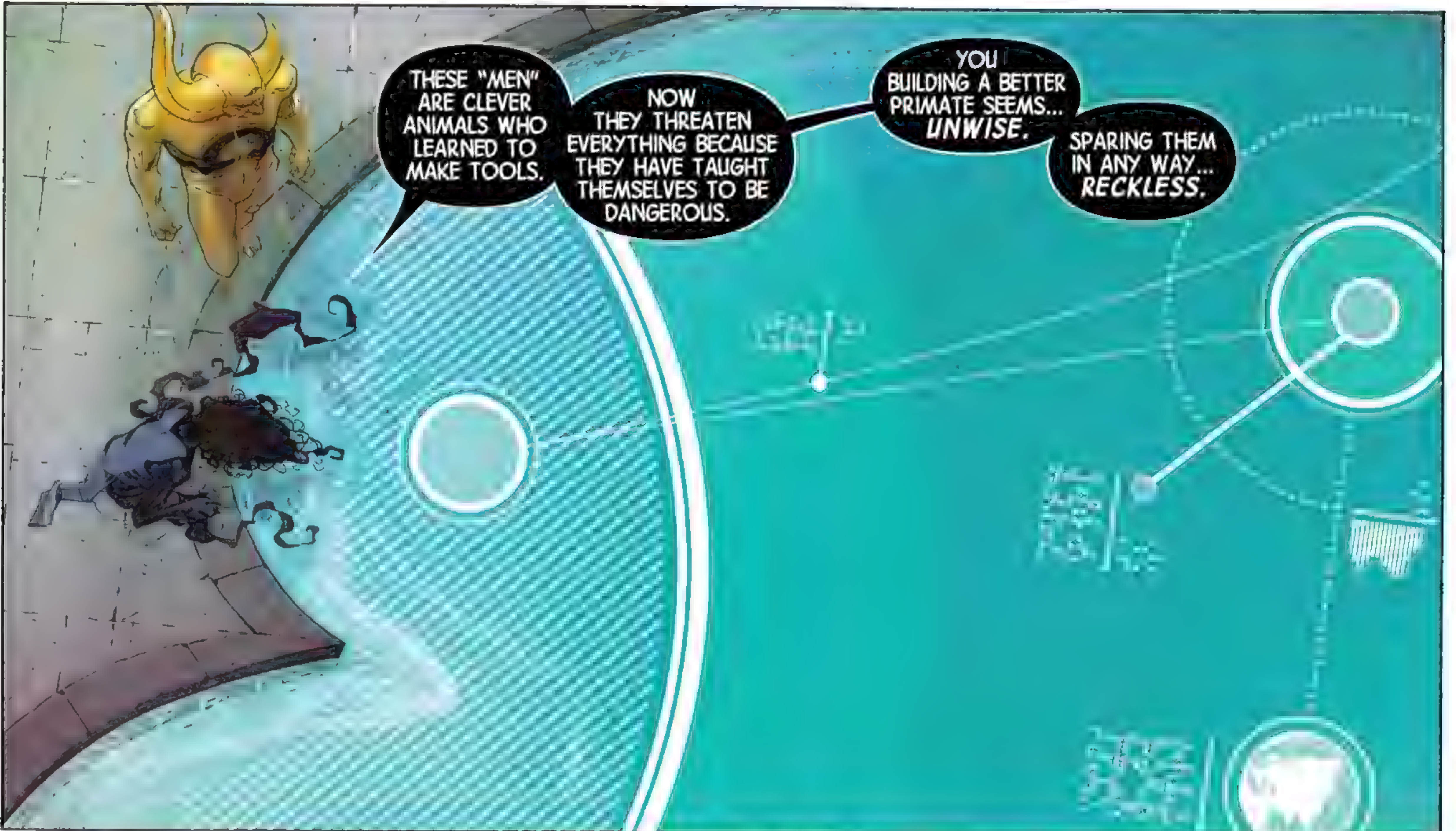
OBJECTIVE:
TIME-SENSITIVE.
GOAL: WORLD-
RAZING.

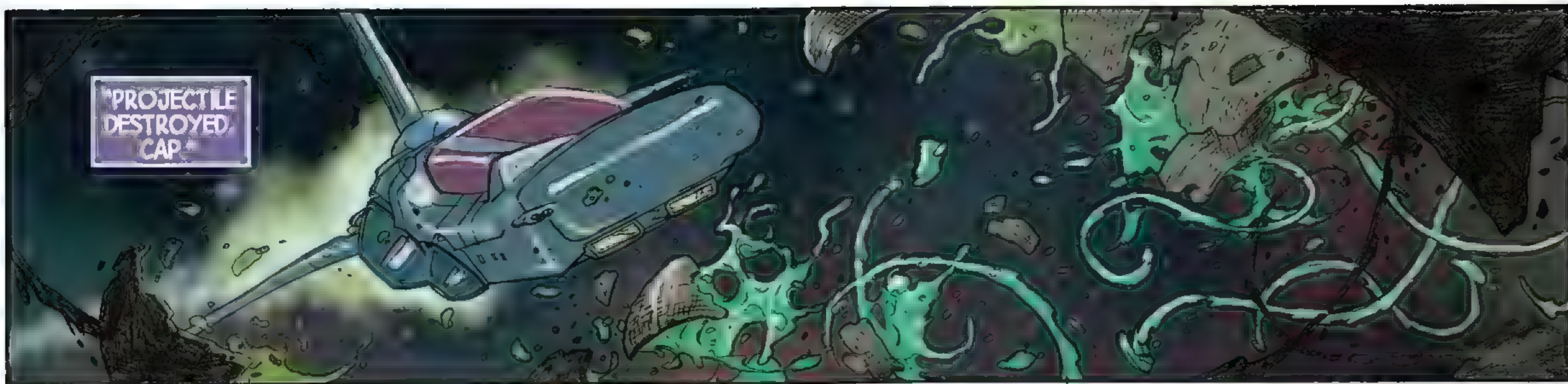


WORLD-
RAZING.
EX NIHILO.

AH, YOU
MISS THE POINT,
ALEPH. WHERE'S
YOUR SENSE OF
WONDER?







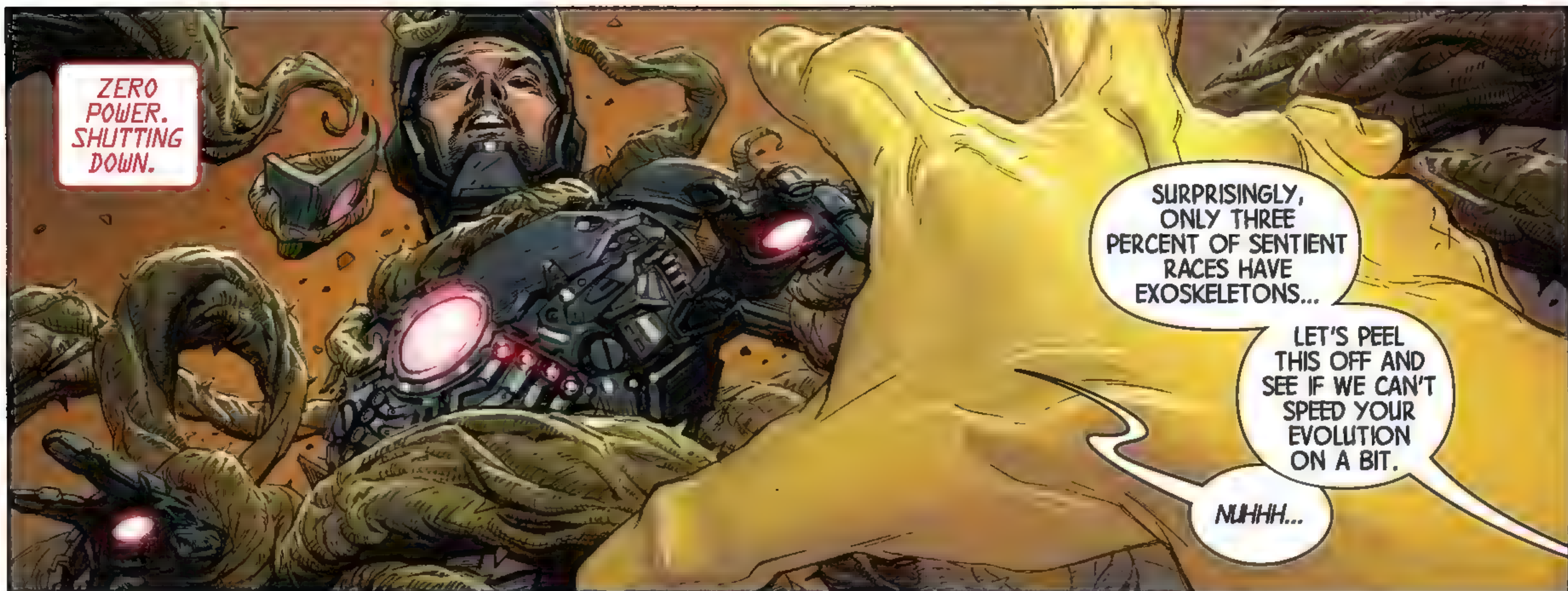




13 PERCENT.

6 PERCENT.

COME TO ME, METAL MAN.

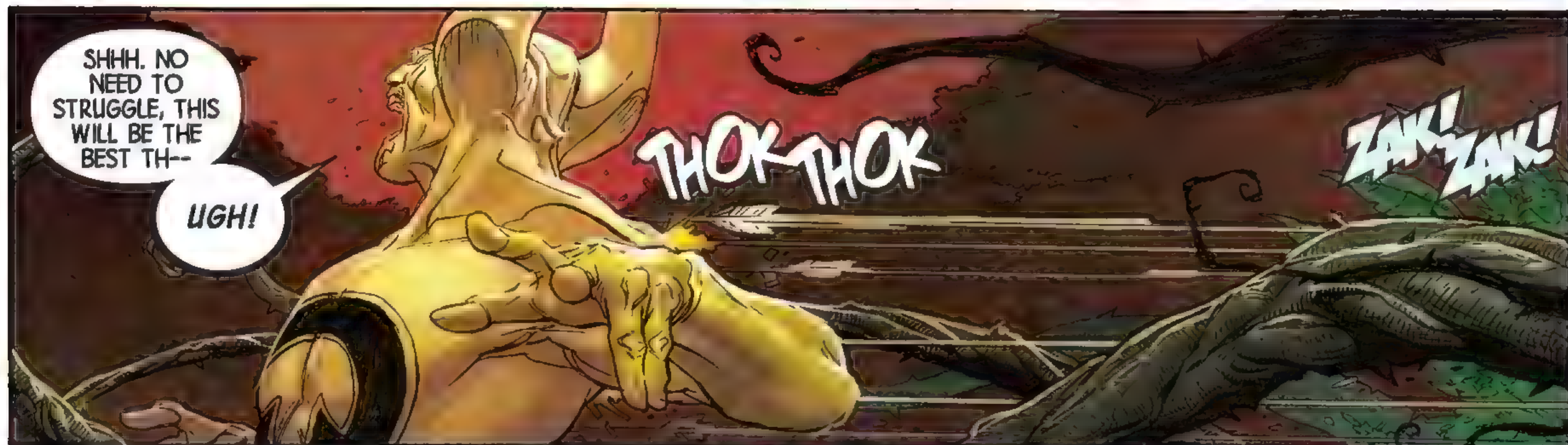


ZERO
POWER.
SHUTTING
DOWN.

SURPRISINGLY,
ONLY THREE
PERCENT OF SENTIENT
RACES HAVE
EXOSKELETONS...

LET'S PEEL
THIS OFF AND
SEE IF WE CAN'T
SPEED YOUR
EVOLUTION
ON A BIT.

NUHHH...



SHHH. NO
NEED TO
STRUGGLE, THIS
WILL BE THE
BEST TH--

UGH!

THOK THOK

ZAK! ZAK!



STEP AWAY
FROM THE MAN
WITH ALL THE
MONEY.

PLEASE.



YOU DARE
VIOLENCE?

VIOLENCE
FOR VIOLENCE'S
SAKE?

I WOULD
REMAKE HIM INTO
SOMETHING BETTER,
I WOULD REMAKE
YOUR WORLD...

AND IN
RETURN **THIS**
IS THE THANKS
YOU OFFER?

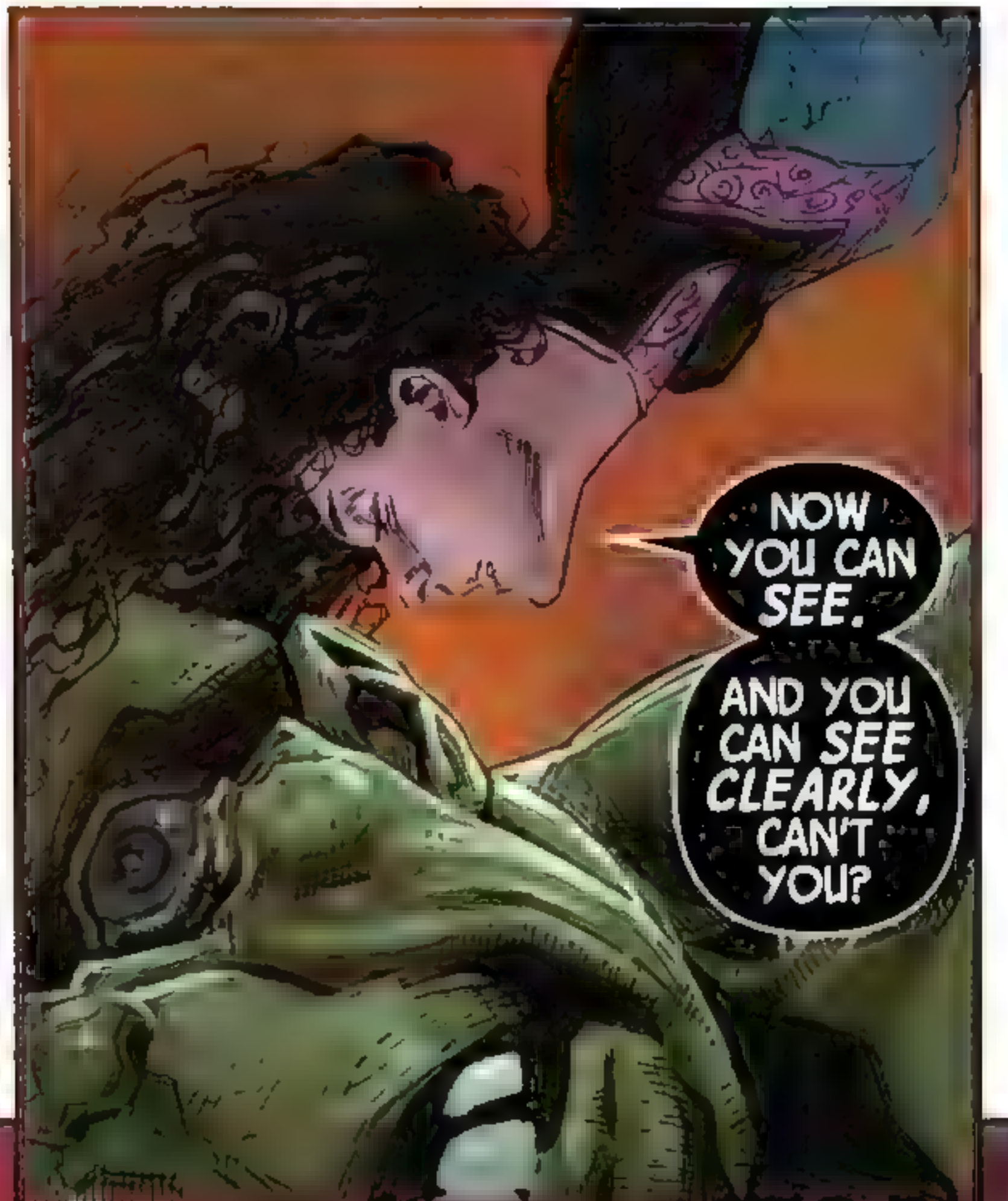


HULK NOT
SCARED.



OF COURSE
YOU'RE NOT SCARED--
YOU'RE NOT SOME
WHIMPERING CHILD. YOU'RE
STRONG. THE STRONGEST
ONE THERE IS.

OPEN YOUR
MIND, MY
STRONG MAN.
OPEN YOUR
EYES.



NOW
YOU CAN
SEE.

AND YOU
CAN SEE
CLEARLY,
CAN'T
YOU?

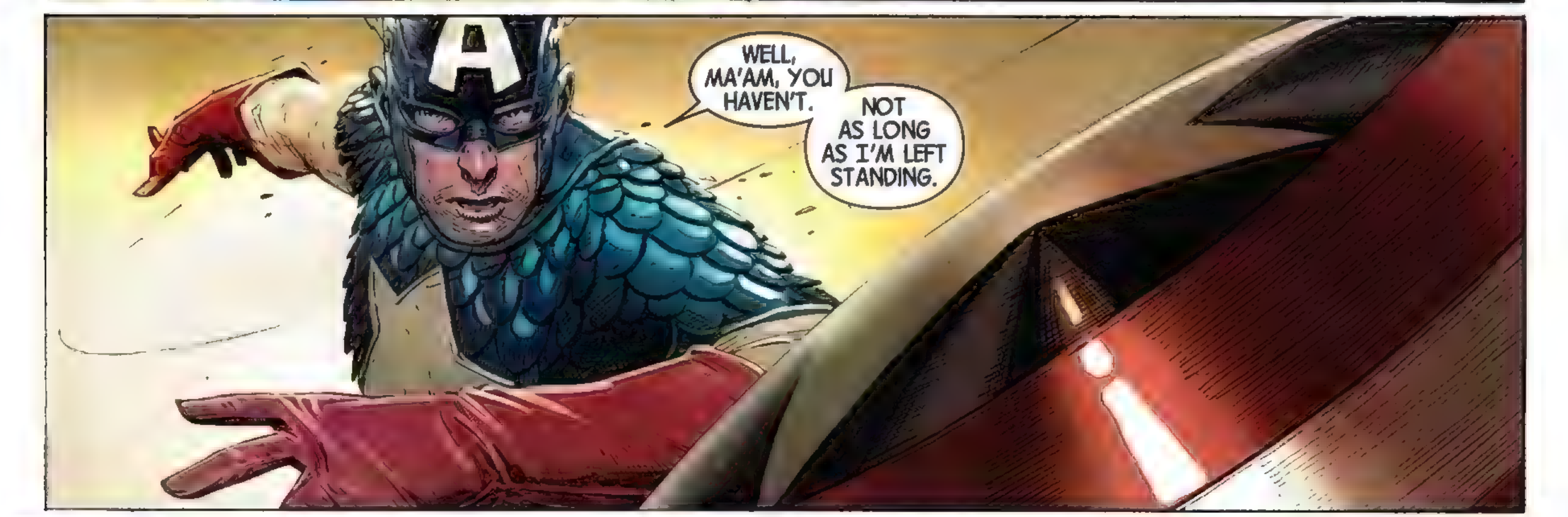
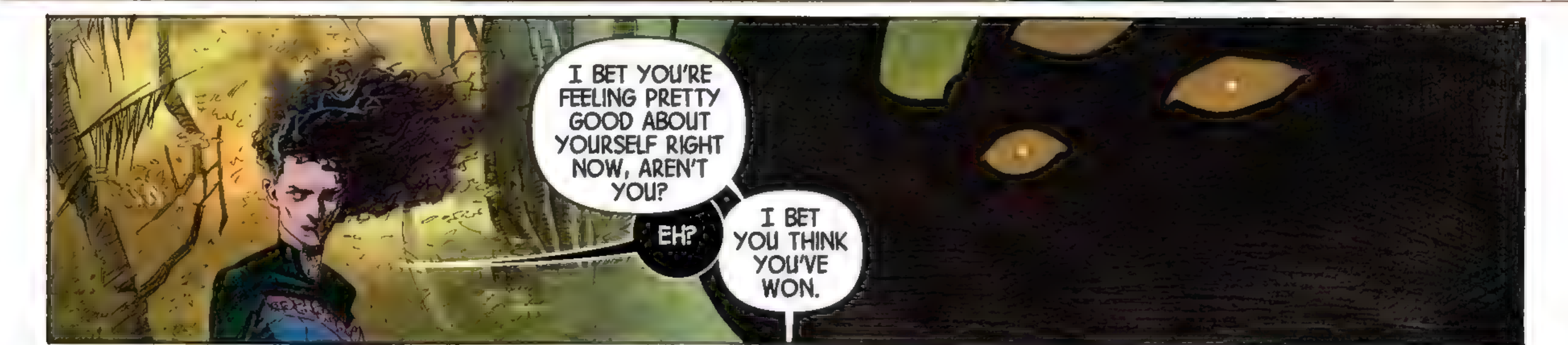


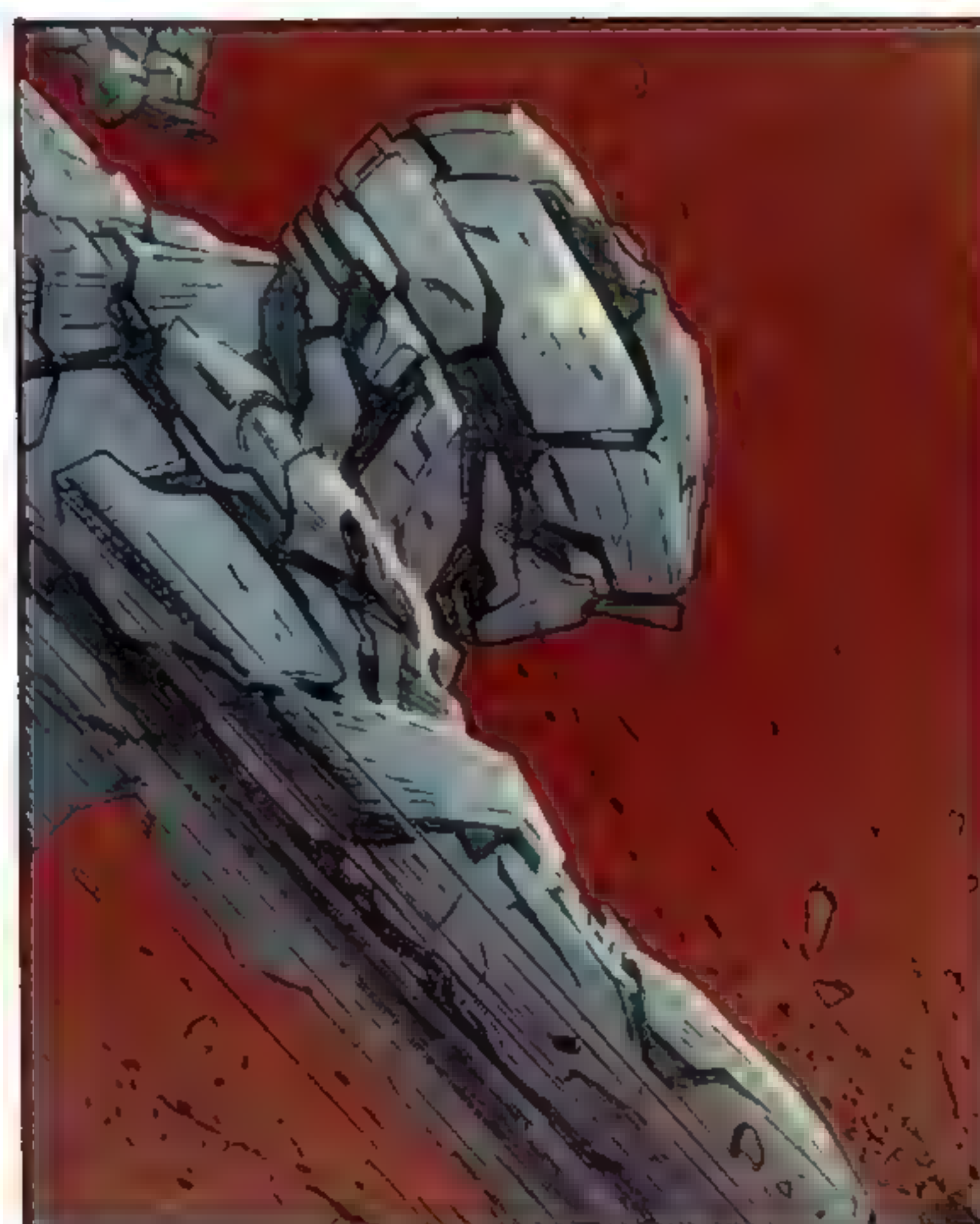
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON
HERE WHO THINKS THEY'RE
STRONGER THAN YOU.

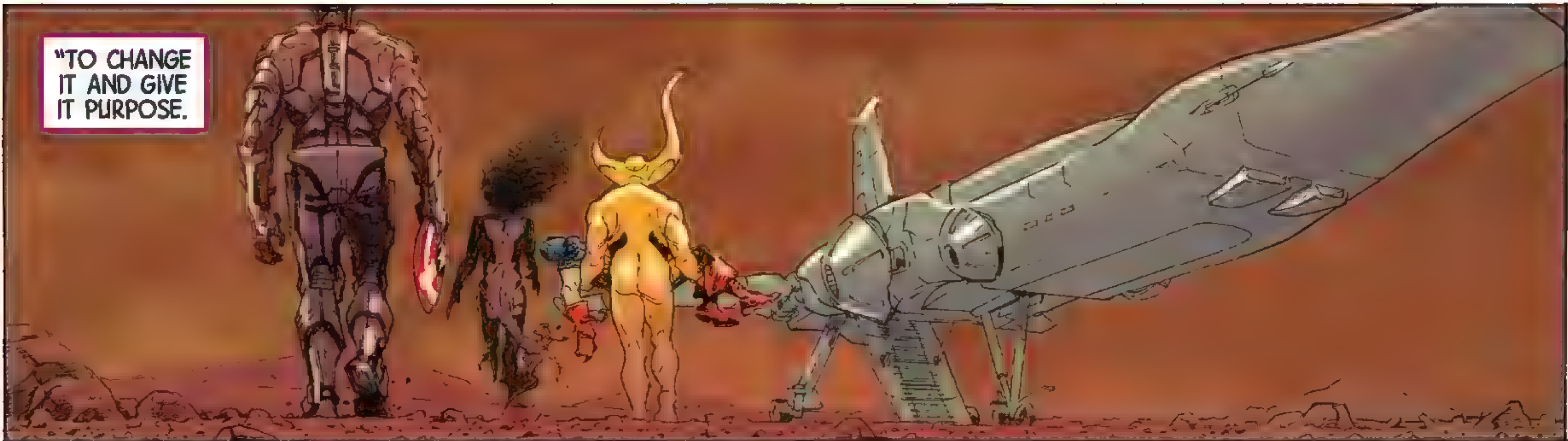


ONLY ONE
PERSON
HERE WHO
THINKS YOU'RE
A FRIGHTENED
LITTLE CHILD.

WHY DON'T
YOU SHOW
HIM HOW
WRONG HE IS?





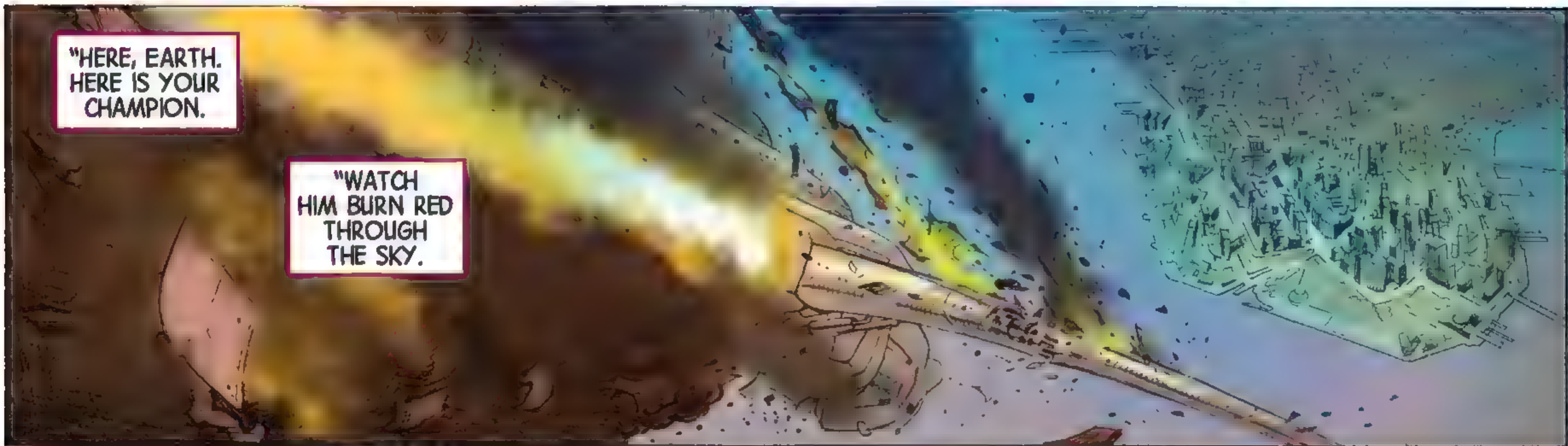


"TO CHANGE
IT AND GIVE
IT PURPOSE.



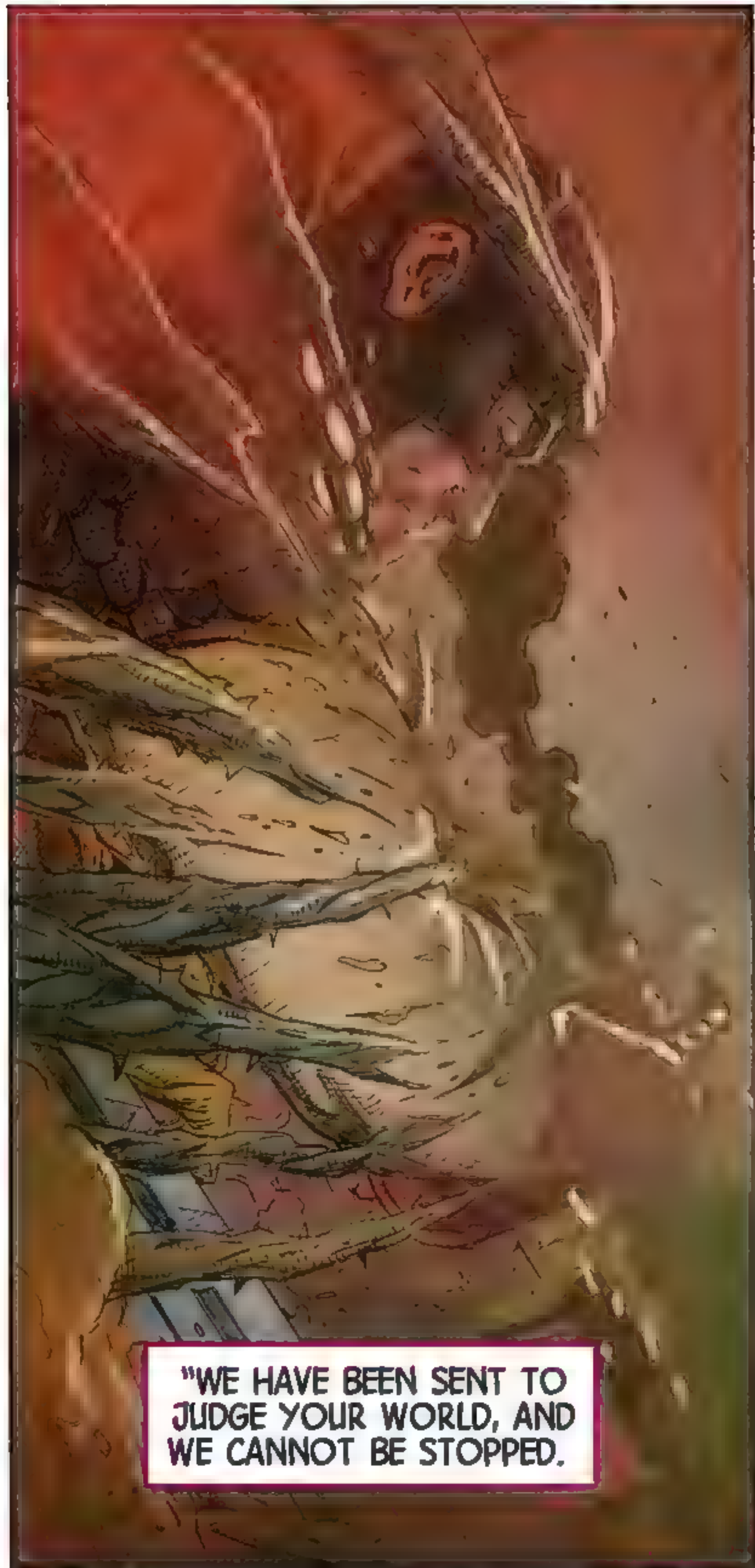
"WE WILL USE
HIM TO SEND
A MESSAGE.

"WE'LL SEND
HIM *HOME* TO
WRITE A WARNING
IN THE HEAVENS.

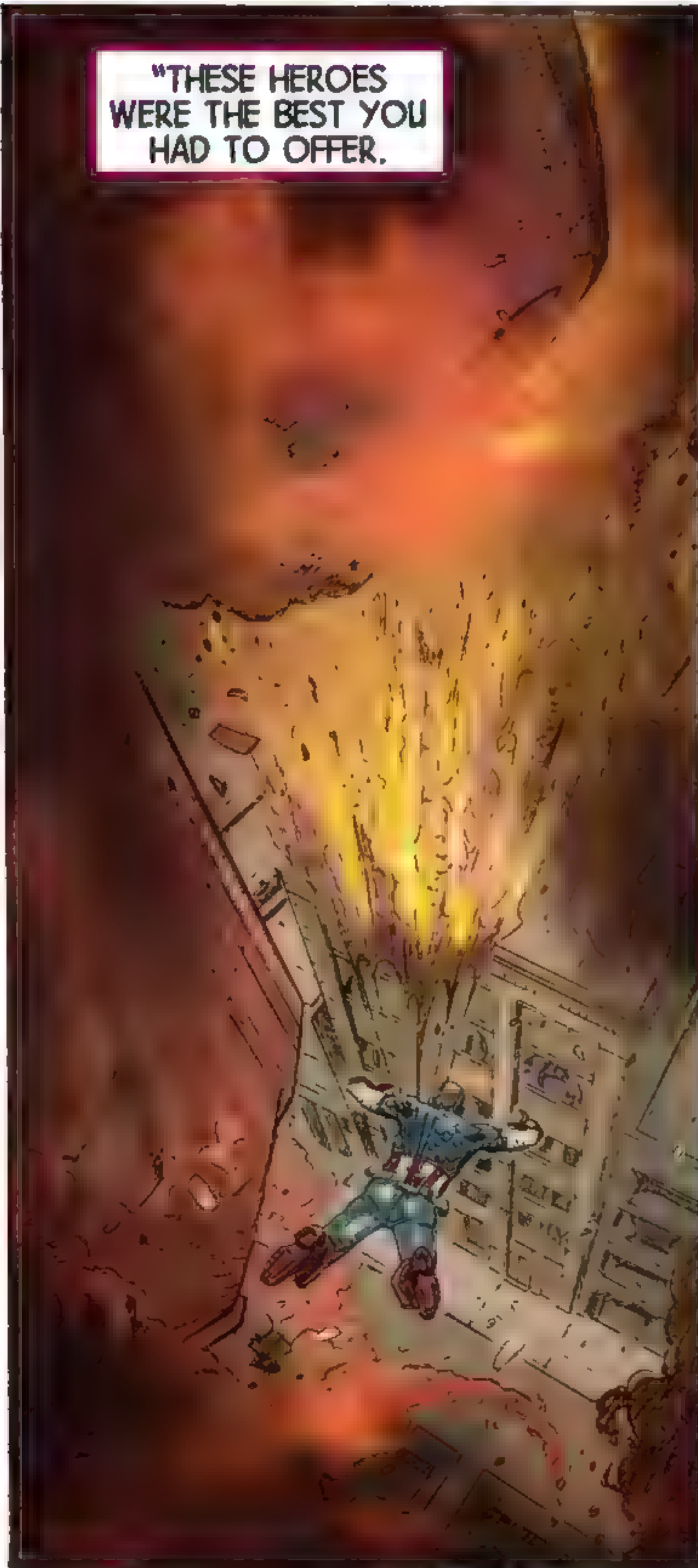


"HERE, EARTH.
HERE IS YOUR
CHAMPION.

"WATCH
HIM BURN RED
THROUGH
THE SKY.



"WE HAVE BEEN SENT TO
JUDGE YOUR WORLD, AND
WE CANNOT BE STOPPED.

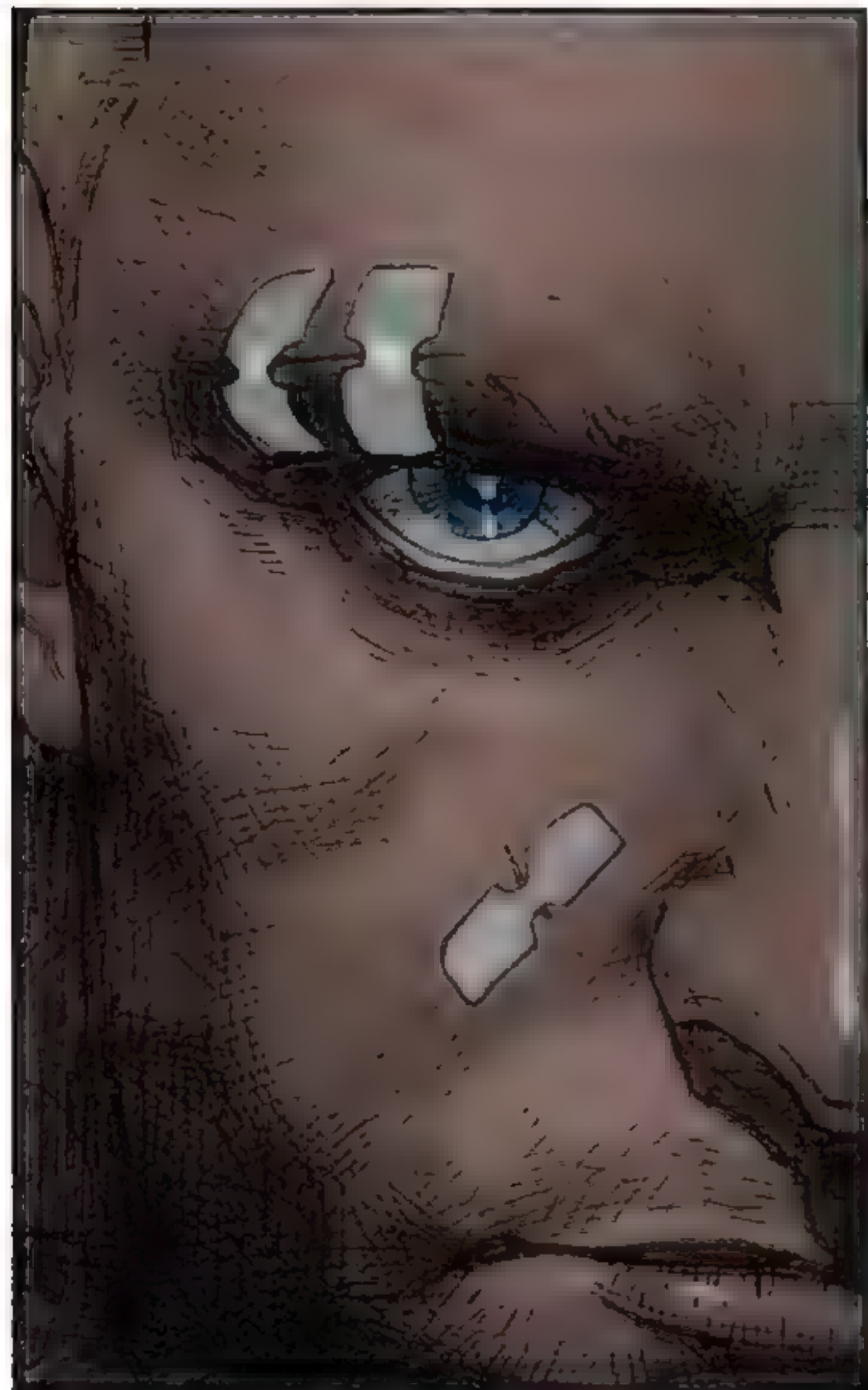
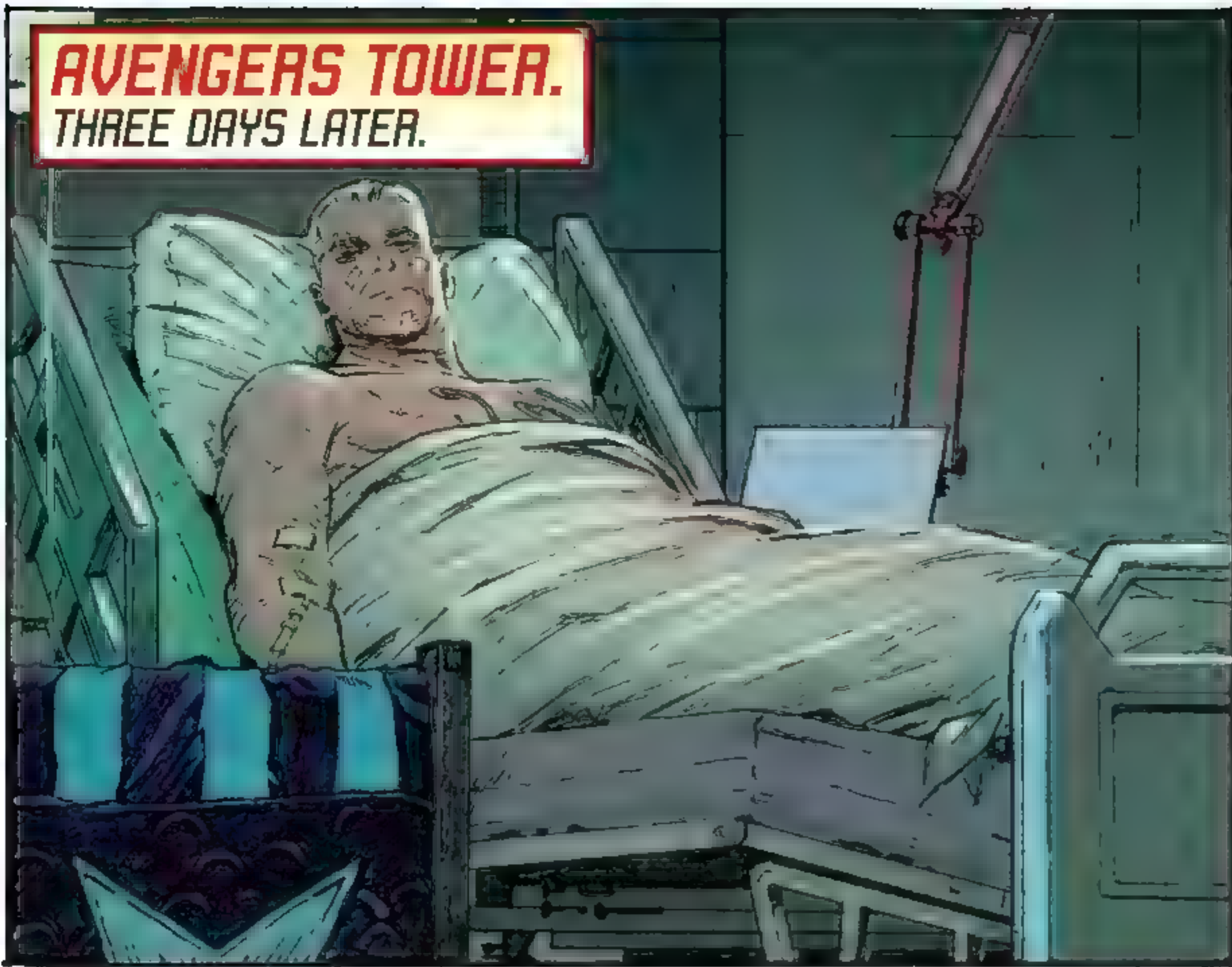


"THESE HEROES
WERE THE BEST YOU
HAD TO OFFER.



"AND THEY
WERE FOUND...
WANTING."

AVENGERS TOWER.
THREE DAYS LATER.



**"WE HAVE TO
GET BIGGER."**



WE HAVE HELD FOR SO LONG, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING LOOMING JUST PAST THE HORIZON.

WE CAN'T SEE IT, BUT IT'S COMING. IT'S GOING TO BE TOO MUCH, AND TOO SOON--AND WE HAVE TO GET READY NOW.

WE'LL KEEP THIS QUIET UNTIL THEY'RE NEEDED-- YOU AND I WILL DO MOST OF THE RECRUITING. SPECIFIC PEOPLE FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS.

BUT THEY'LL BE OUT THERE. READY...

WAITING...



"AND THEN, WHEN THAT DAY COMES, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SAY THE WORDS."

WAKE THE WORLD

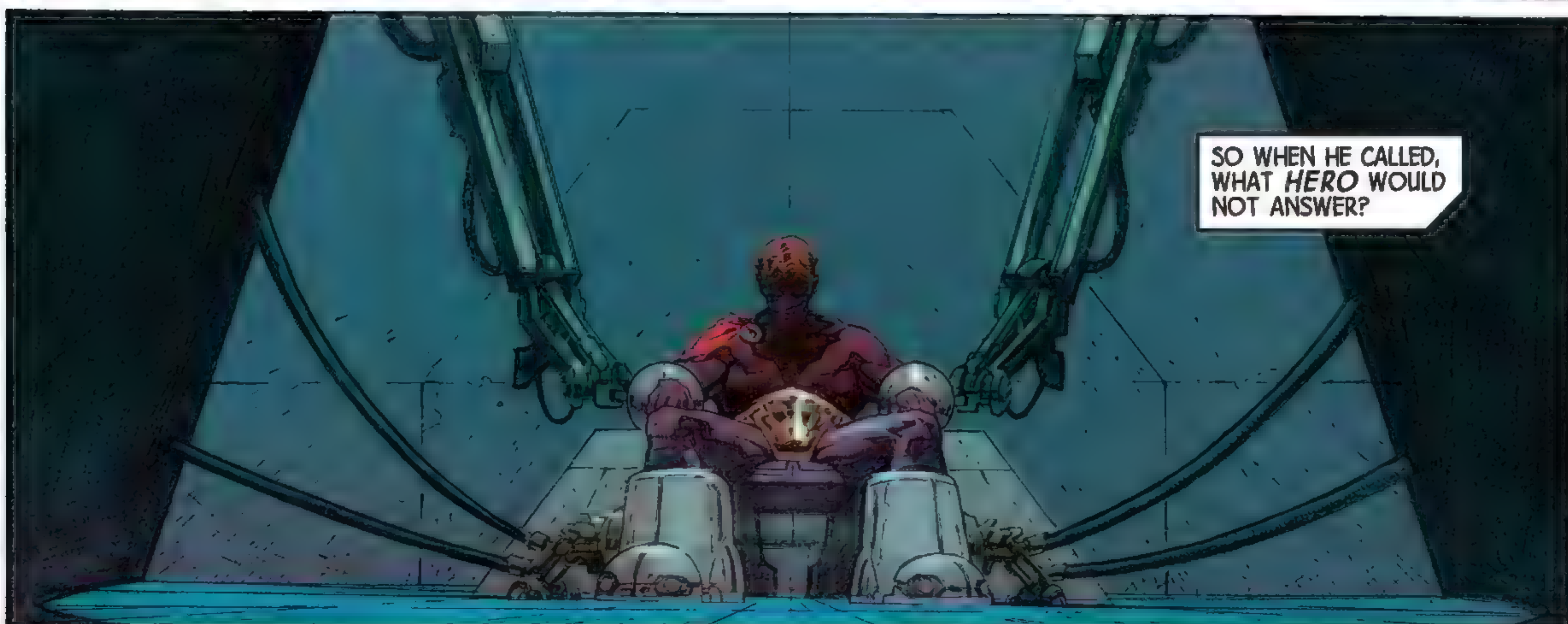
CLICK!



IT WAS A SUMMONING.



HE WAS THE FIRST-- OUR VERY BEST.



SO WHEN HE CALLED, WHAT HERO WOULD NOT ANSWER?



IT STARTED
WITH AN IDEA.

THE SPARK THAT
STARTED THE FIRE
WAS *EXPANSION*.



OUR CAPTAIN SPOKE,
AND GAVE THE IDEA
FORM.



HE SAID THE
WORDS, AND
MADE IT
REAL.

HE
SAID...

ASSEMBLE
AT DAWN.



ASSEMBLE
AT DAWN.



AND HOW
COULD WE
NOT?



WE WERE
AVENGERS.



**WAKE THE
WORLD**



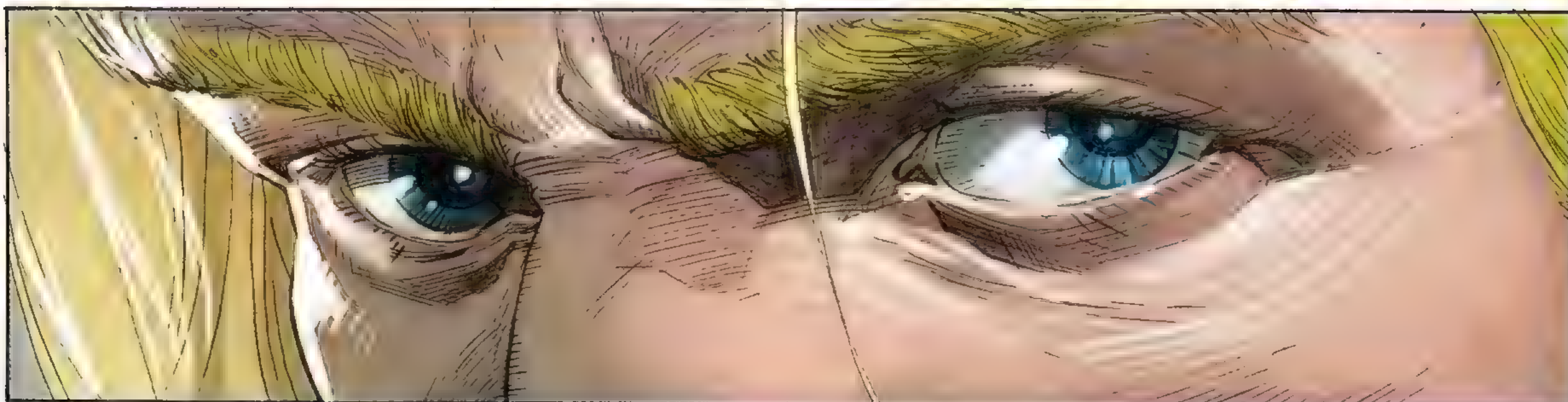
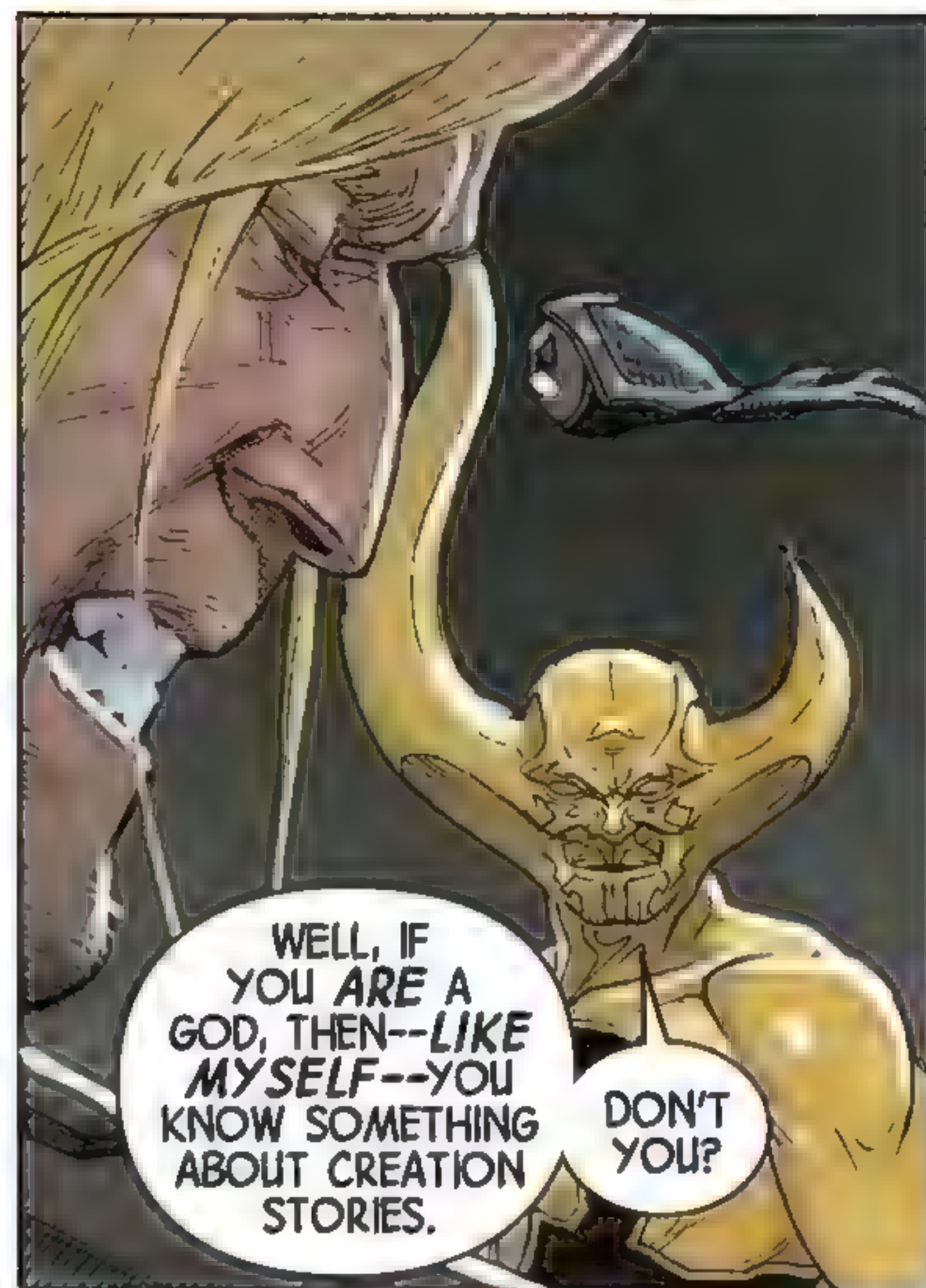
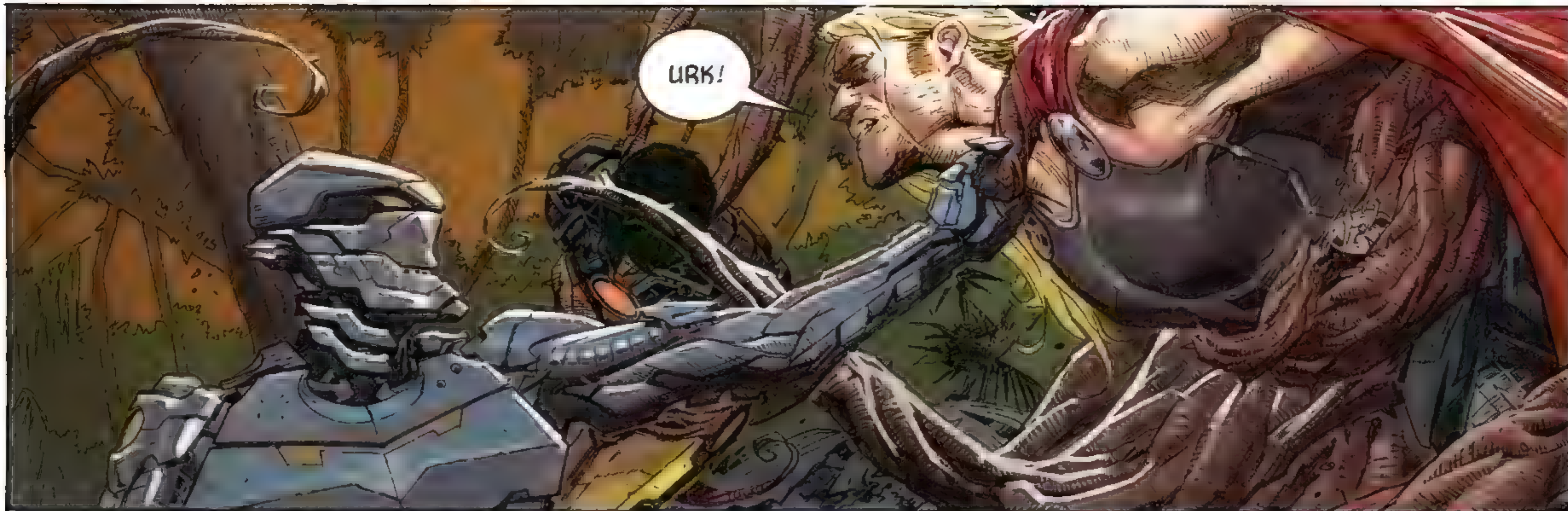
“WE WERE AVENGERS”

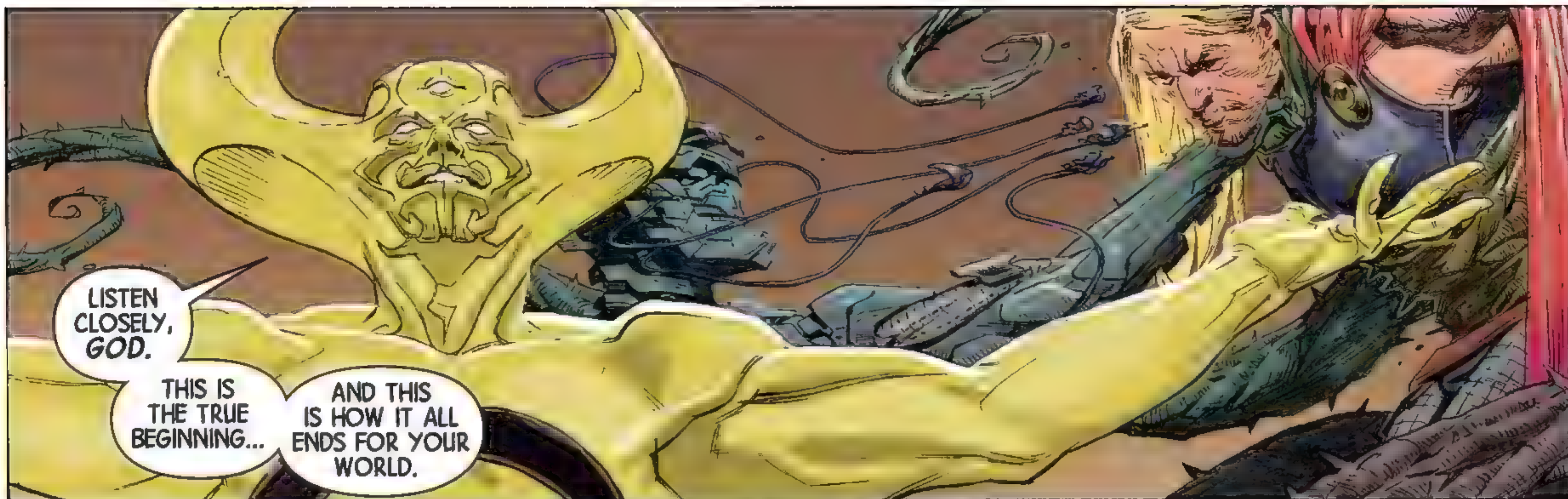


EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION



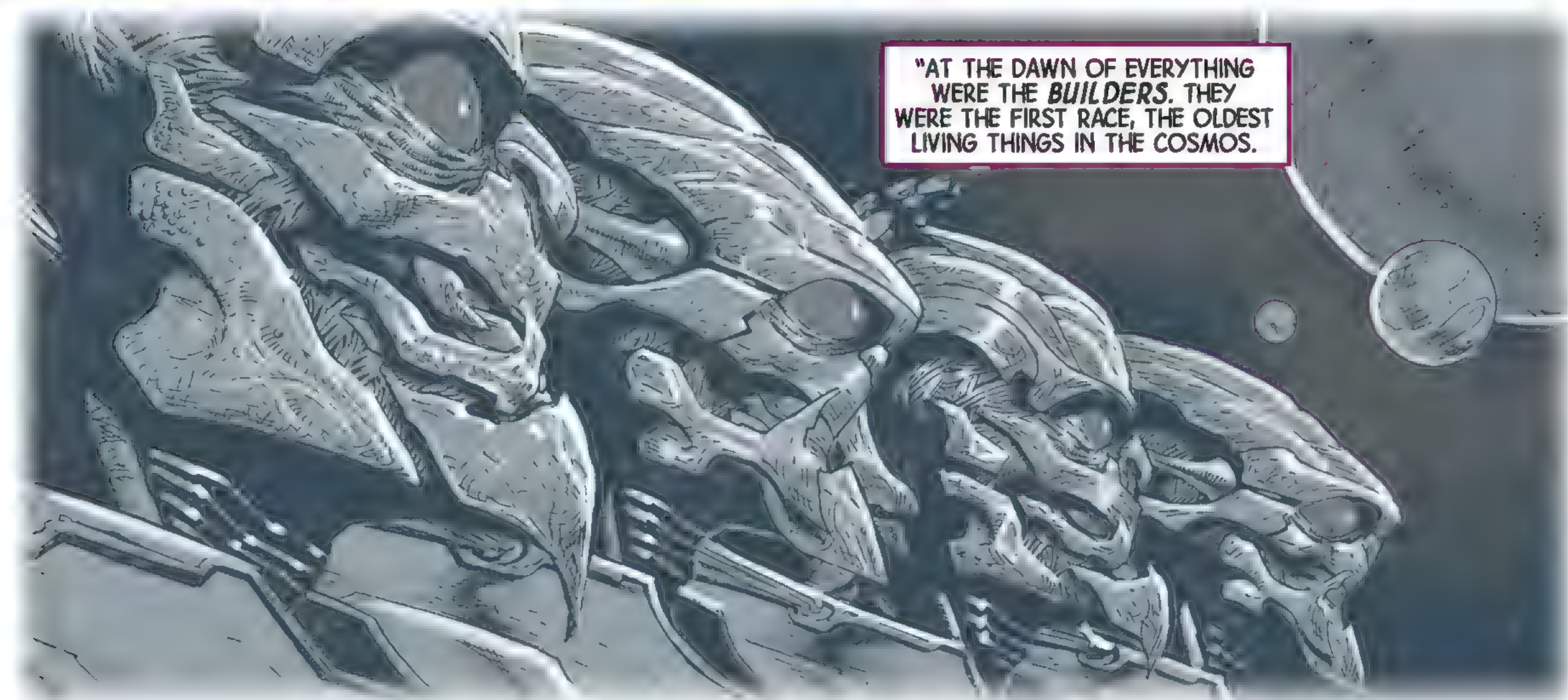




LISTEN
CLOSELY,
GOD.

THIS IS
THE TRUE
BEGINNING...

AND THIS
IS HOW IT ALL
ENDS FOR YOUR
WORLD.

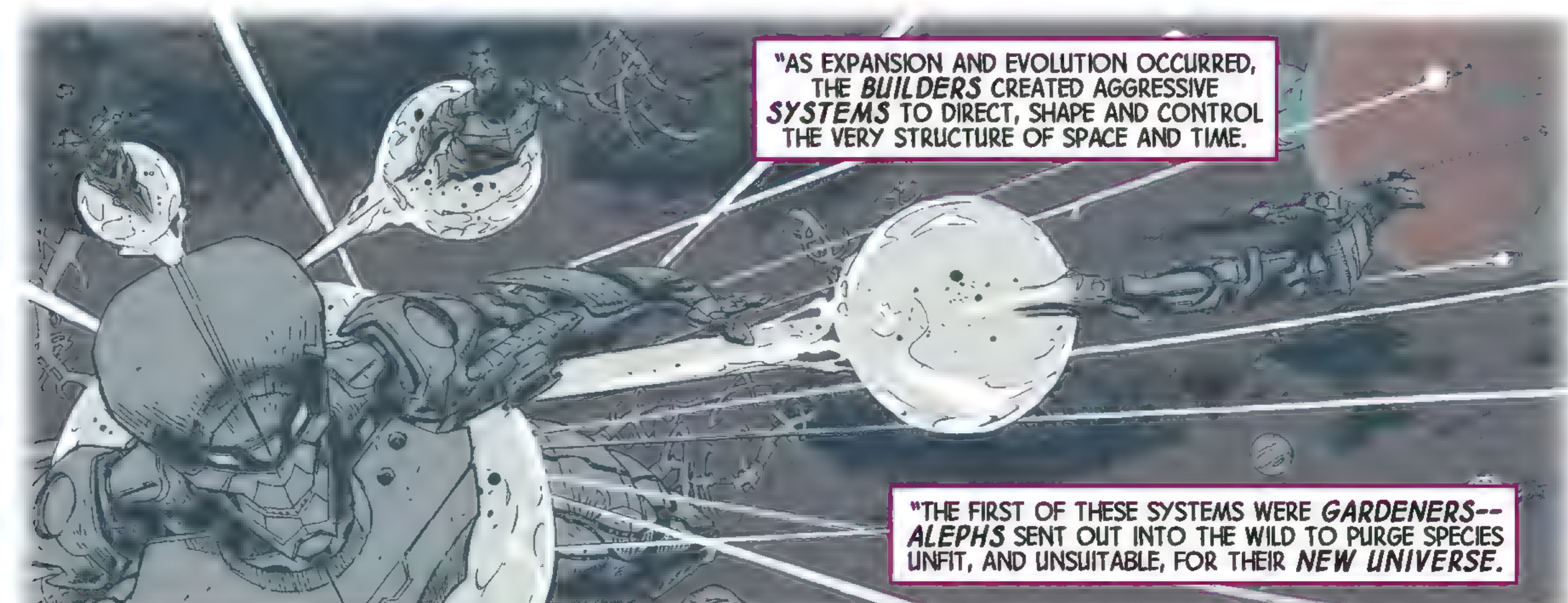


"AT THE DAWN OF EVERYTHING
WERE THE **BUILDERS**. THEY
WERE THE FIRST RACE, THE OLDEST
LIVING THINGS IN THE COSMOS.



"THEY WERE A PERFECT PEOPLE--AND FOR A GREAT
WHILE THEY WORSHIPPED THE GODDESS, THE
MOTHER-MAKER HERSELF, **THE UNIVERSE**.

"EVENTUALLY, THEY GREW BEYOND THIS--
ABANDONING THE OLD WAYS OF REVERENCE
FOR THE NEW PATH OF RELEVANCE.



"AS EXPANSION AND EVOLUTION OCCURRED,
THE **BUILDERS** CREATED AGGRESSIVE
SYSTEMS TO DIRECT, SHAPE AND CONTROL
THE VERY STRUCTURE OF SPACE AND TIME.

"THE FIRST OF THESE SYSTEMS WERE **GARDENERS**--
ALEPHS SENT OUT INTO THE WILD TO PURGE SPECIES
UNFIT, AND UNSUITABLE, FOR THEIR **NEW UNIVERSE**.

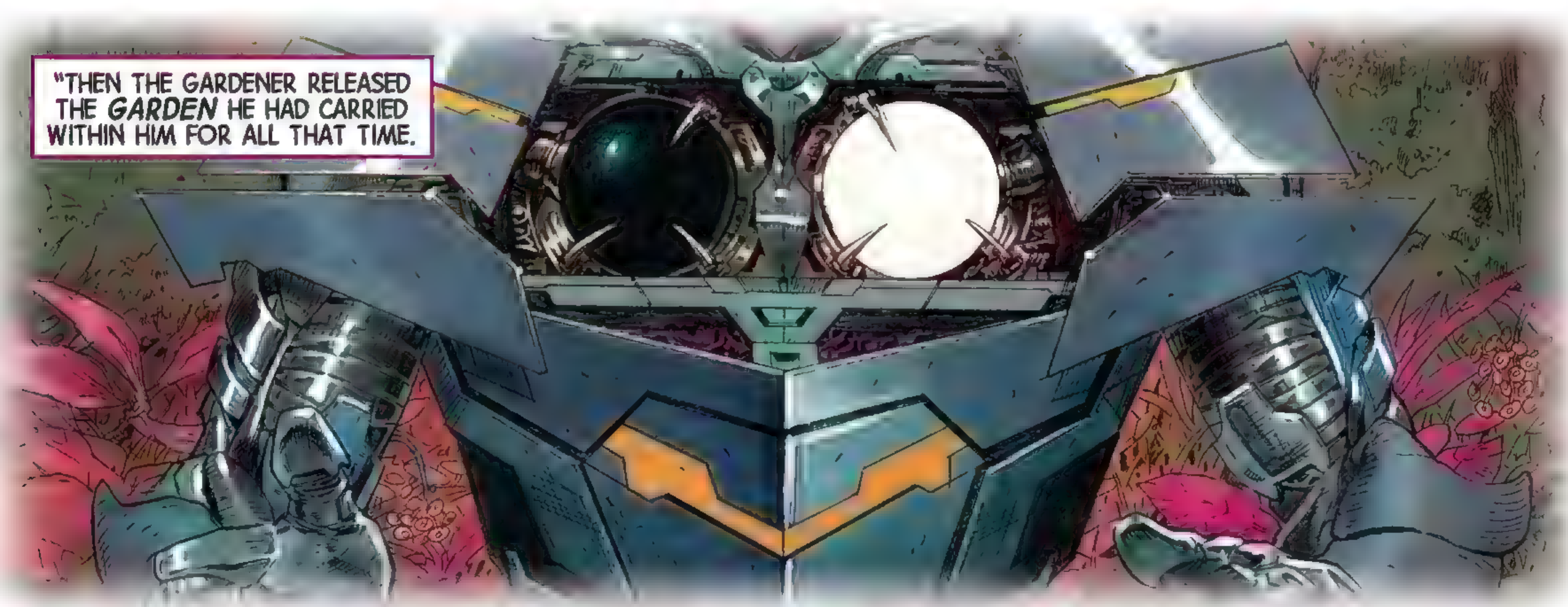


"FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS, OUR **ALEPH** RAZED WORLD AFTER WORLD--ALL OF WHICH HE DEEMED UNFIT FOR PROGRESS.



"UNTIL, ONE DAY, HE ENCOUNTERED A SPECIES HE CONSIDERED WORTHY OF PRESERVATION...

"HE FOUND THEM WORTHY OF EVOLUTION.



"THEN THE GARDENER RELEASED THE **GARDEN** HE HAD CARRIED WITHIN HIM FOR ALL THAT TIME.



"NO TWO SEEDS AN **ALEPH** CARRIES ARE THE SAME. THE BUILDERS, IN ALL THEIR WISDOM, KNEW THAT CREATION WAS CHAOS AND FULLY EMBRACED THIS INCONSTANT CONSTANT.

"THIS **ALEPH**--OUR **ALEPH**--YIELDED MYSELF, EX NIHILO, AND MY SISTER, **ABYSS**.



"AND FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, WHENEVER WE HEAR THE CALL OF A LIVING, WILD WORLD, WE EITHER BREAK IT, OR ATTEMPT TO TRANSFORM THE BASE SPECIES WE FIND THERE INTO MAGNIFICENT, MORE TRANSCENDENT, CREATURES."



AND THAT IS WHAT I WOULD DO FOR YOUR EARTH.

WHAT I WOULD DO FOR YOU.

IT COULD BE A GREAT STORY OF CREATION...

WE SHALL SEE.



BUT, I MUST CONFESS... I'M BEGINNING TO HAVE DOUBTS. AND I FEAR THE ALTERNATIVE.

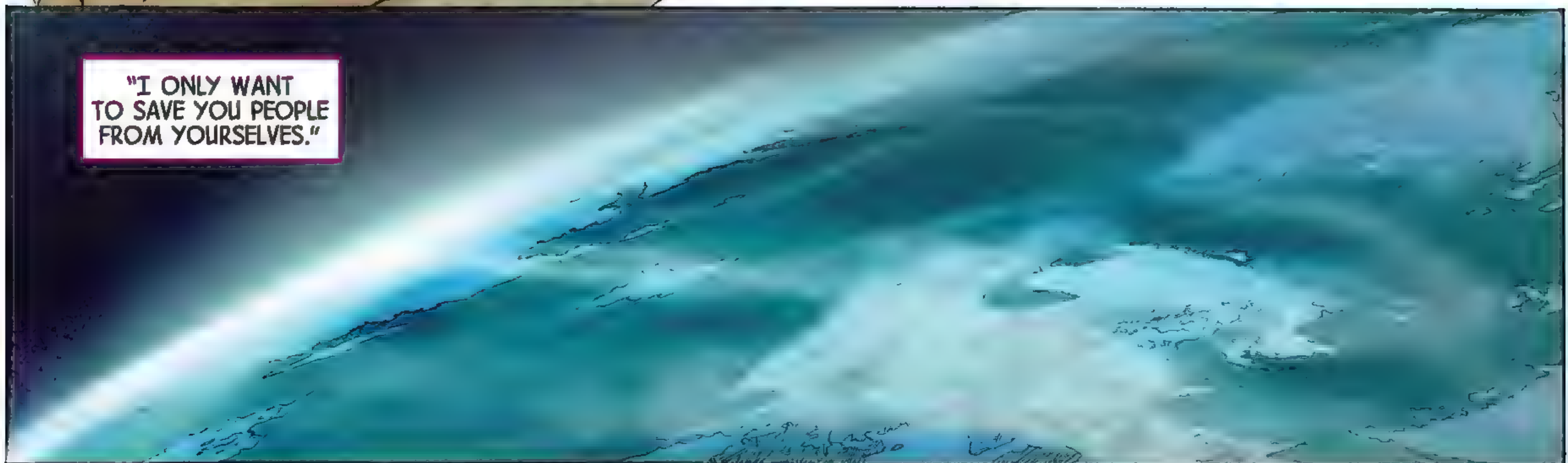
SCANNING...

SCANNING...

THREAT LEVEL: ASCENDING.



OBJECTIVE: TIME SENSITIVE.



"I ONLY WANT TO SAVE YOU PEOPLE FROM YOURSELVES."



THEN.

WE'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, STEVE, SO WE APPROACH THESE THINGS IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAYS.

IN THIS CASE, THE IDEA AT HAND: **EXPANSION.**



NECESSARY EXPANSION, BUT **GO ON.**

RIGHT.

SO, KNOWING YOU LIKE I DO, YOU'LL SEE THIS AS A STATE OF MIND. AN ATTITUDE TO BE ADOPTED AND SPREAD TO OTHERS THROUGH WORDS INVOKING DEEDS.

SAYINGS LIKE, "GREATER THREATS MEAN GREATER NEEDS."



FAIR ENOUGH, TONY. I'LL ADMIT TO THAT.

AND I'M SAFE ASSUMING YOU SEE THIS AS SOME KINDA MATH PROBLEM?



AN ENGINEERING ONE, ACTUALLY--WE'RE TEARING DOWN WHAT WE HAD AND BUILDING A **NEW MACHINE** TO ACHIEVE OUR EXPANDED GOALS.

AND THAT'S WHAT THIS IS?



YES.

SOME USEFUL PIECES OF THE OLD ORGANIZATION WILL SURVIVE. A LIMITED ROSTER UNTIL **NEED** DEMANDS **MORE**. CALL IT A FOUNDATION...



UH-HUH. THE TWO OF US... PLUS THOR, OF COURSE.

WE'LL WANT HAWKEYE AND BLACK WIDOW.

AGREED. ALSO, BANNER.



BANNER?

REALLY?

YOU KNOW HOW THAT ALWAYS ENDS.



IN TIJUANA. OR A MONASTERY. MAYBE SPACE CAMP.



JOKE ALL YOU WANT, BUT WHEN WE SEND OUT THE CALL TO EXPAND, WE'LL WANT A SUPPORT STRUCTURE WITHIN THIS LARGER GROUP—PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND OUR TRADITION AND OUR PURPOSE.

AH, YOU MEAN FORMER MEMBERS TO GO ALONG WITH ANY NEWER ONES.

UH-HUH.



CAPTAIN UNIVERSE

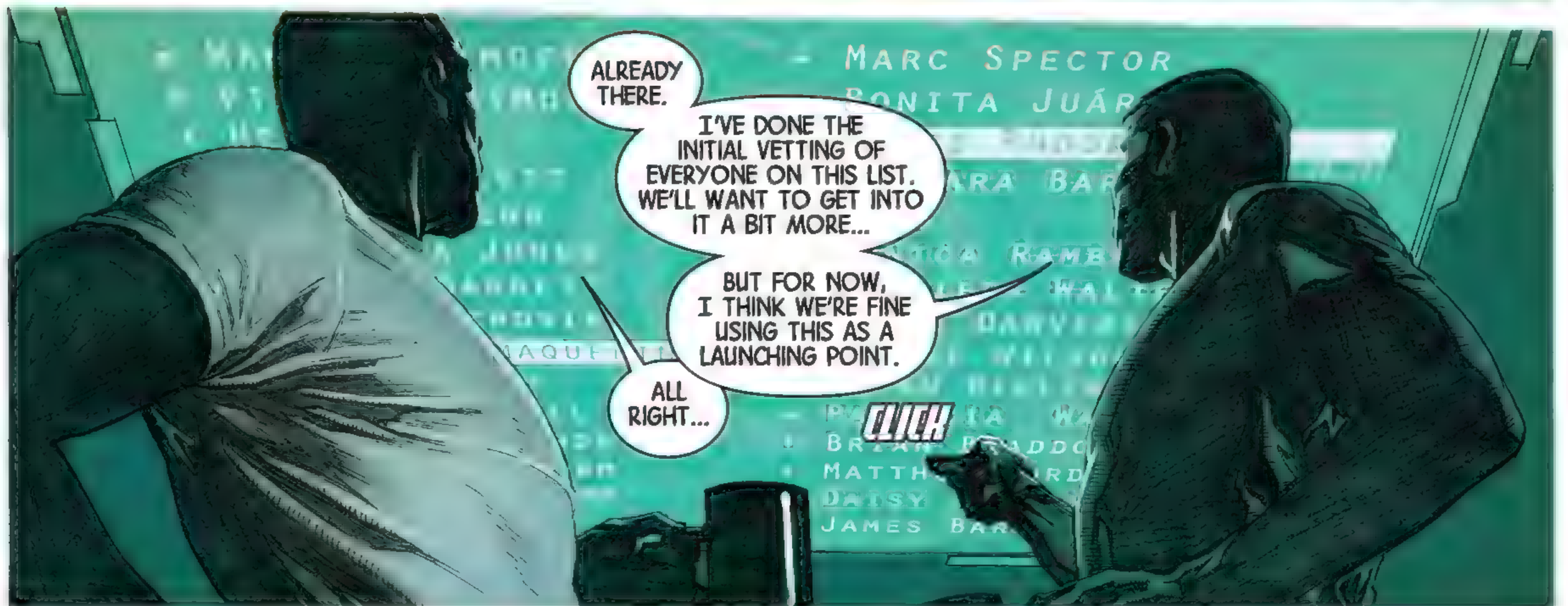


HYPERION

ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES AS FAR AS WE CAN.



SMASHER



ALREADY THERE.

I'VE DONE THE INITIAL VETTING OF EVERYONE ON THIS LIST. WE'LL WANT TO GET INTO IT A BIT MORE...

BUT FOR NOW, I THINK WE'RE FINE USING THIS AS A LAUNCHING POINT.

ALL RIGHT...

MARC SPECTOR

BONITA JUÁR

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

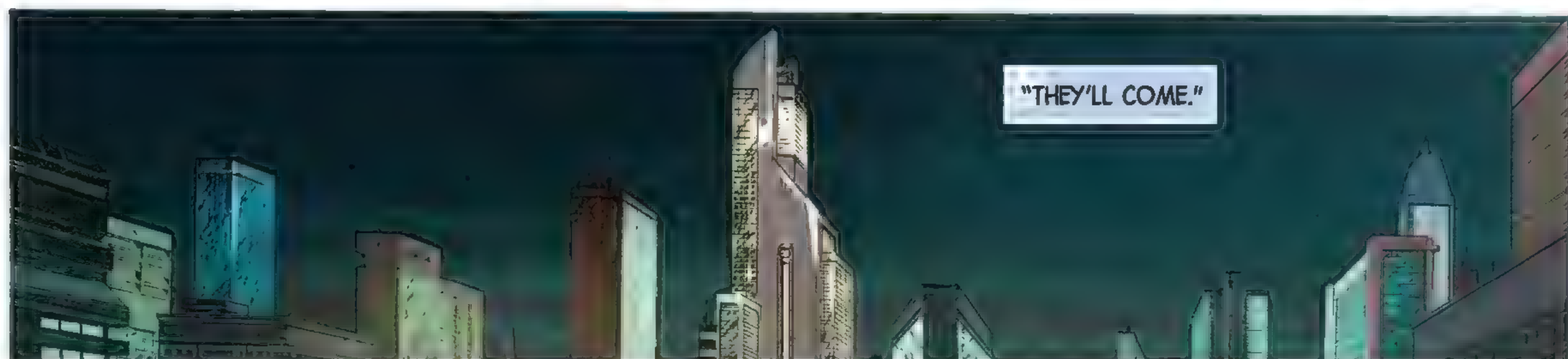
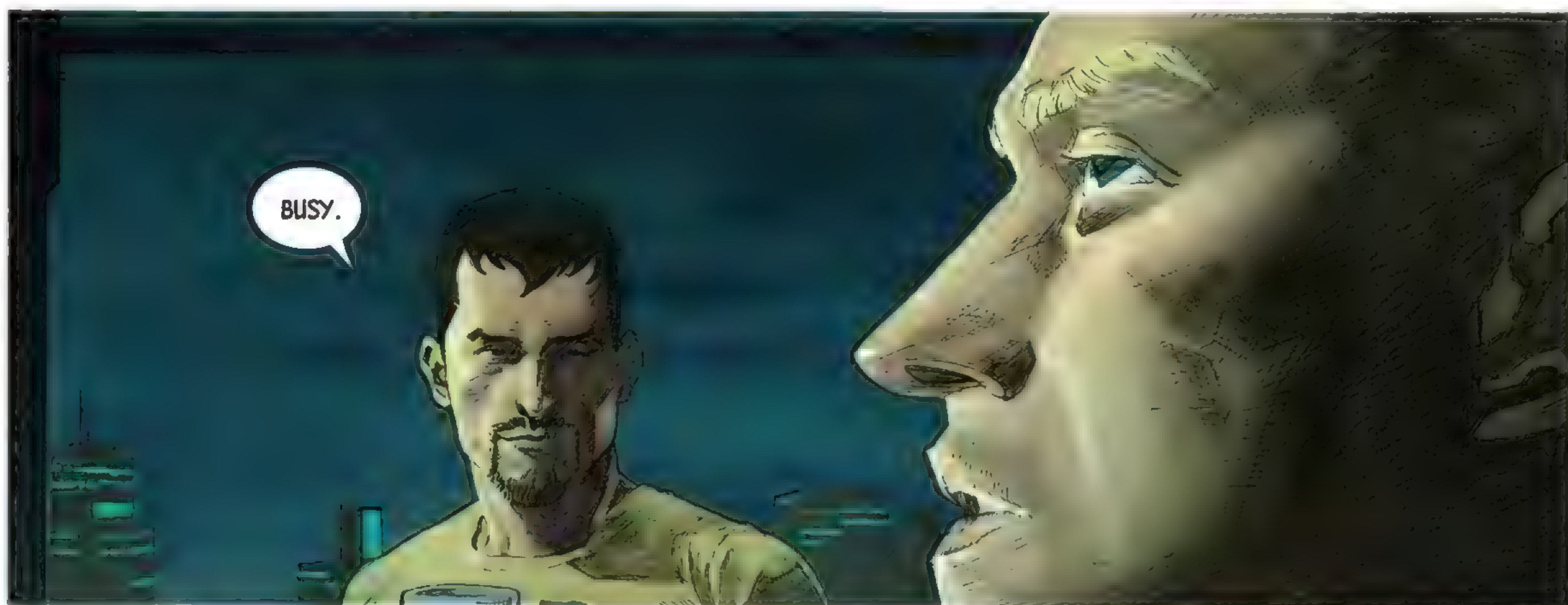
...

...

...

...

...



NOW.

AND ASSEMBLE
WE DID.

HOW
LONG?

CAROL SAYS
THE BEST GUESS FOR
HAVING THE QUINJET
RETROFITTED IS AROUND
FOURTEEN HOURS.

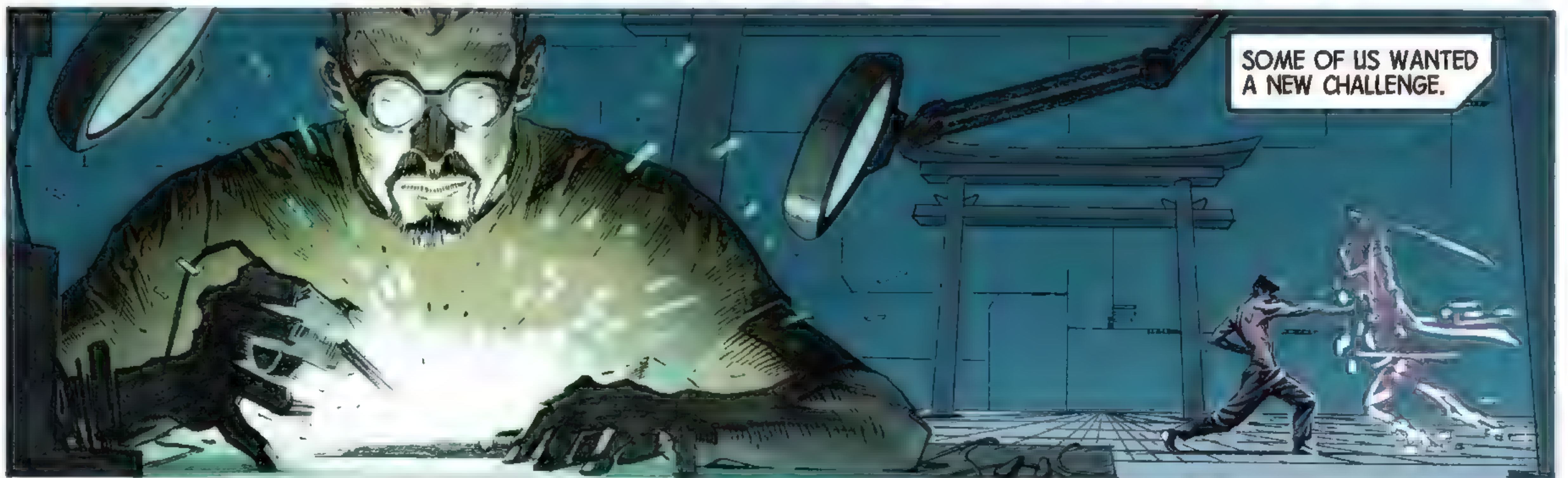
IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT,
WHEN THE WORLD WAS
SLEEPING, CAPTAIN
AMERICA AND IRON MAN
HAD MADE SOMETHING
NEW...

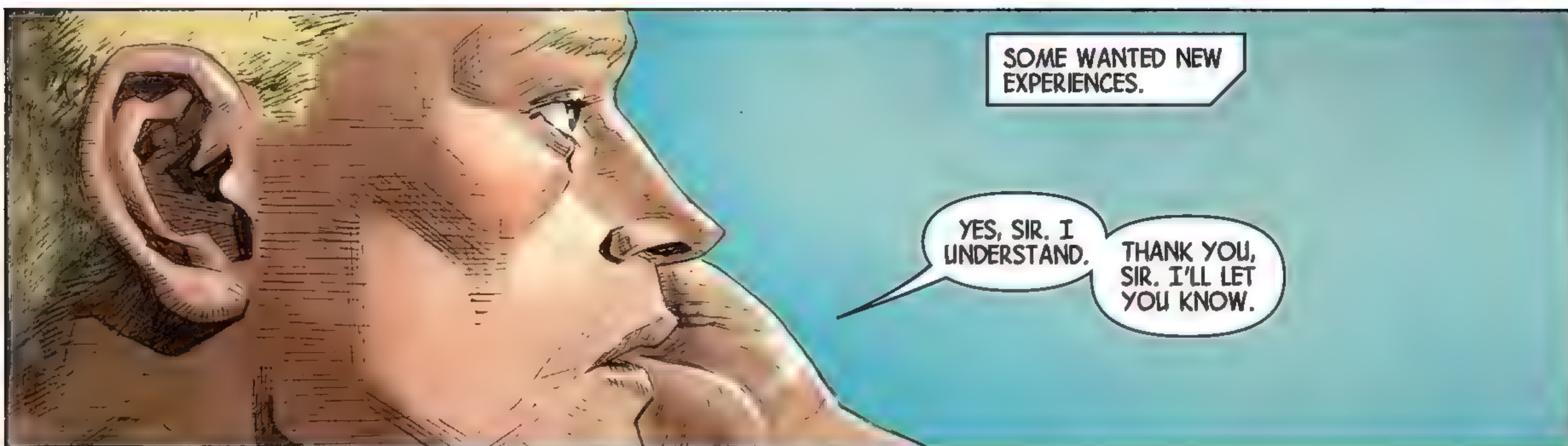
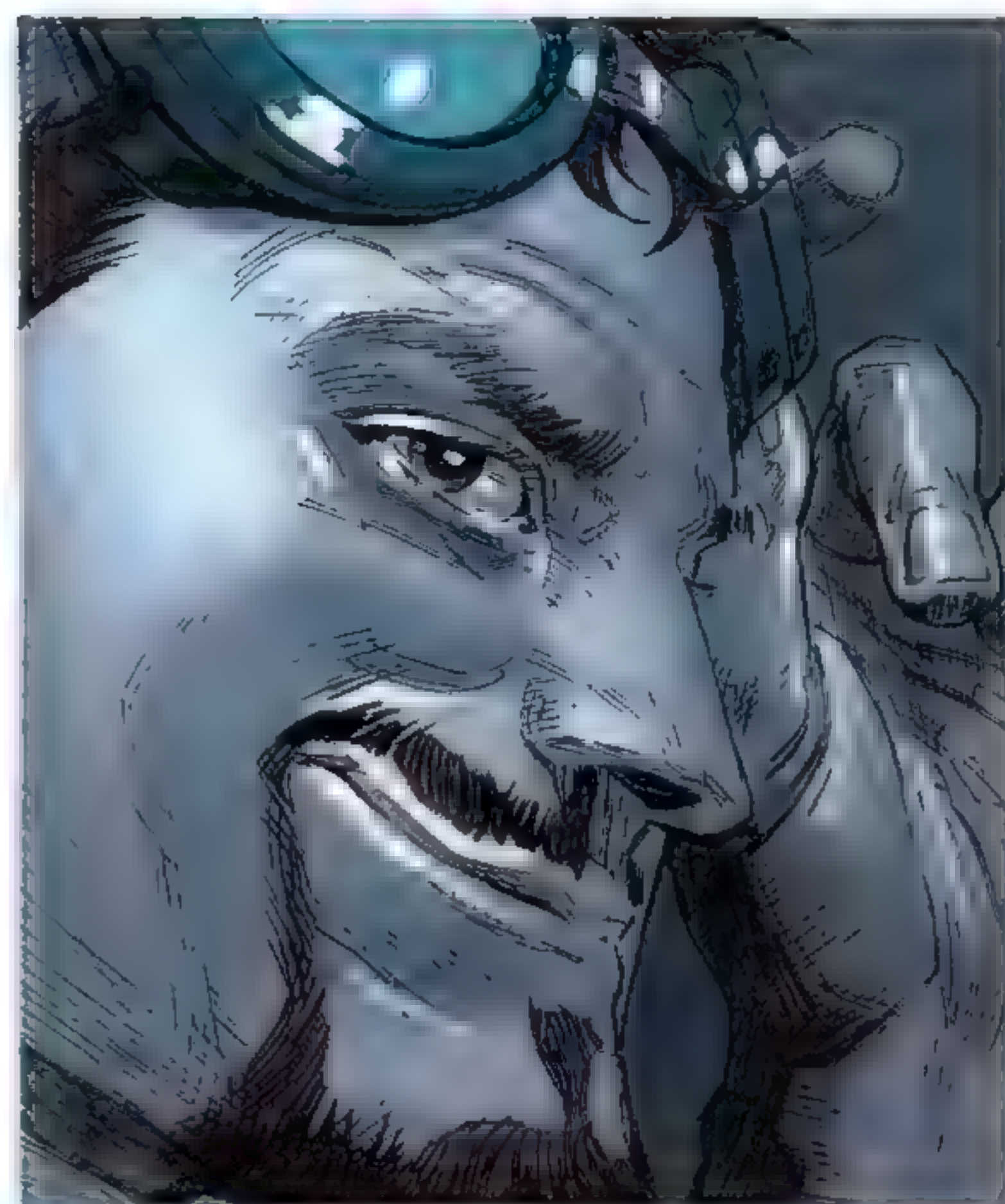
AN AVENGERS
MACHINE.

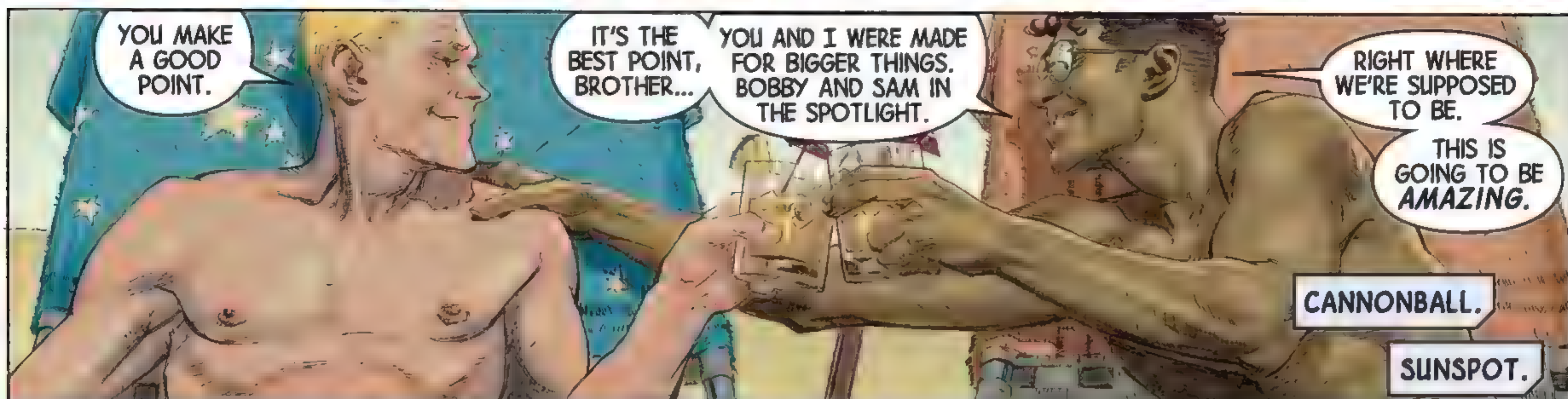
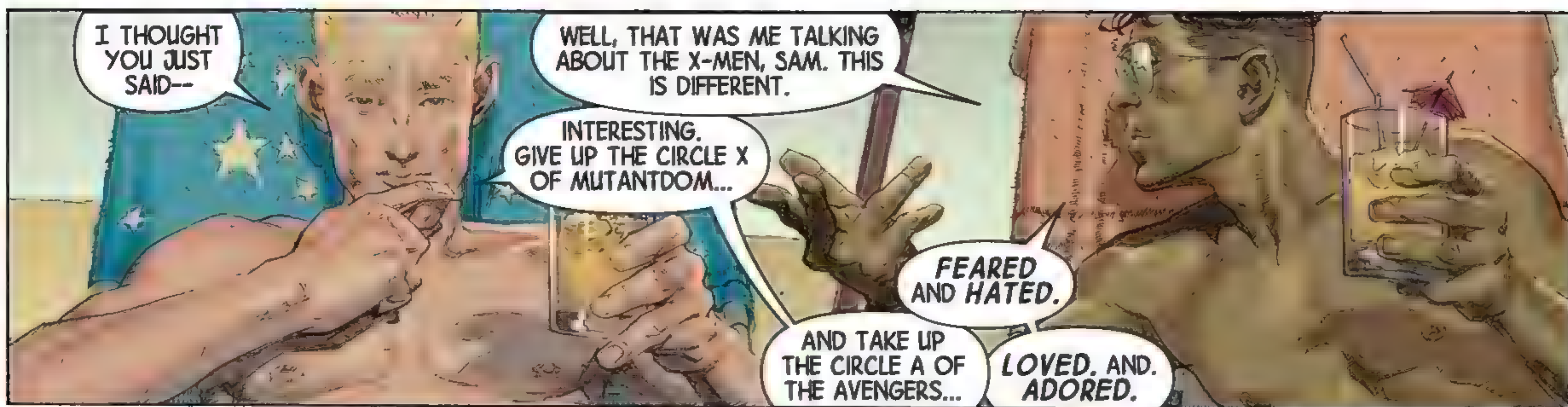
A COMMUNAL DEVICE
THAT WAS BUILT TO
SAVE US ALL.

THIS WHOLE
WAS MADE OF
PARTS...

INDIVIDUALS ALIGNED
PERFECTLY TO SERVE
A GREATER PURPOSE.









HEAR WHAT EXACTLY?

NOT THE HARD SELL, NONE OF THE MANIPULATION. NO DINNER AND DRINKS AND ALL THAT TONY STARK RIDICULOUSNESS...

HOW ABOUT YOU JUST TELL US WHAT THE TWO OF YOU ARE UP TO?

HOW ABOUT THE TRUTH?



AH... THAT...OF COURSE.

WELL I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. HOW ABOUT YOU, STEVE?

THE TRUTH?

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE WORLD LIES IN PERIL-- SOMETHING DARK AND DANGEROUS IS IN THE AIR... SOMETHING SINISTER IS JUST OUT OF REACH.

I THINK EVERYTHING WE BELIEVE IS GOING TO BE TESTED, AND ONLY MEN AND WOMEN OF CONVICTION--OF PURPOSE--CAN STAND AGAINST THAT INEVITABILITY.

YOU SEE...

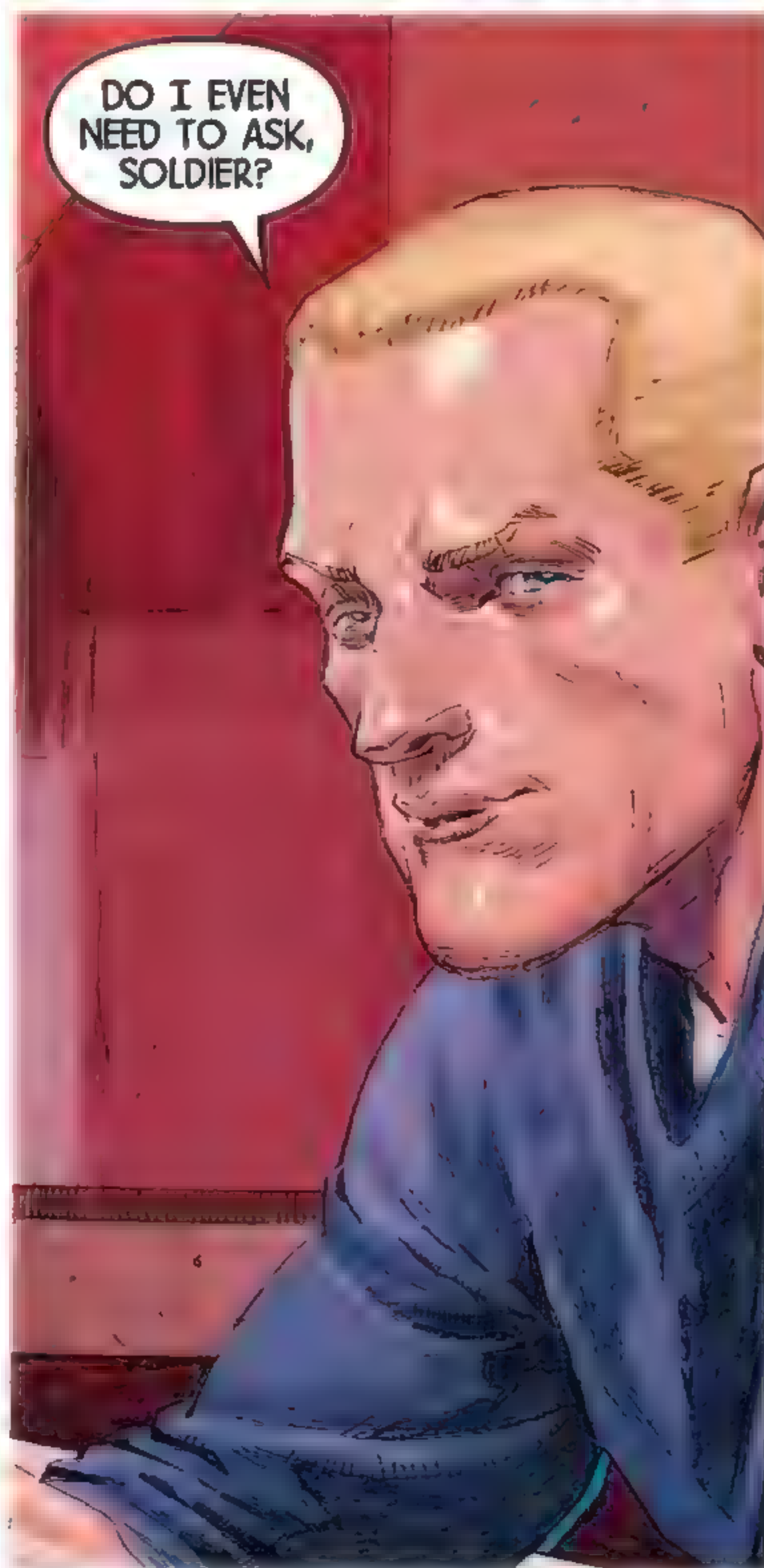
A TIME IS COMING FOR THE WORLD'S MOST MIGHTY.



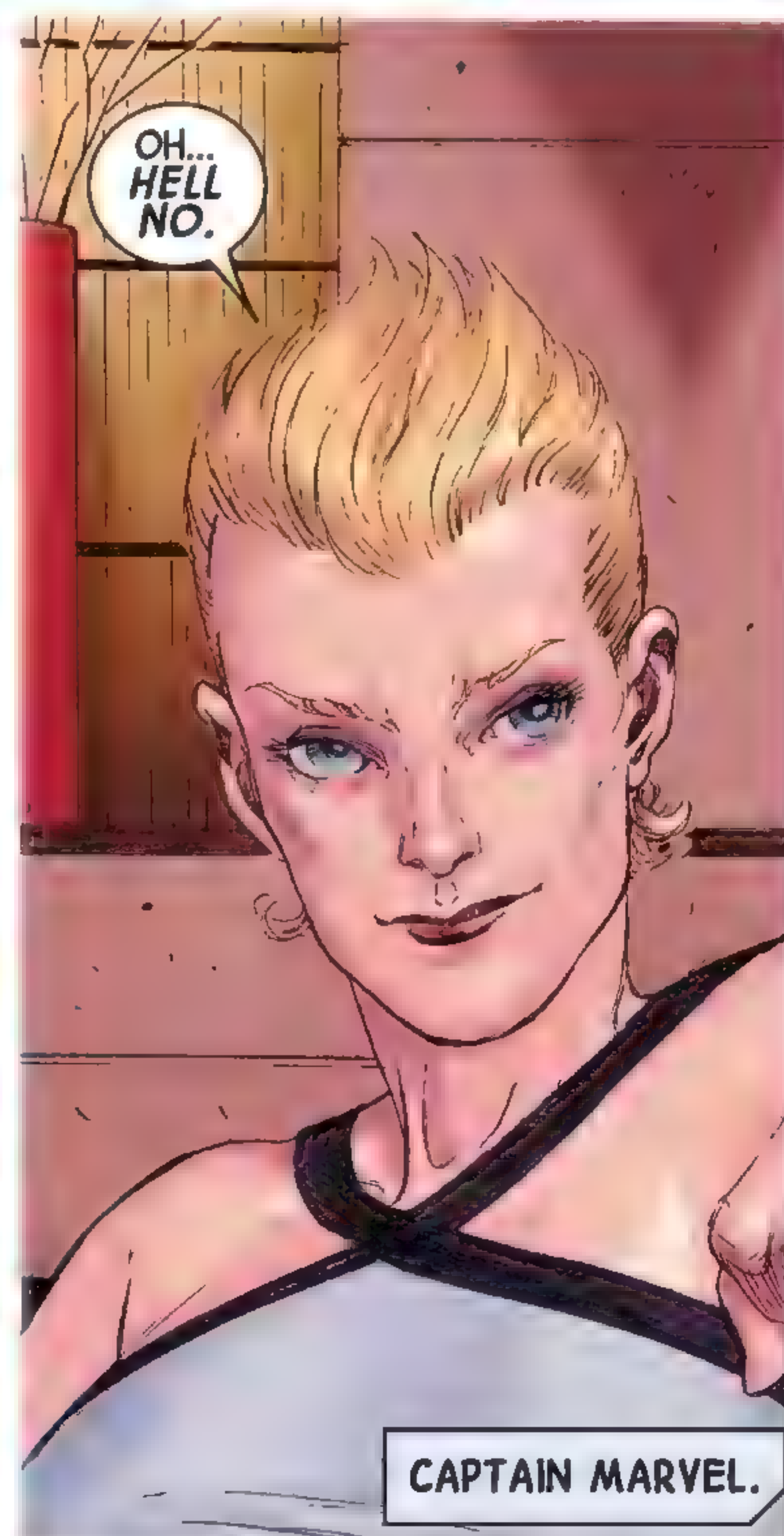
SO TELL ME, JESSICA...WHAT ARE YOU?

AN AVENGER.

SPIDER-WOMAN.

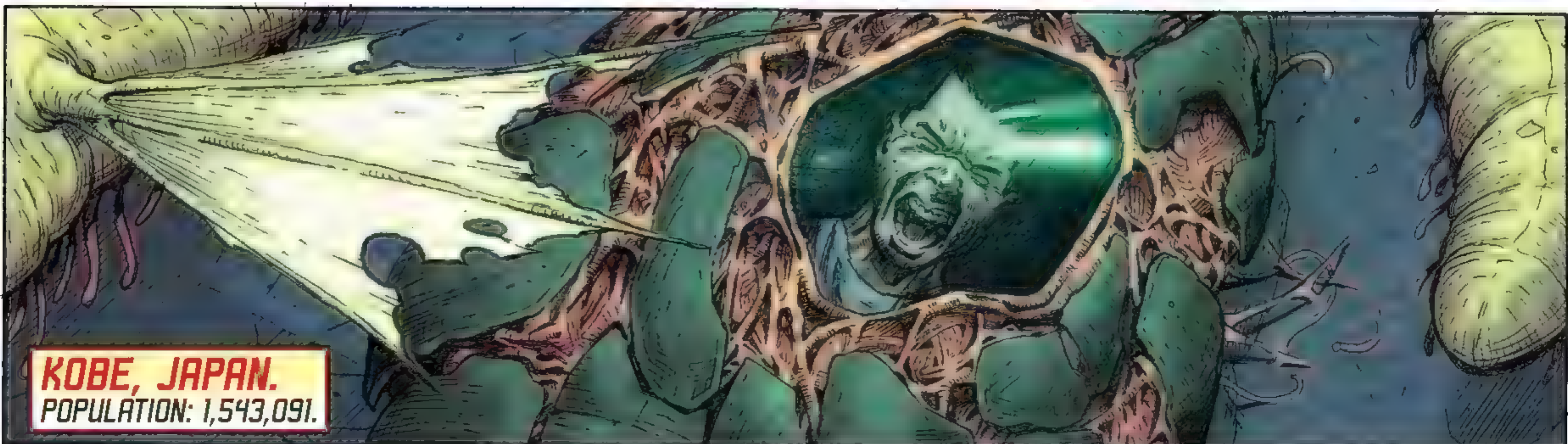
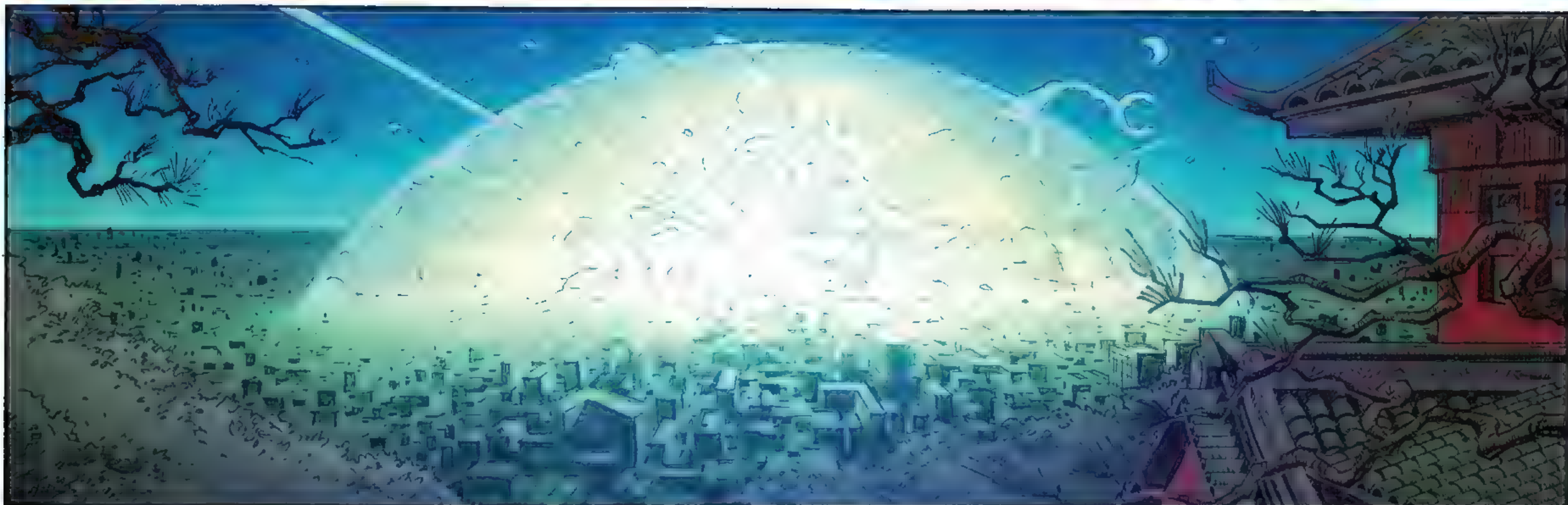
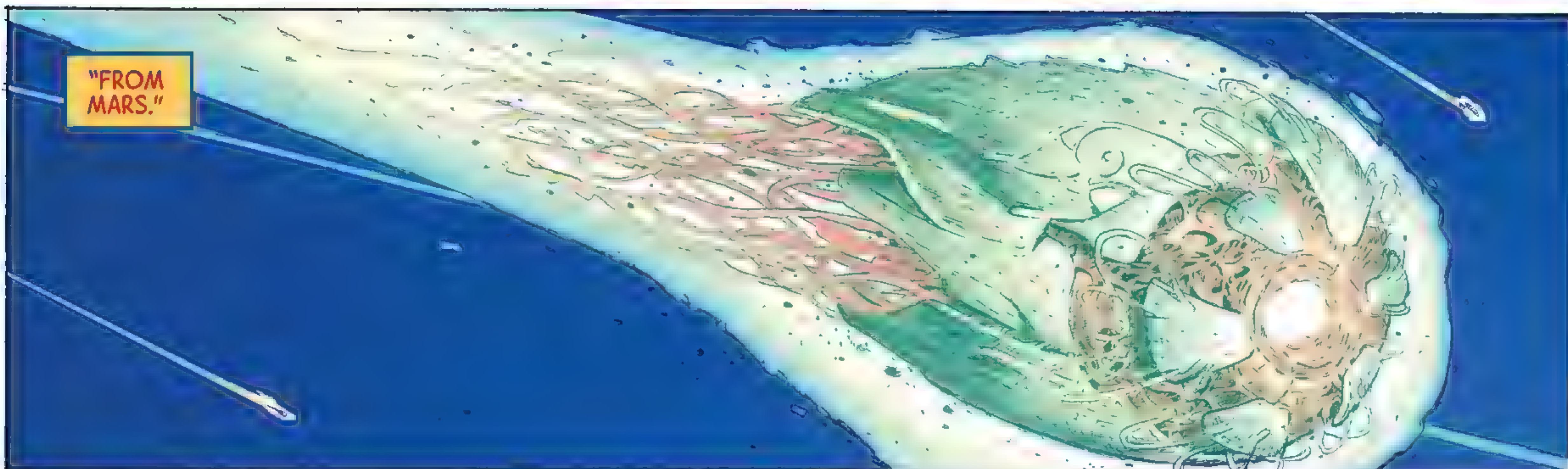
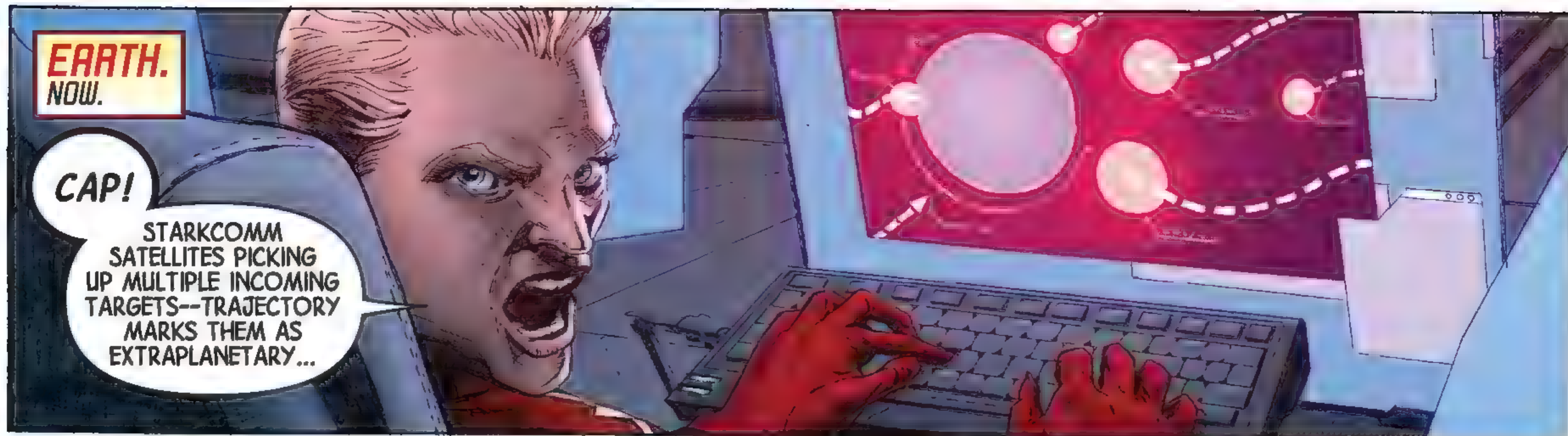


DO I EVEN NEED TO ASK, SOLDIER?



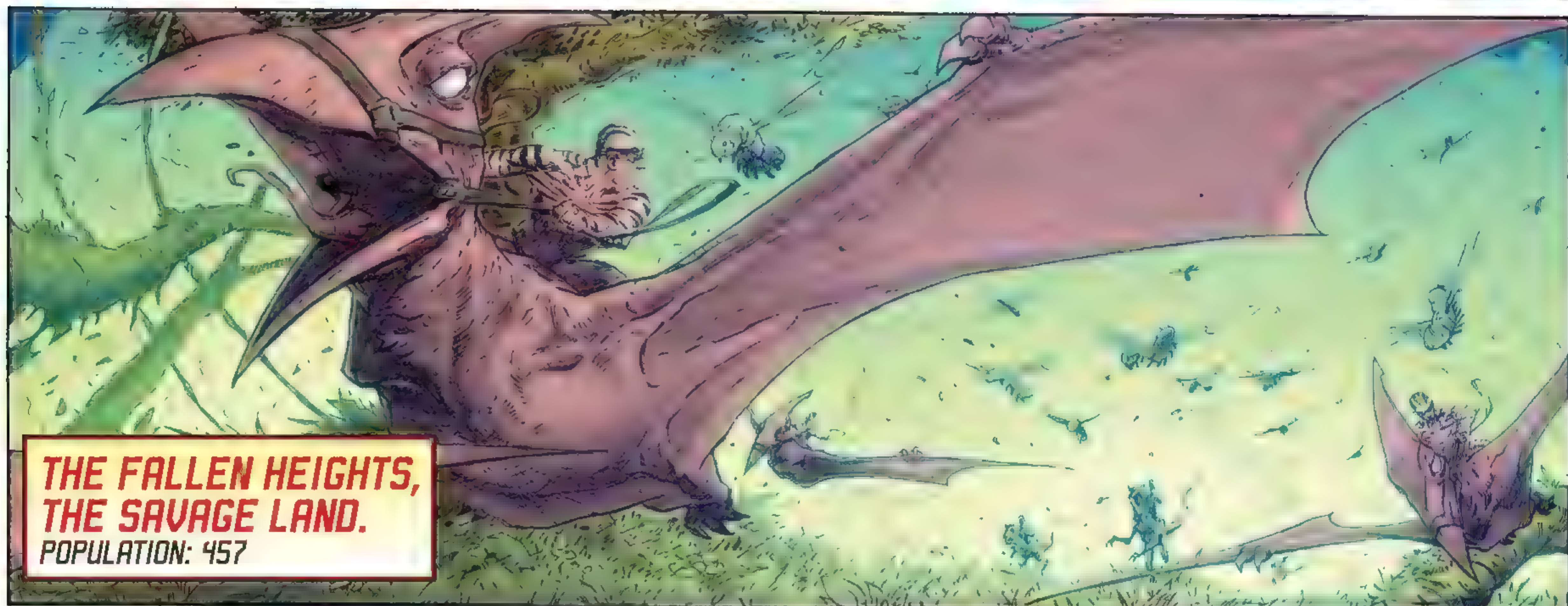
OH... HELL NO.

CAPTAIN MARVEL.





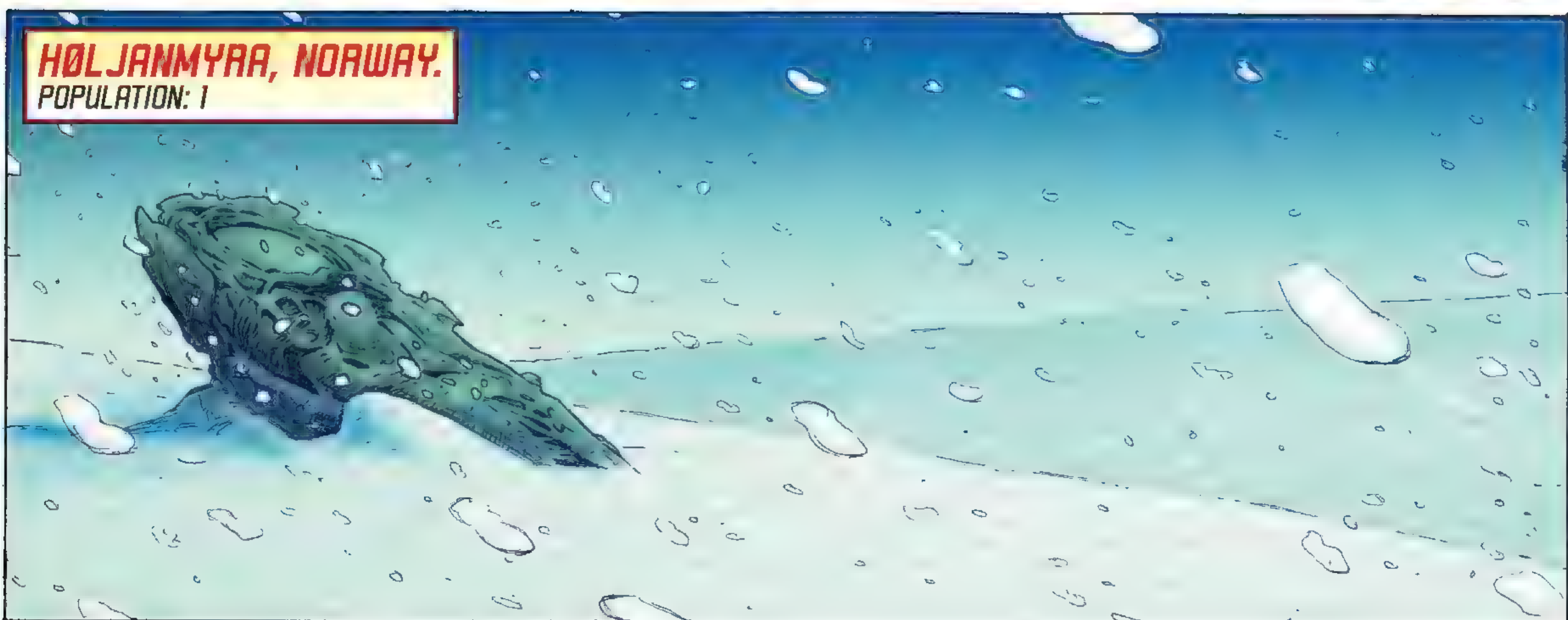
CHHATARPUR, INDIA.
POPULATION: 99,498



**THE FALLEN HEIGHTS,
THE SAVAGE LAND.**
POPULATION: 457



SPLIT, CROATIA.
POPULATION: 177,263



HØLJANMYRA, NORWAY.
POPULATION: 1

MARS.

YOU SEE...

I'M AN ARTIST.

WHAT WE DO IS AN EXTENSION OF WHO WE ARE.

I, STILL, BELIEVE, IN CREATION.

AND I TELL YOU TRULY, I BELIEVE THAT YOUR WORLD CAN BE TRANSFORMED-- TRANSFORMED AND SAVED.

THE GARDEN IS CONFLICTED. TORN BETWEEN TWO PURPOSES. DO WE BUILD BETTER WORLDS, OR DO WE TEAR THEM DOWN?

SO EACH ORGANIC DELIVERY SYSTEM I SEND HURLING THROUGH SPACE TO EARTH--EACH ORIGIN BOMB--CONTAINS A COMMUNAL VIRUS TAILOR-MADE TO REMAP GENETIC CODE.

EACH BOMB DIFFERENT-- MULTIPLE VARIATIONS FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES-- AND EACH ONE MAKING YOUR PLANET BETTER SUITED FOR ITS NEW FUTURE.

IT'S PERFECTION, MR. STARK.

IT'S GENOCIDE, YOU WEIRD-LOOKING FREAK.

GENOCIDE?

GENOCIDE, HE SAYS...AS IF I'M A MONSTER.

I BRING FORTH LIFE WHERE THERE WAS NONE, AND HE CALLS IT... GENOCIDE.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

☯☯☯☯

YES, YES. I KNOW. BUT I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS AND EACH TIME IT'S NOT JUST DEATH I OPPOSE, BUT ALSO THE HATEFUL IGNORANCE OF INDIGENOUS DENIERS.

☯☯☯☯

YES. I SUPPOSE I COULD. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD.

YOU THINK I'VE KILLED ALL THOSE PEOPLE ON YOUR PLANET, BUT THE TRUTH IS I'VE NEVER SET OUT TO KILL ANYONE OR ANYTHING MY ENTIRE LIFE.

SEE, I DON'T DESTROY, ANTHONY STARK... I CREATE.

I AM EX NIHILLO--I MAKE SOMETHING FROM NOTHING.

BUT IF YOU SEEK THE DARK PIT OF DESTRUCTION, LOOK THERE...

IF I FAIL, HE WILL PURGE YOUR WORLD AND LEAVE IT LYING FALLOW.

"SO HOPE FOR MY SUCCESS, BECAUSE IF THIS COMES DOWN TO ALEPH, ONLY THE UNIVERSE HERSELF COULD SAVE YOUR WORLD."

EARTH.
AVENGERS TOWER.

MULTIPLE
DETONATIONS.

CONFIRMED IMPACTS
IN JAPAN AND CROATIA.
I THINK THERE MIGHT HAVE
BEEN MORE, BUT WE LOST
THEM AS THEY ENTERED
THE ATMOSPHERE.

RETASKING THE
STARKCOMM SATS
AND REQUESTING
ACCESS TO THE
S.H.I.E.L.D. ARRAY.

CONFIRMING
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S
INITIAL DATA--IT
APPEARS TO BE
SIMILAR TO THE
EARLIER STRIKES IN
AUSTRALIA AND
CANADA, STEVE.

WE'RE
WAITING FOR
CONFIRMATION,
BUT AS SOON
AS--

NO
NEED.

EXCUSE
ME?

I'M
TAKING TOO
LONG.

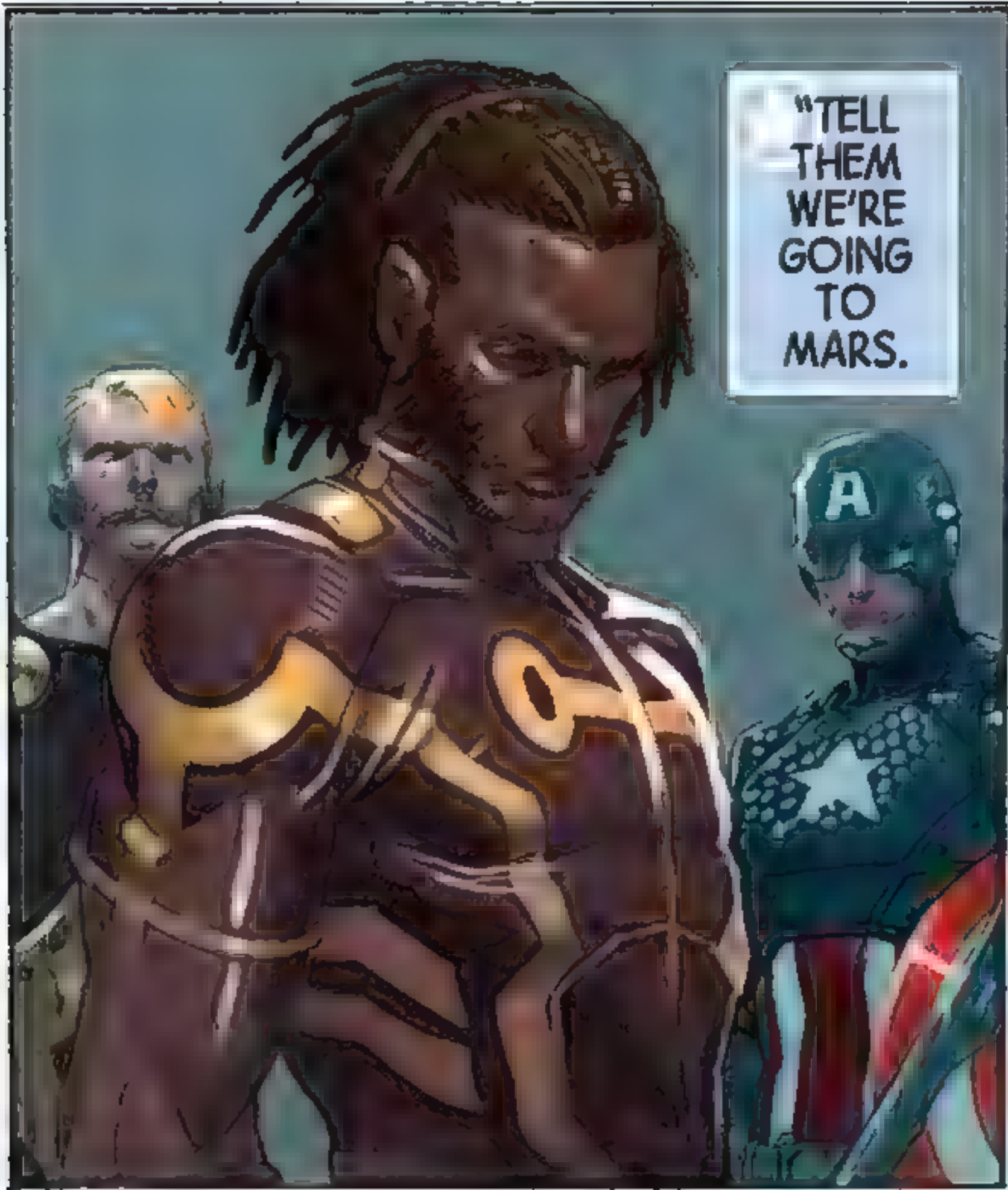
THERE'S NO NEED.
I KNOW WHO DID THIS.
I KNOW WHY, AND THEY
HAVE TO BE STOPPED.
NOW.

MANIFOLD!

TEAM'S BEEN
TOGETHER LESS
THAN SIX HOURS,
CAP.

YOU SURE
THESE PEOPLE
ARE READY
FOR THIS?



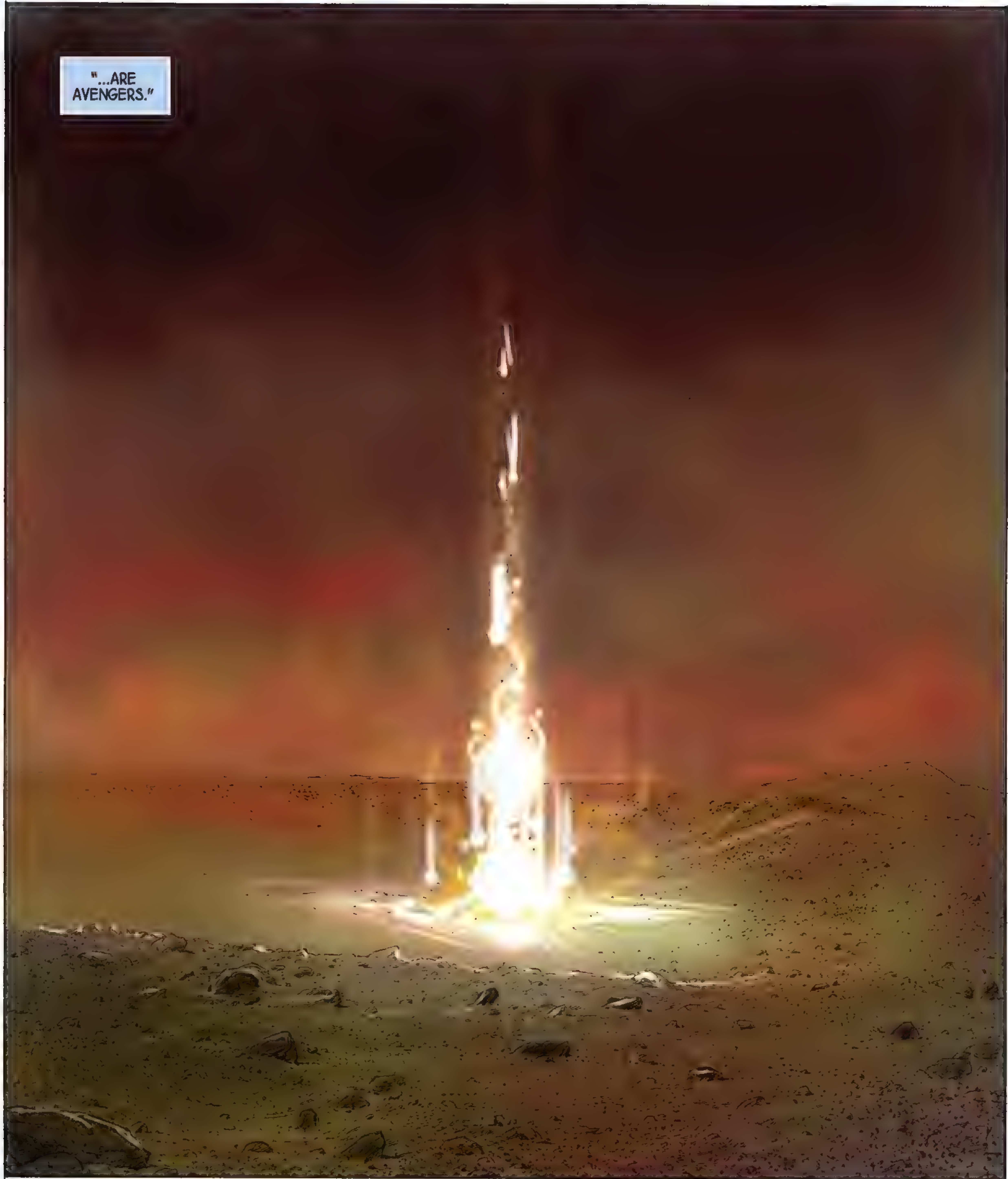


"TELL THEM WE'RE GOING TO MARS."



"TELL THEM I NEED WARRIORS AND I NEED HEROES."

"TELL THEM IT IS THE END OF THE WORLD, AND WHAT I NEED..."



"...ARE AVENGERS."



“THE GARDEN”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA · IRON MAN · THOR · HAWKEYE · BLACK WIDOW · HULK
WOLVERINE · SPIDER-MAN · CAPTAIN MARVEL · SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON · SHANG-CHI · SUNSPOT · CANNONBALL · MANIFOLD
SMASHER · CAPTAIN UNIVERSE · HYPERION



ALERT,
EX NIHILO: A
BREACH.
PRECEDING
DELIVERY.



AH,
ALEPH--HOW
MAGNIFICENT!

I MADE OUR CHILD TO LOOK
JUST LIKE THEM, BUT HE'S MUCH,
MUCH **DIFFERENT**--MADE
FROM THE PRIMORDIAL
BITS OF THE UNIVERSE.

THE OLDEST,
VERY BEST PIECES--
GOD PARTICLES--
FOR OUR NEW MAN...
FOR OUR ADAM.

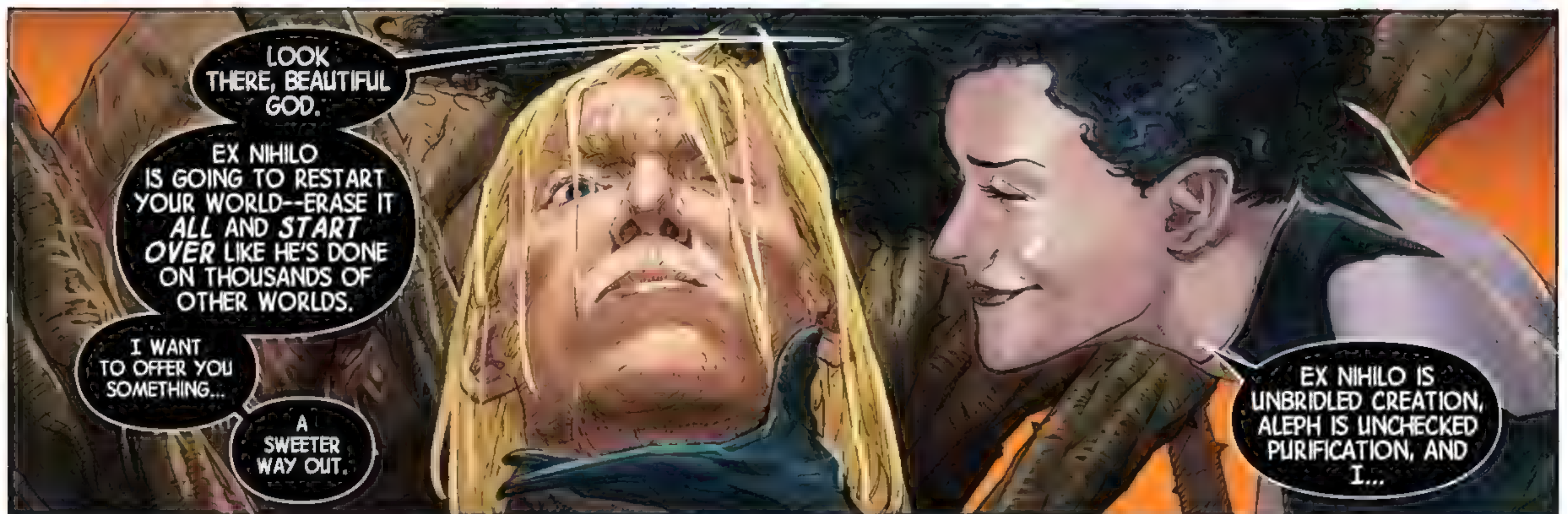
AND AFTER
I'VE REMADE THIS
EARTH, ADAM, YOU
WILL INHERIT IT...AND
LOVE IT, AS WE
LOVE YOU.



BUT WHAT
KIND OF FATHER
WOULD I BE IF WE
JUST...**GAVE IT**
TO YOU?

IF YOU WANT
LIFE AND ALL THE
GOOD THINGS LIVING
ENTAILS, THEN
YOU'LL HAVE TO
EARN IT.

FREE YOURSELF,
CHILD...SHOW
ME YOU'RE STRONG
ENOUGH TO THRIVE.



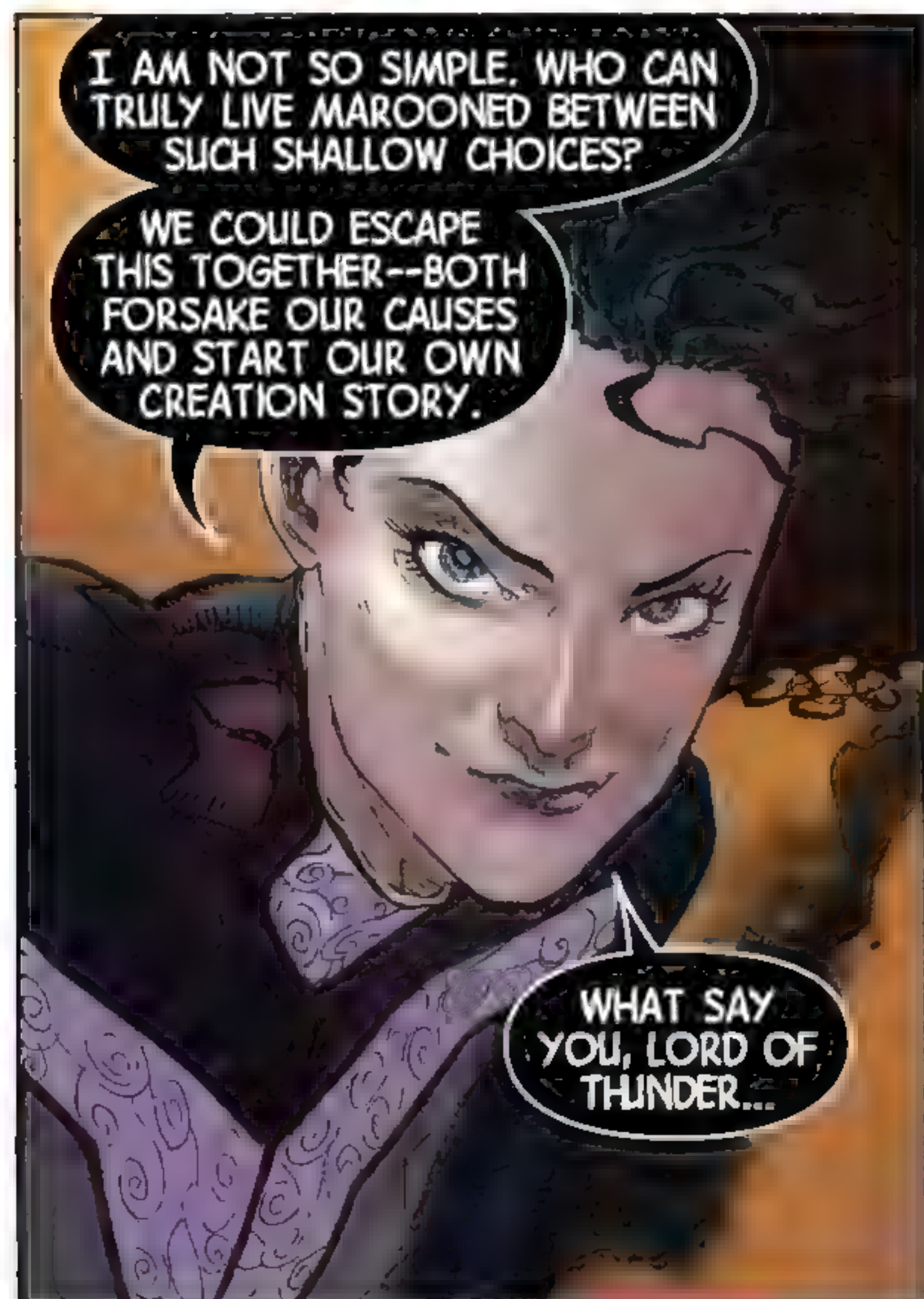
LOOK
THERE, BEAUTIFUL
GOD.

EX NIHILO
IS GOING TO RESTART
YOUR WORLD--ERASE IT
ALL AND **START**
OVER LIKE HE'S DONE
ON THOUSANDS OF
OTHER WORLDS.

I WANT
TO OFFER YOU
SOMETHING...

A
SWEETER
WAY OUT.

EX NIHILO IS
UNBRIDLED CREATION,
ALEPH IS UNCHECKED
PURIFICATION, AND
I...



I AM NOT SO SIMPLE. WHO CAN
TRULY LIVE MAROONED BETWEEN
SUCH SHALLOW CHOICES?

WE COULD ESCAPE
THIS TOGETHER--BOTH
FORSAKE OUR CAUSES
AND START OUR OWN
CREATION STORY.

WHAT SAY
YOU, LORD OF
THUNDER...



HUSBAND MY
PANTHEON.

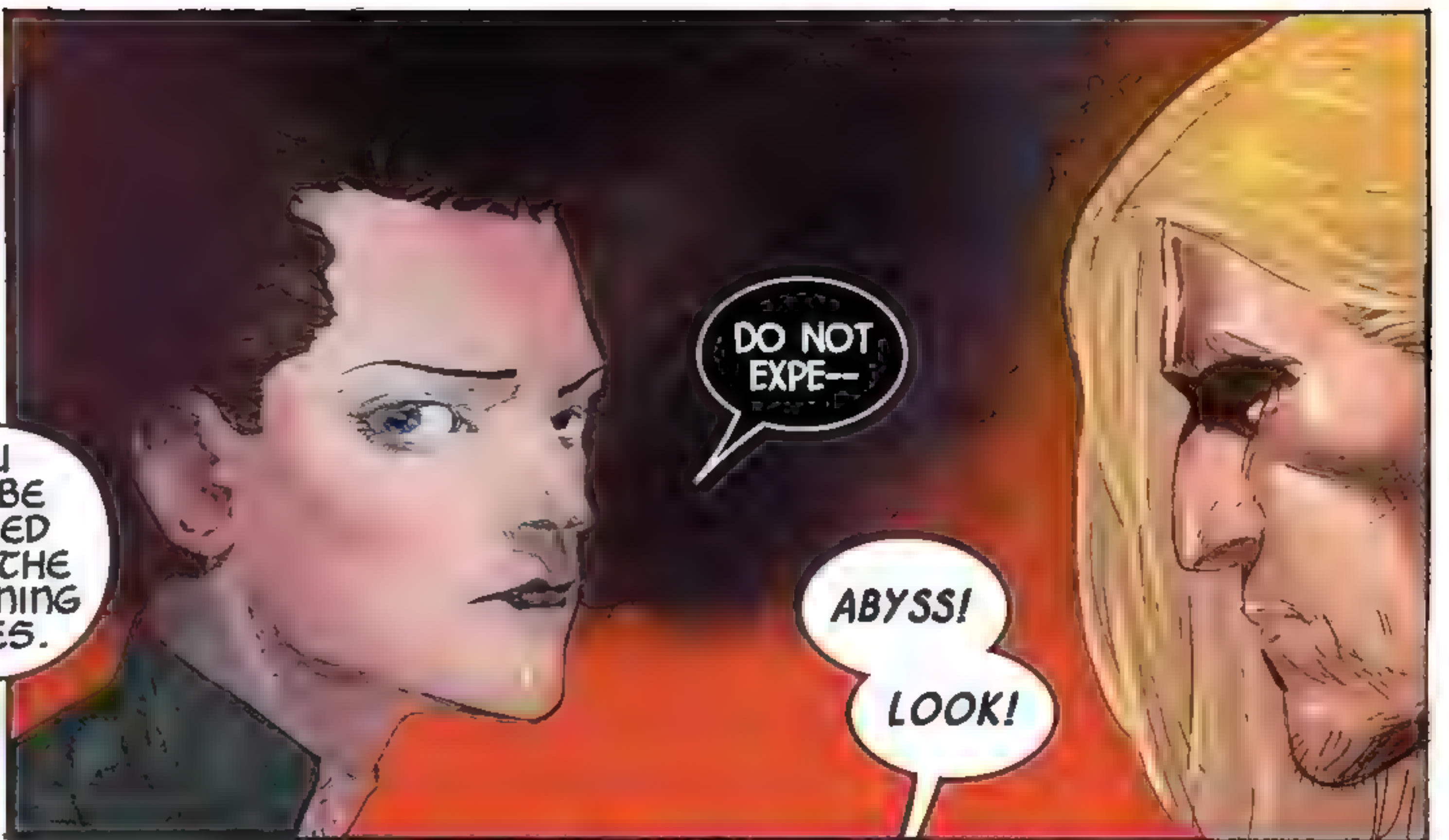
YOU
THINK ME SO
SIMPLE?





WELL
ARGUED.

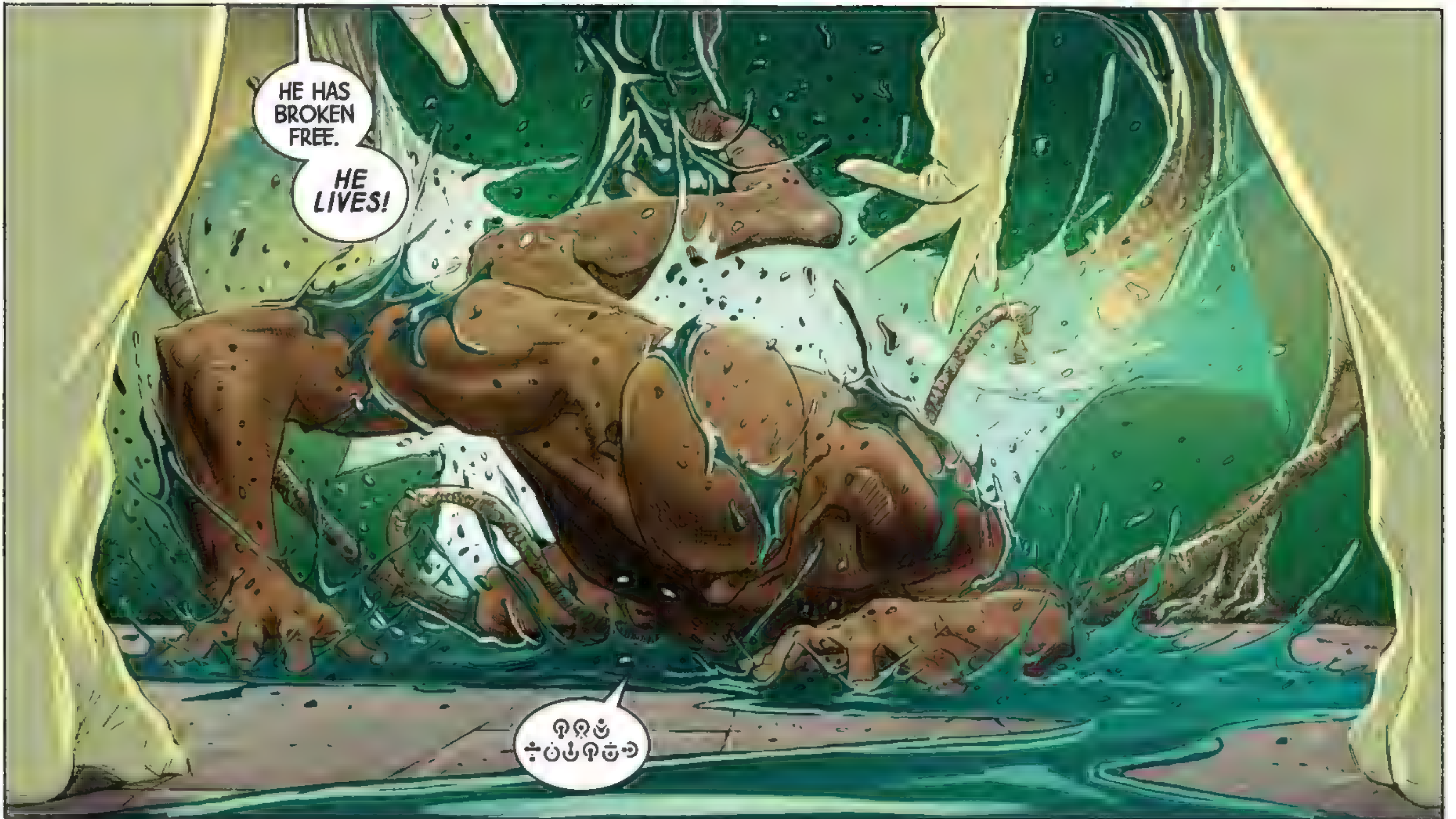
YOU
WILL BE
SPARED
WHEN THE
RECKONING
COMES.



DO NOT
EXPE--

ABYSS!

LOOK!



HE HAS
BROKEN
FREE.

HE
LIVES!

ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ
ᠰᠤᠨᠤᠨᠤᠨᠤ



YES, MY
NEW ADAM...
WHAT WAS
THAT?

WHAT?

ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠ
ᠰᠤᠨᠤᠨᠤᠨᠤ



THOSE
WORDS...

SOMETHING'S
WRONG.



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ရရရရရ
ဝဝဝတံ



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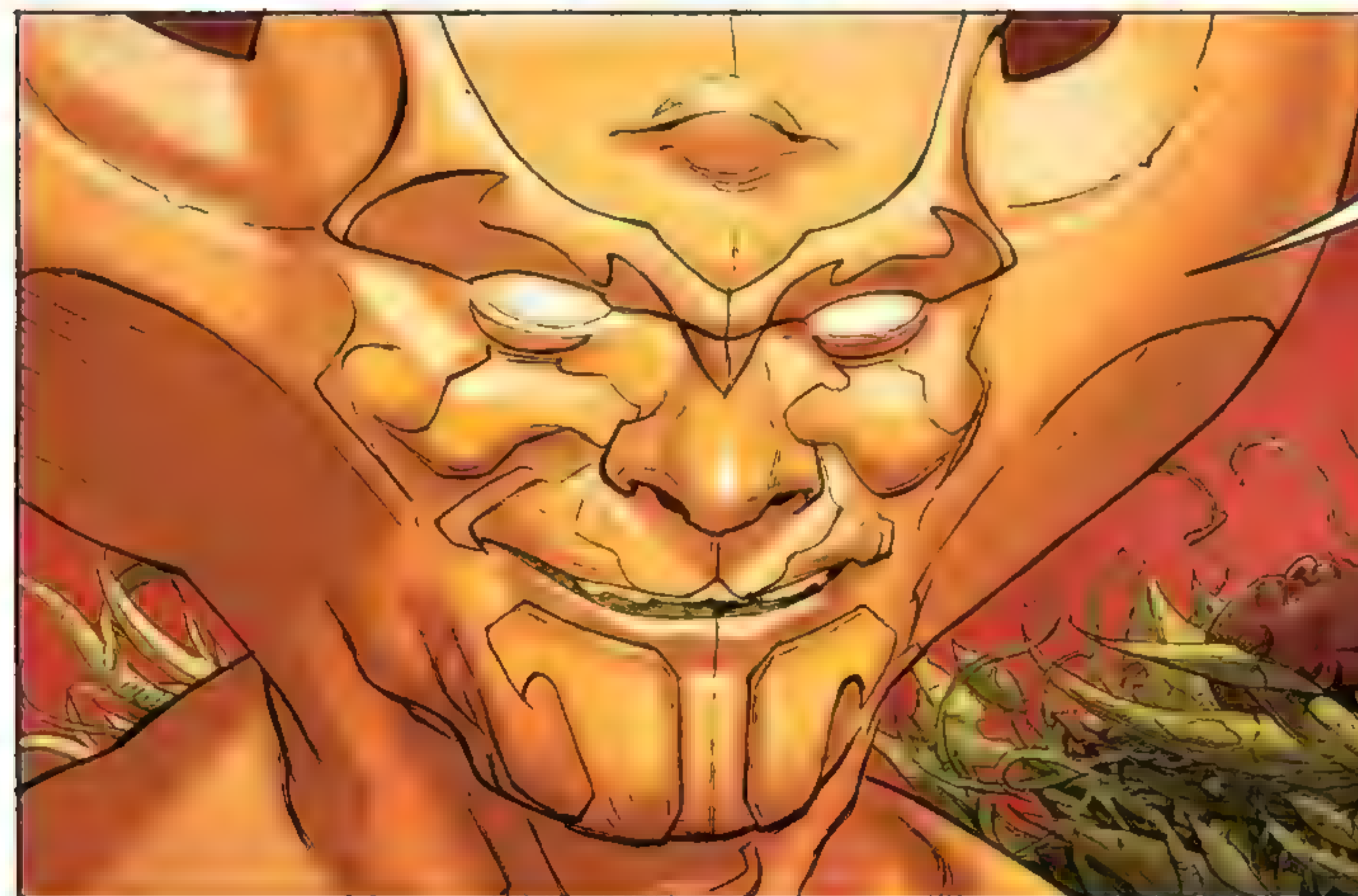
WAS THAT...
BUILDER
MACHINE
CODE?

HE
SHOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO...HE
COULDN'T...

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED HERE,
EX NIHILO?



WHAT
HAPPENED?



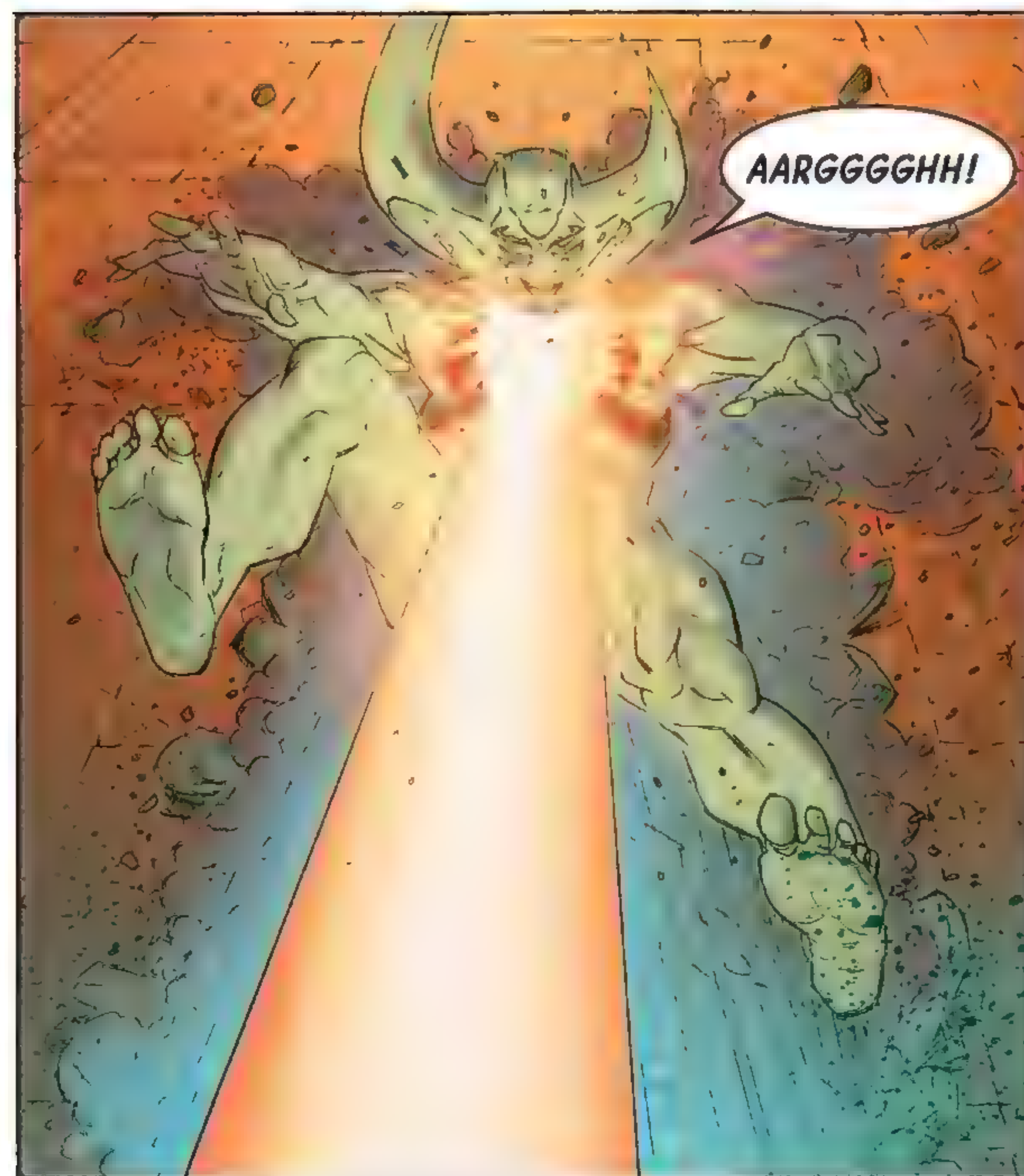
LIFE
HAPPENED,
ABYSS.

UNFORESEEN.
UNCONTROLLED,
WILD,
UNFETTERED
LIFE.

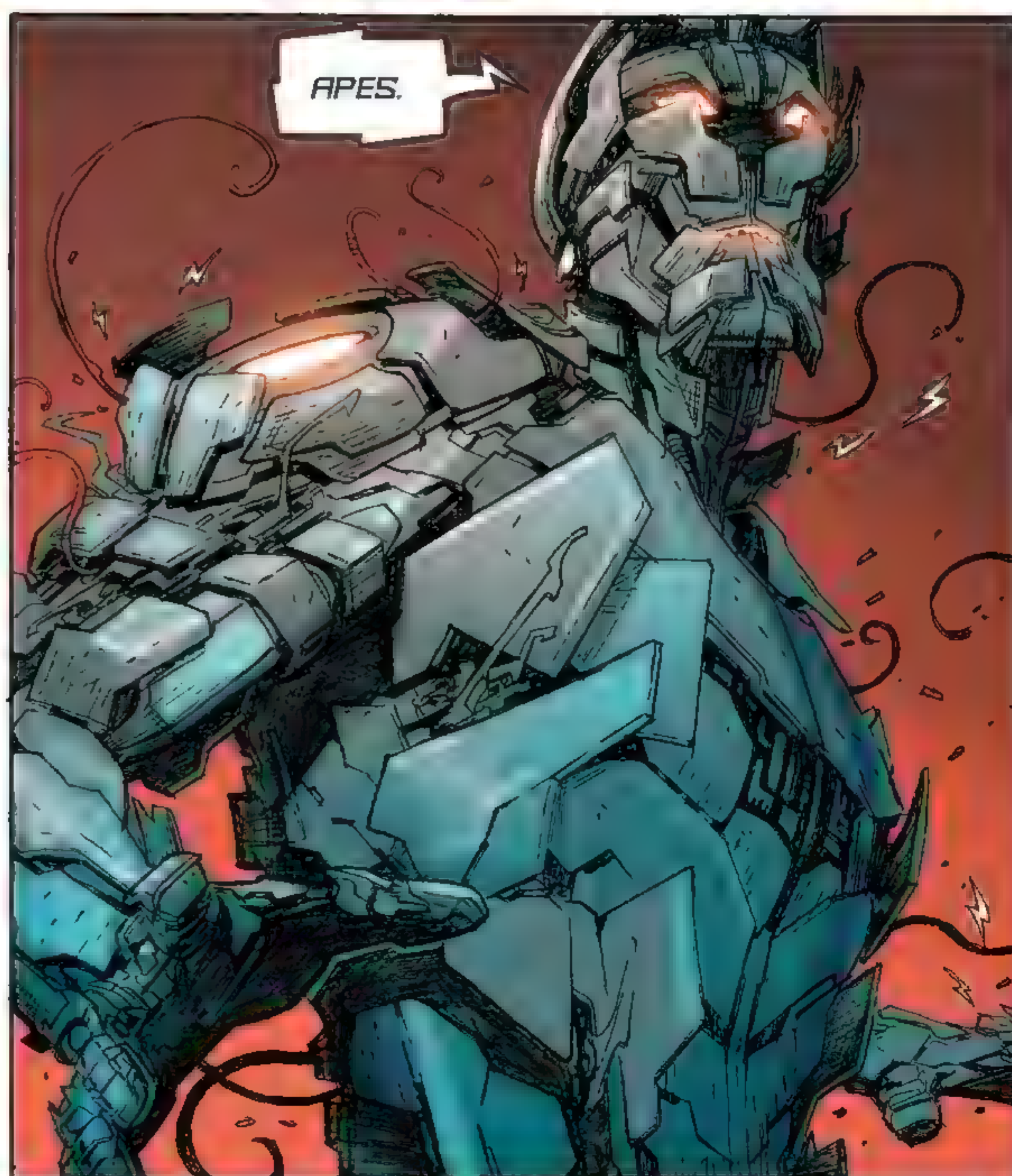
I KNOW
BECAUSE THIS
IS WHO I AM,
SISTER. I CREATE
SOMETHING
NEW...

SOMETHING
UNEXPECTED!

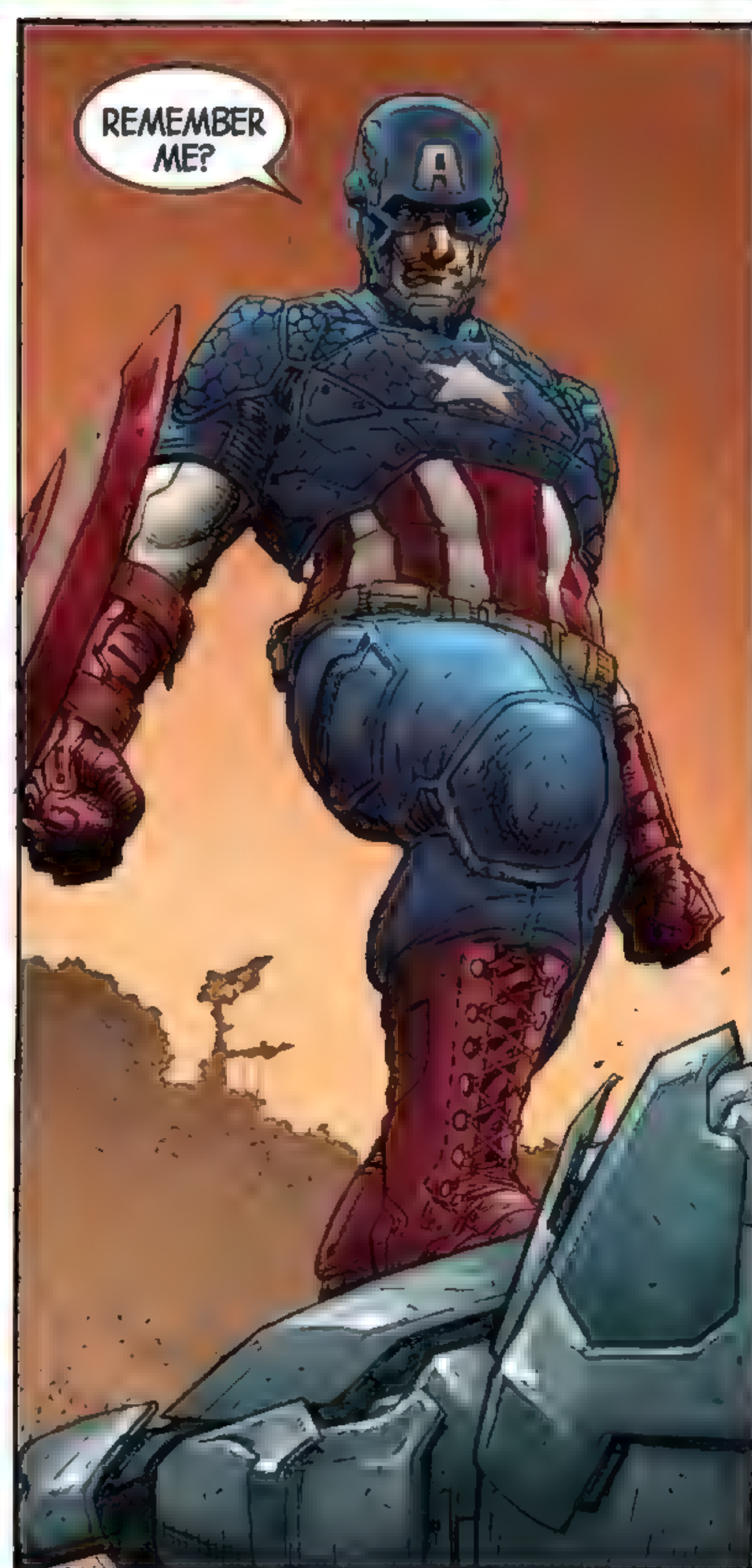
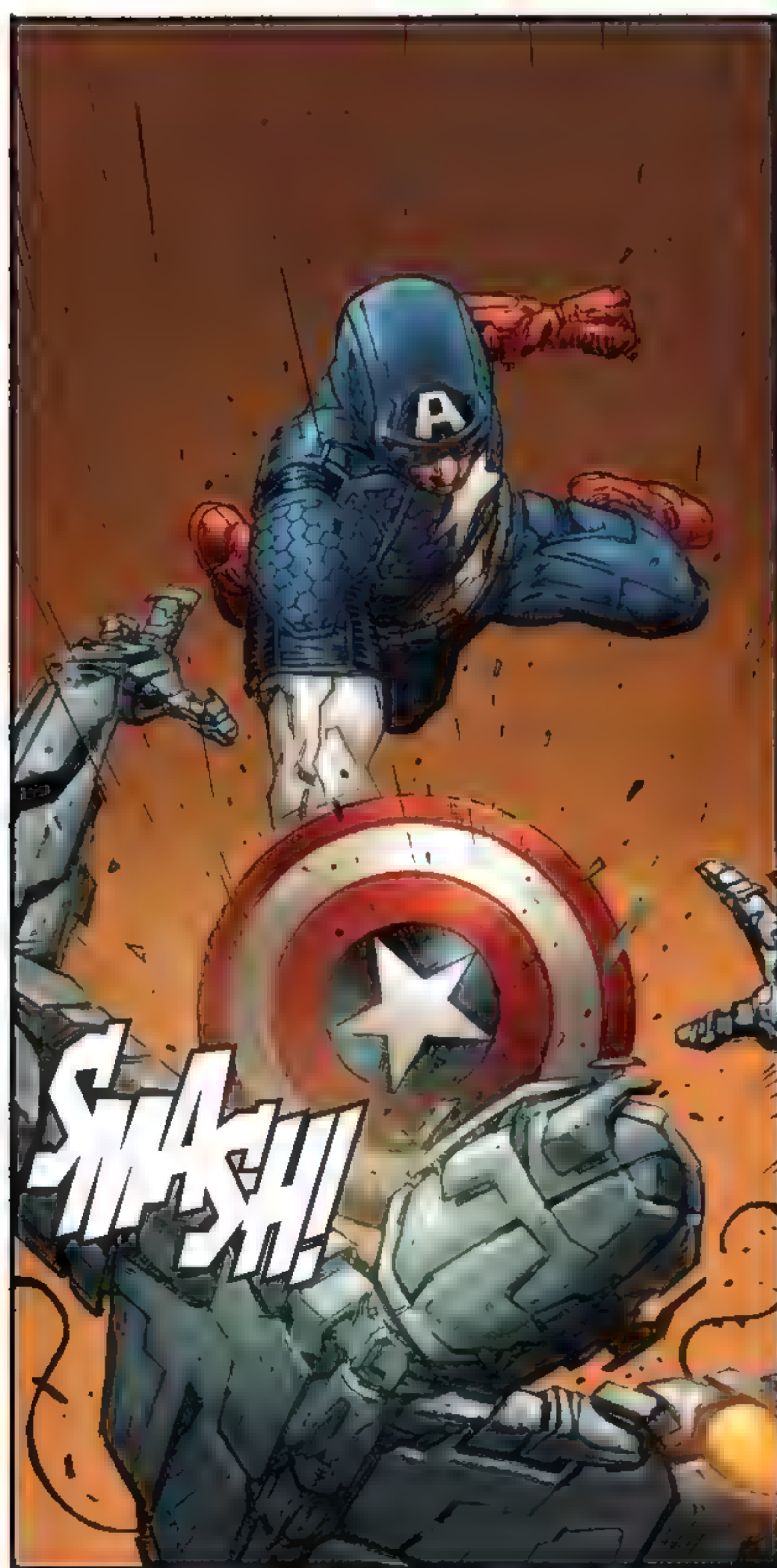
SOMETHING...



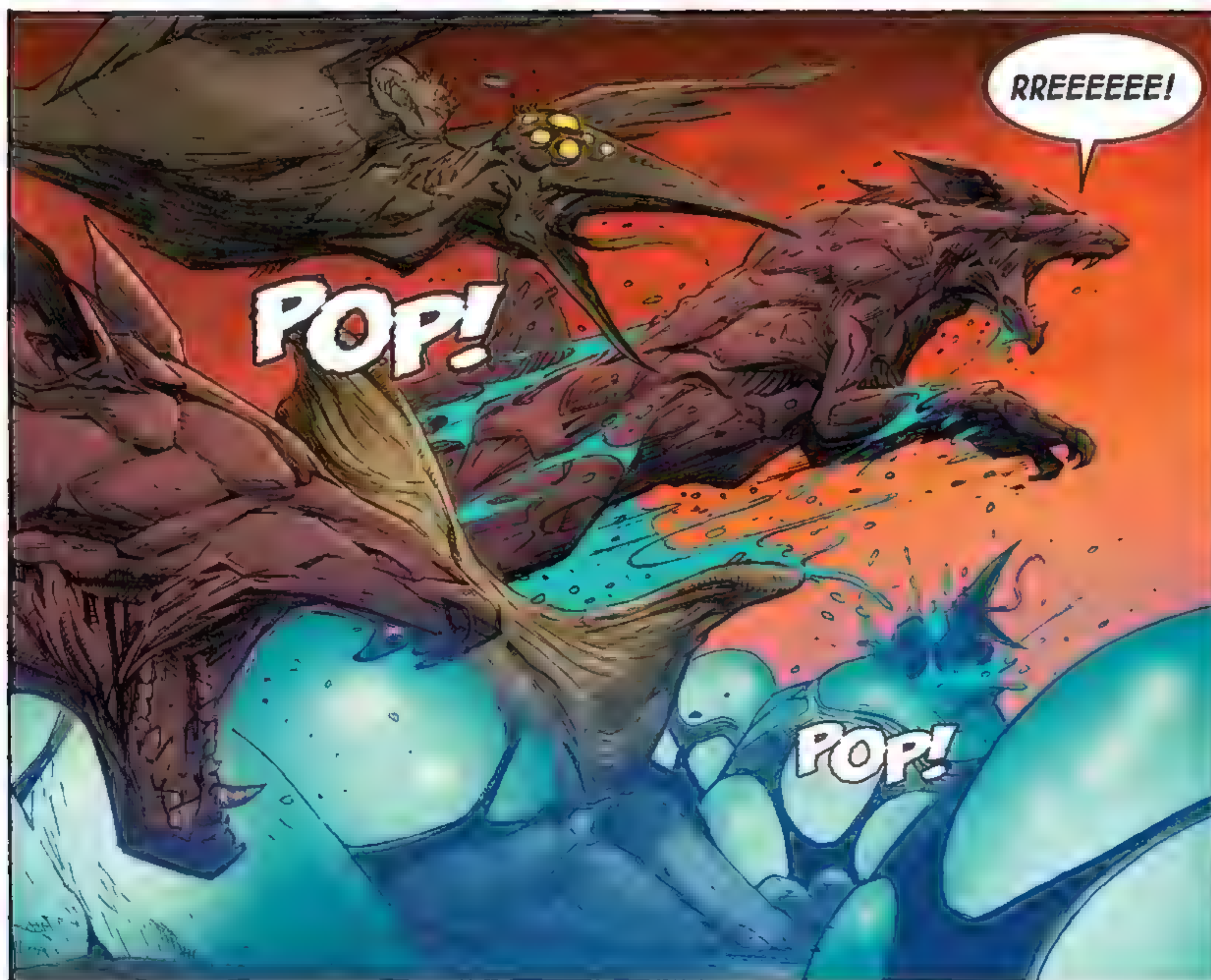
AARGGGGHH!



APES.

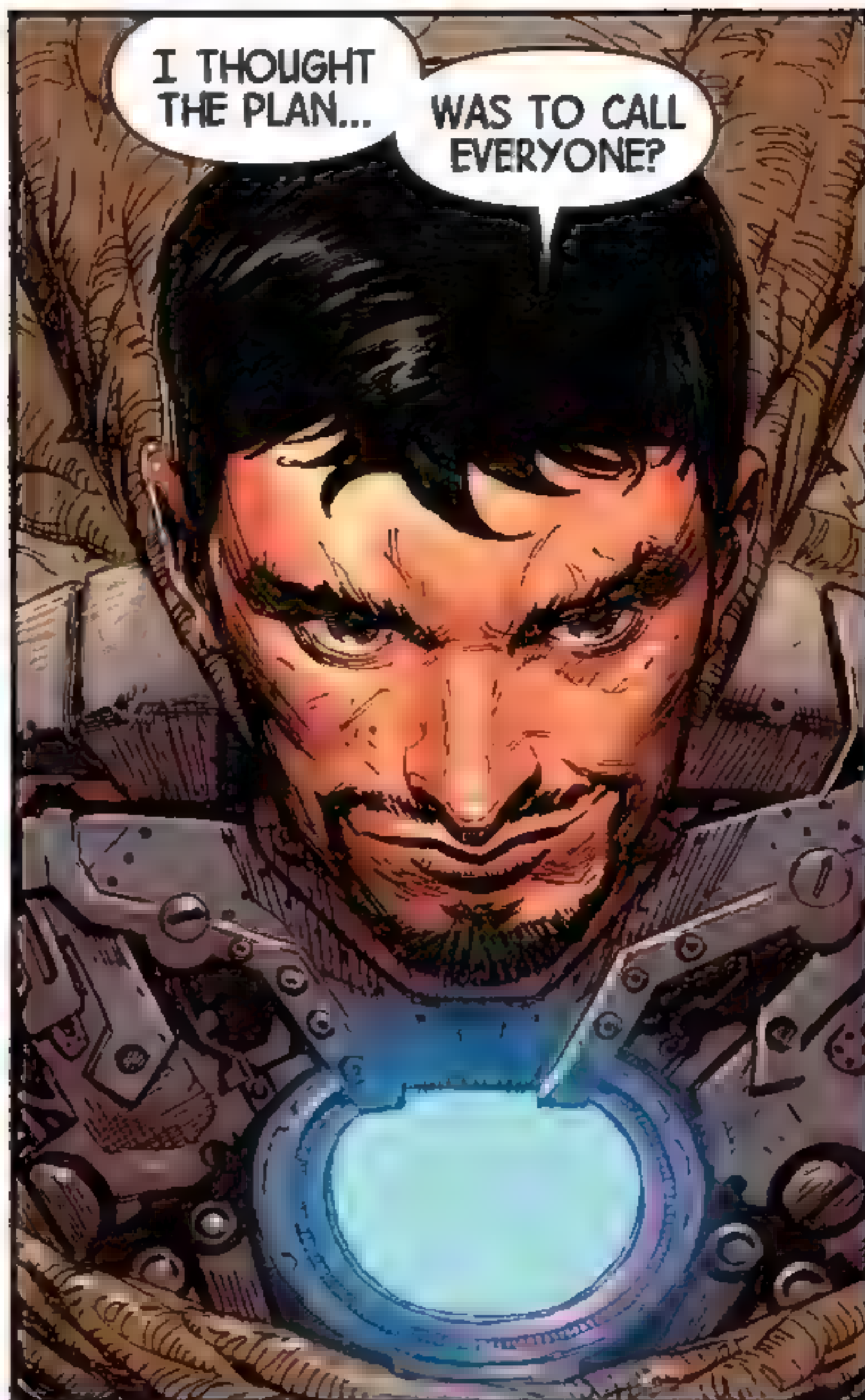




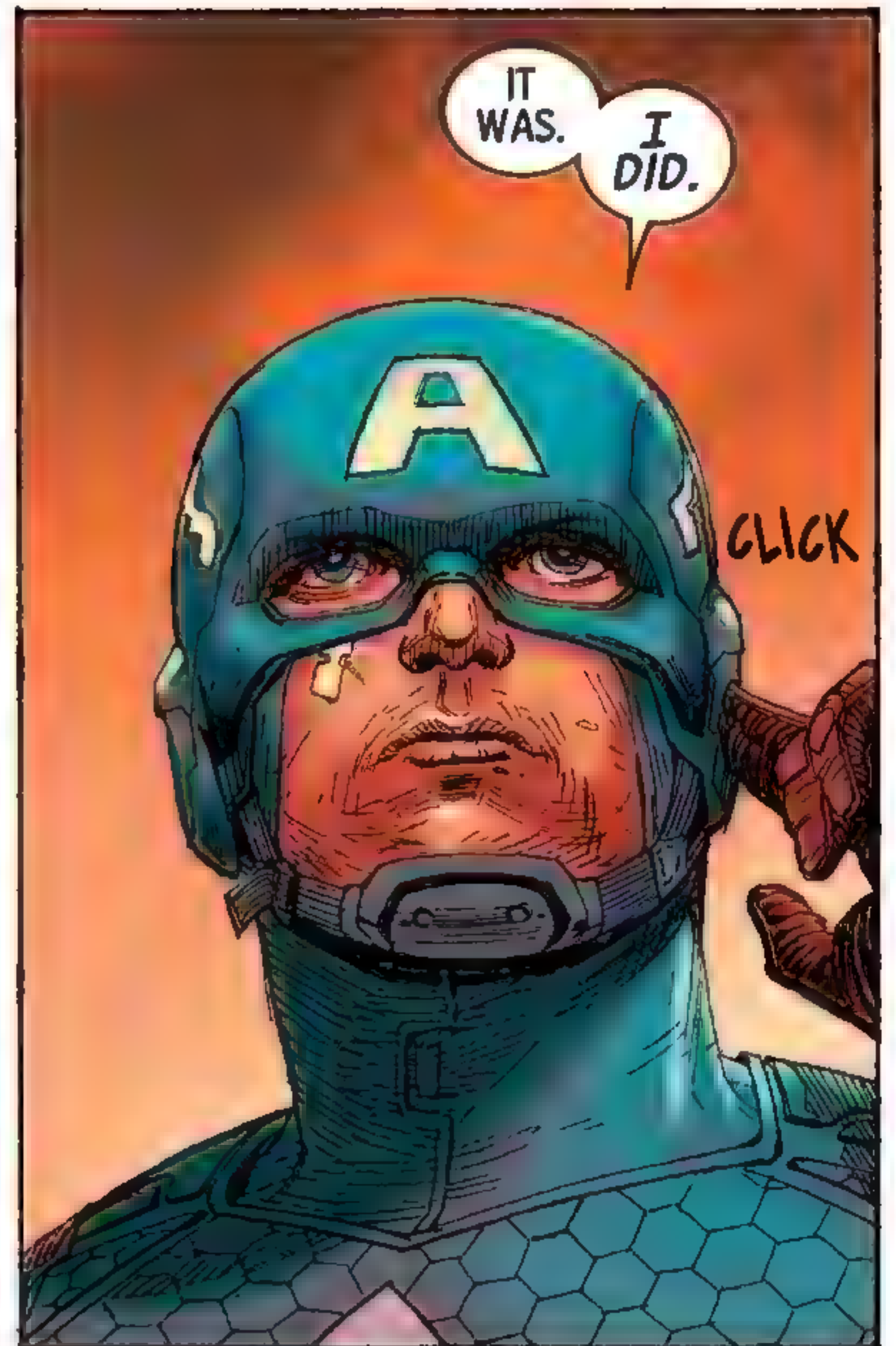




...THE
PLAN...

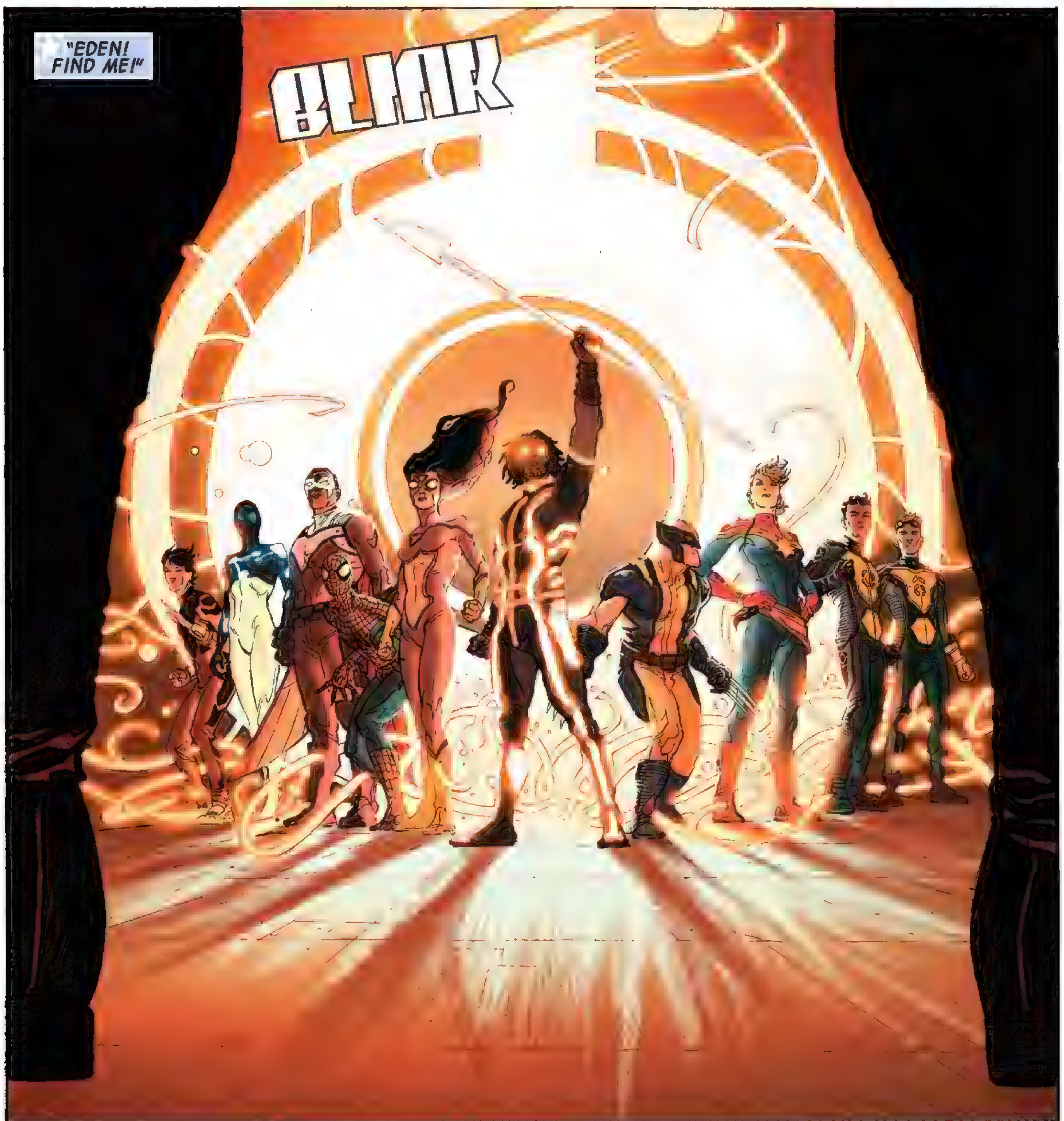


I THOUGHT
THE PLAN... WAS TO CALL
EVERYONE?



IT WAS.
I DID.

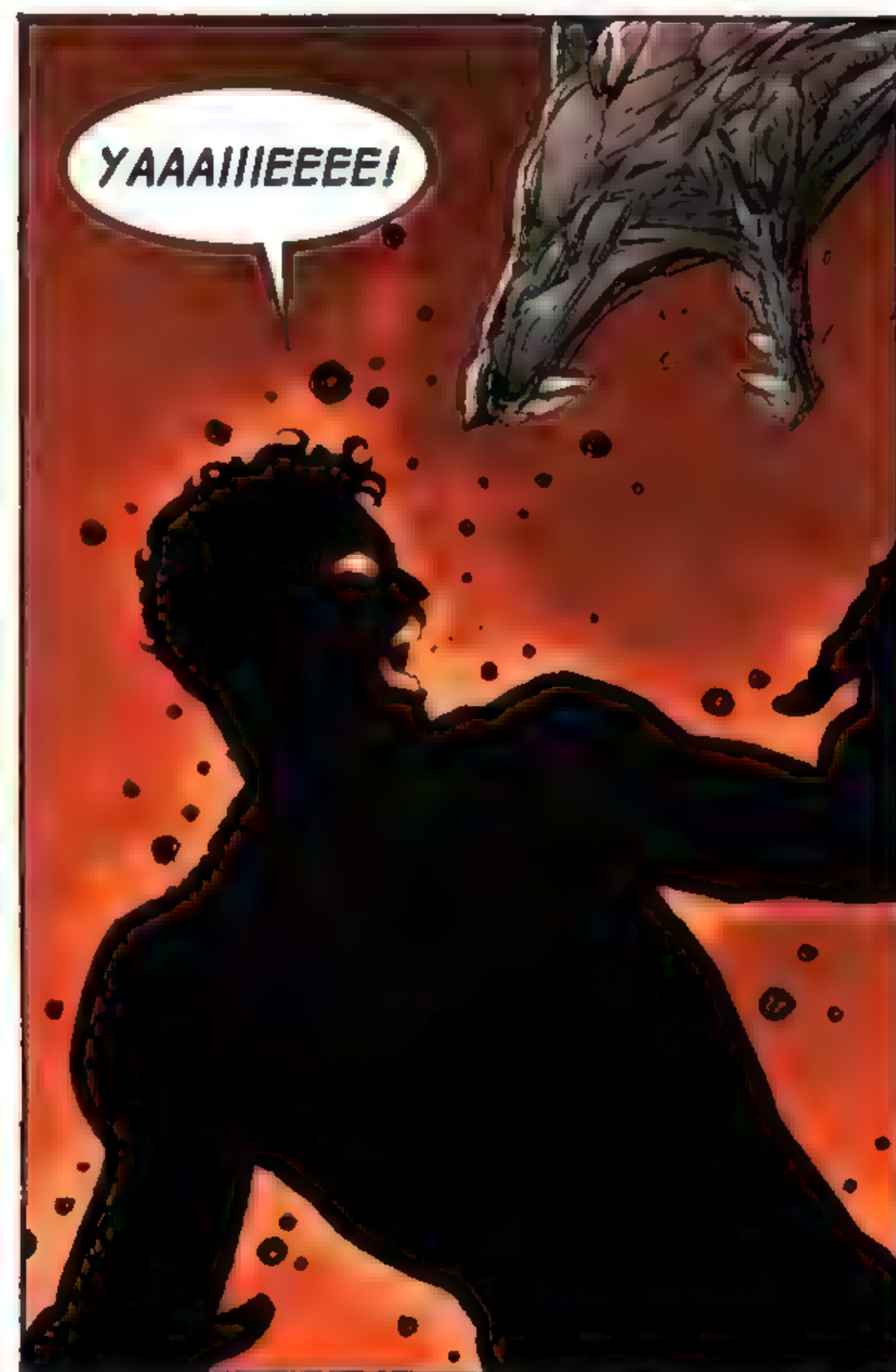
CLICK

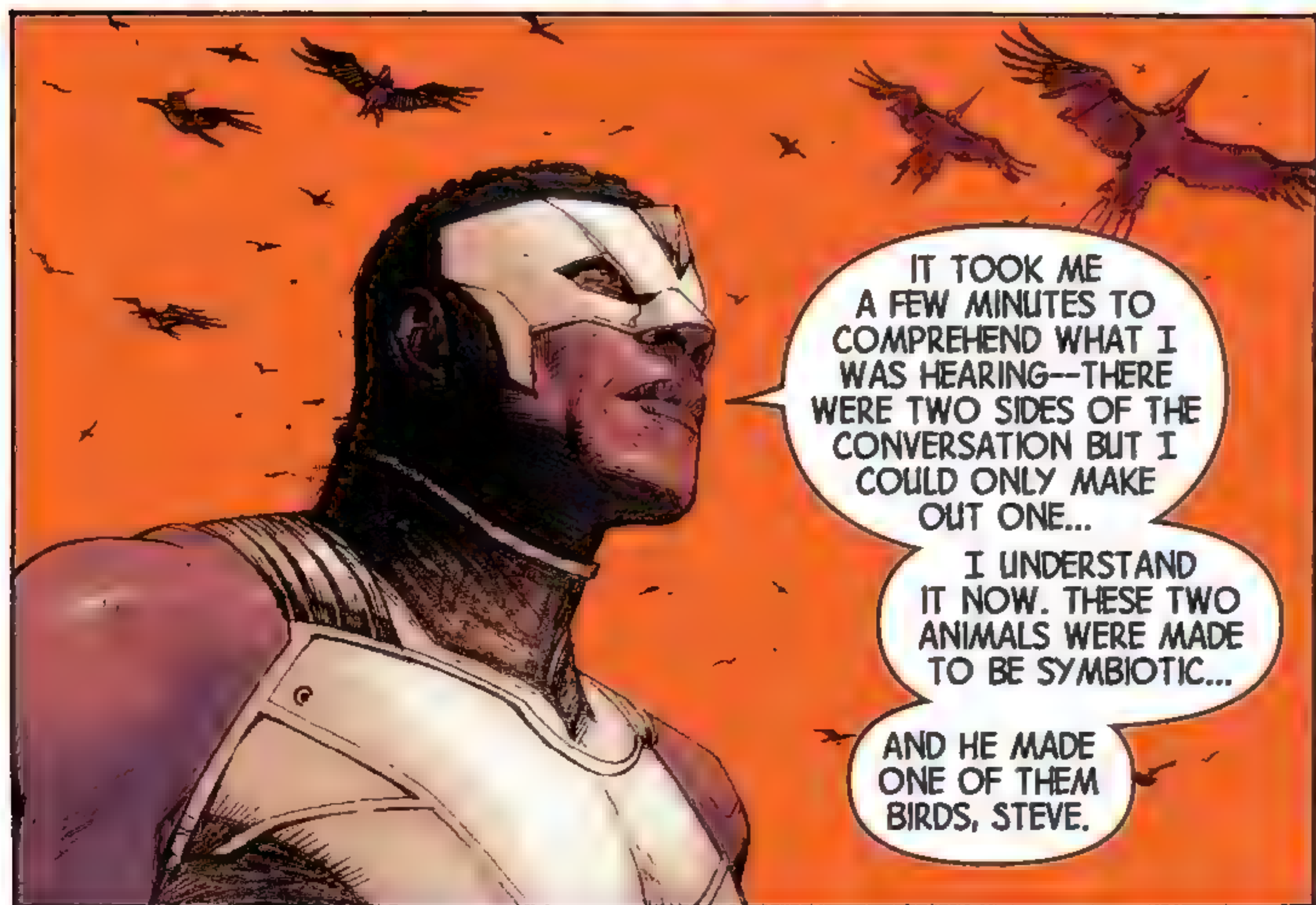
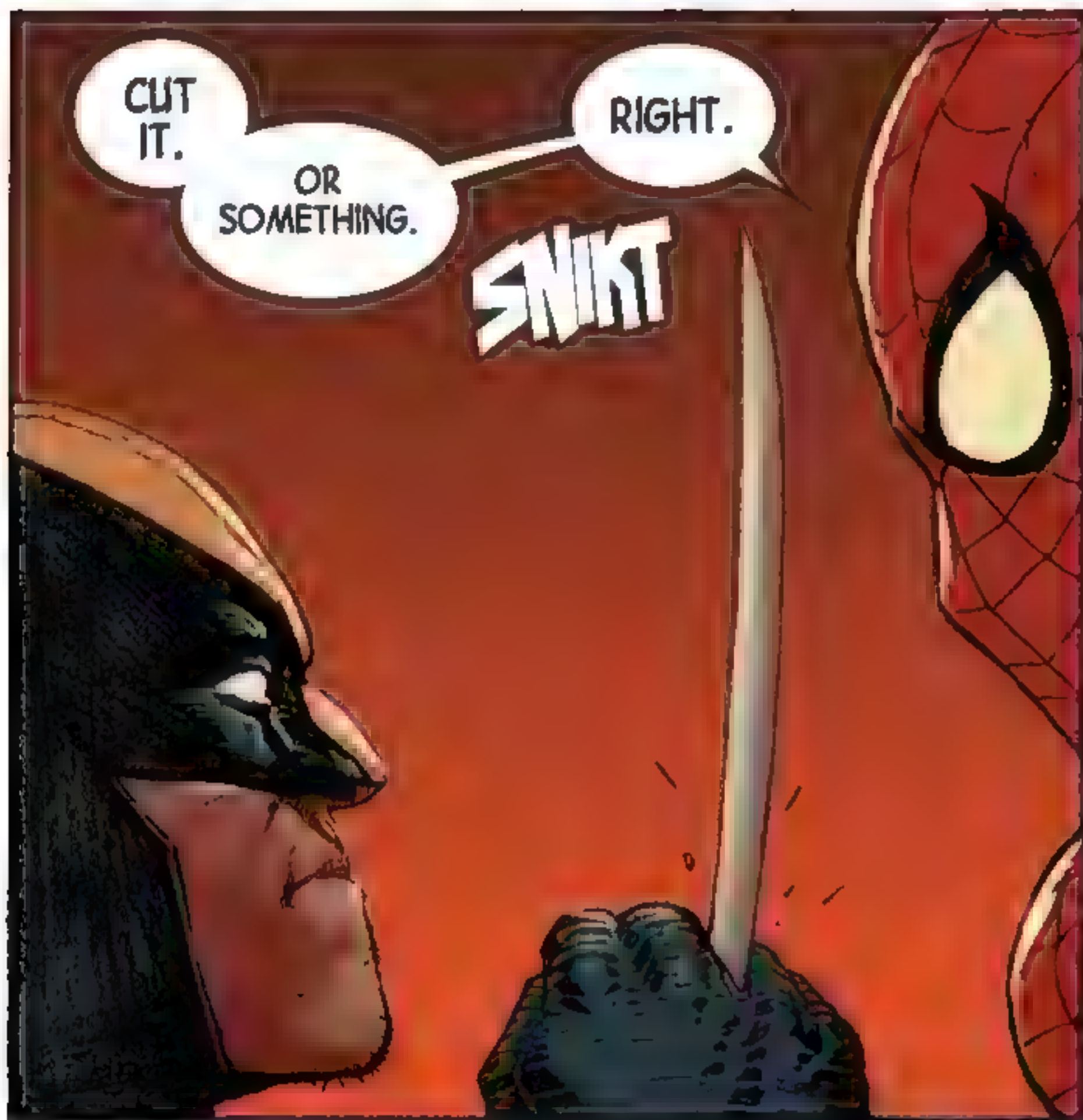


"EDEN!
FIND ME!"

BLINK









"AND FOR NOW,
I'VE CONVINCED
THEM TO LEAVE."

MY
CREATIONS
ABANDON
ME?

WHO LEAVES
THEIR CREATOR'S
GARDEN
WILLINGLY?

ALL
IS LOST,
ISN'T IT?

SOME
WORLDS DON'T
WANT TO BE SAVED,
BROTHER. THEY JUST
WANT TO LIMP
ALONG TO THEIR
EXTINCTION.

ALEPH?

ASSESSING...

THREATS
ASCENDING.

OBJECTIVE:
REALIGNING.

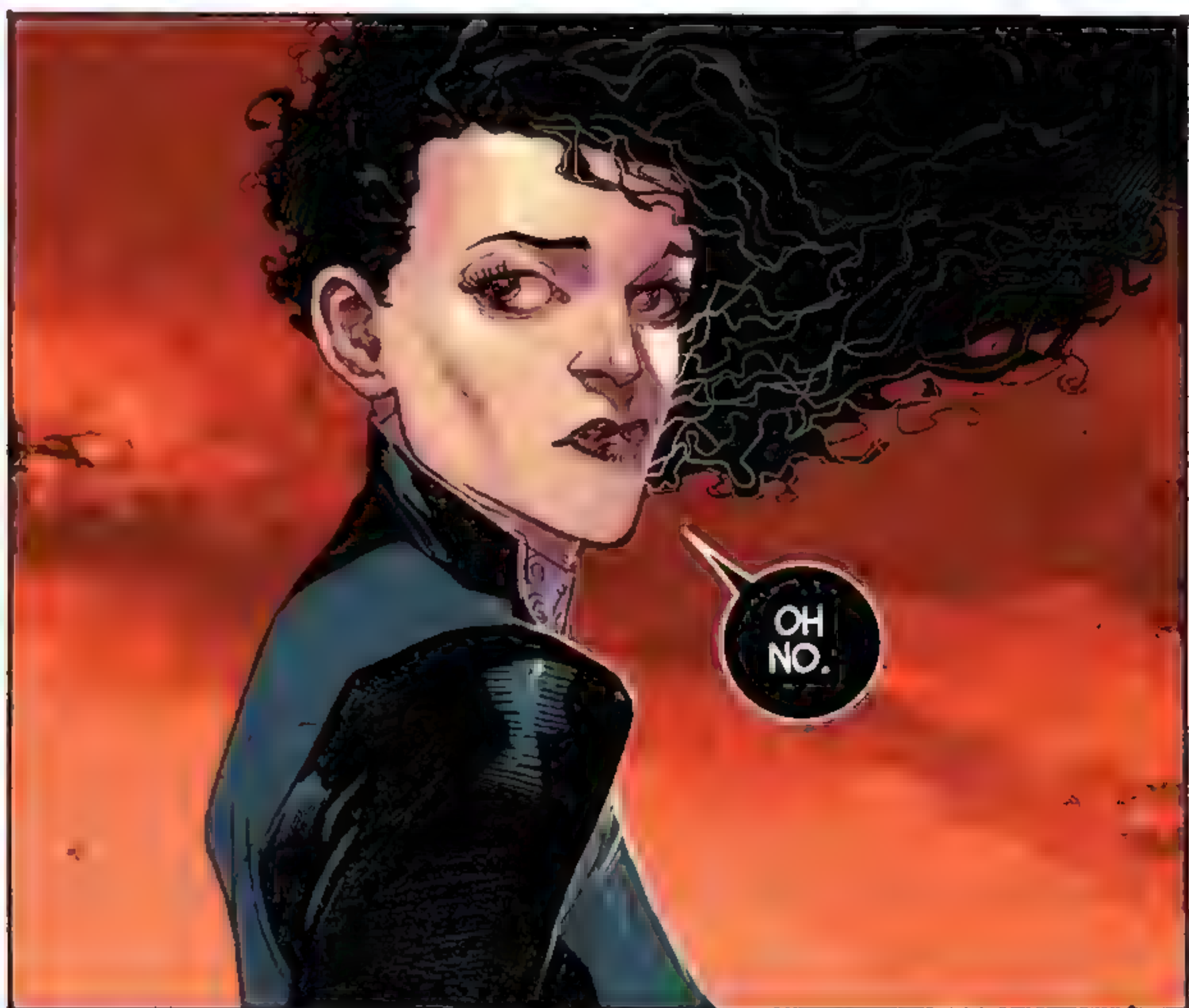
GOAL:
EXTERMINATION.



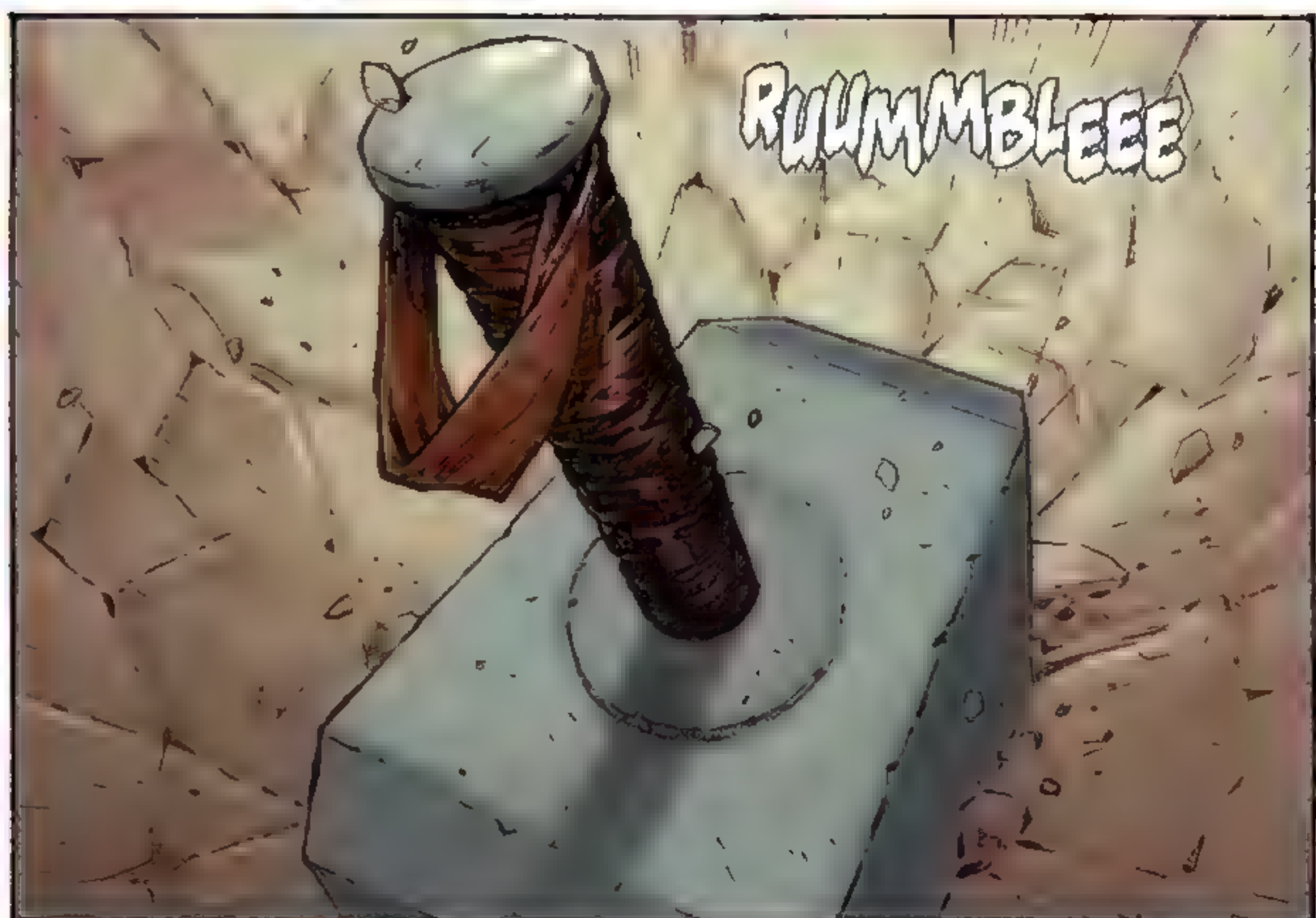
WHAT
IS TAKING
SO LONG?

SEE, THE
PROBLEM WITH
BEING A BIG GUY
IS THAT THEY
ALWAYS PUT YOU
IN THE BEST
TRAPS.

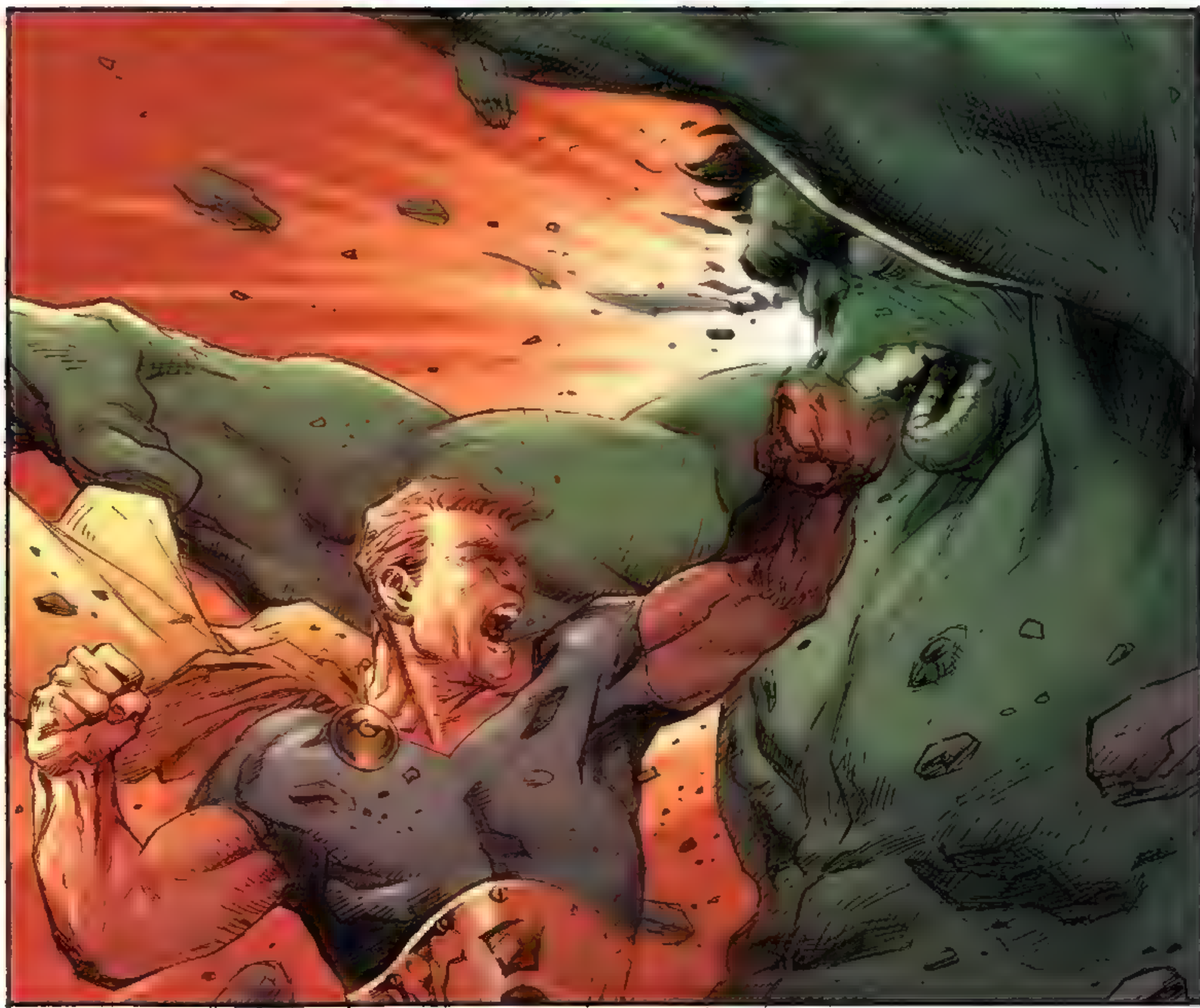
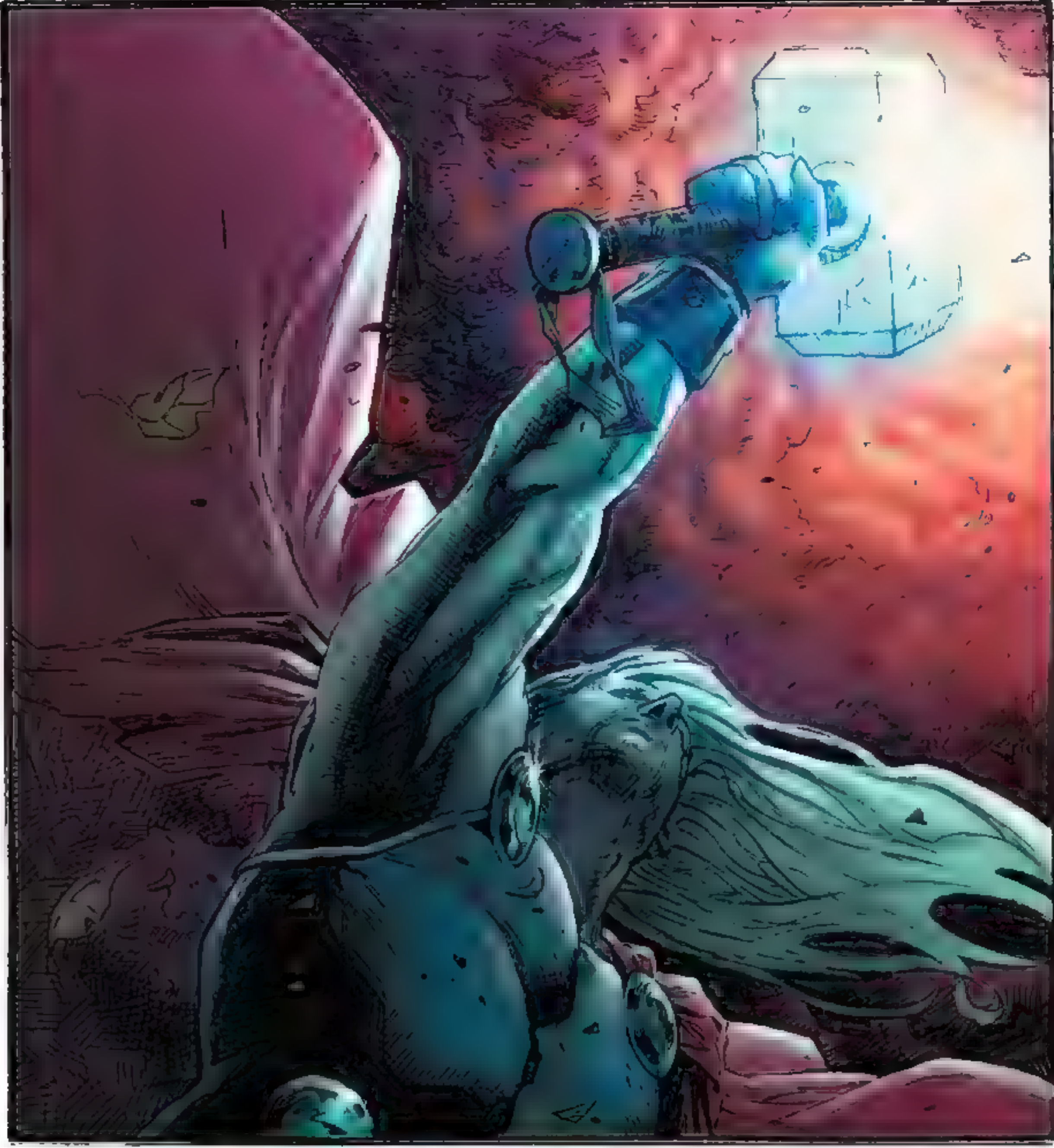
JUST
ABOUT
GOT IT.

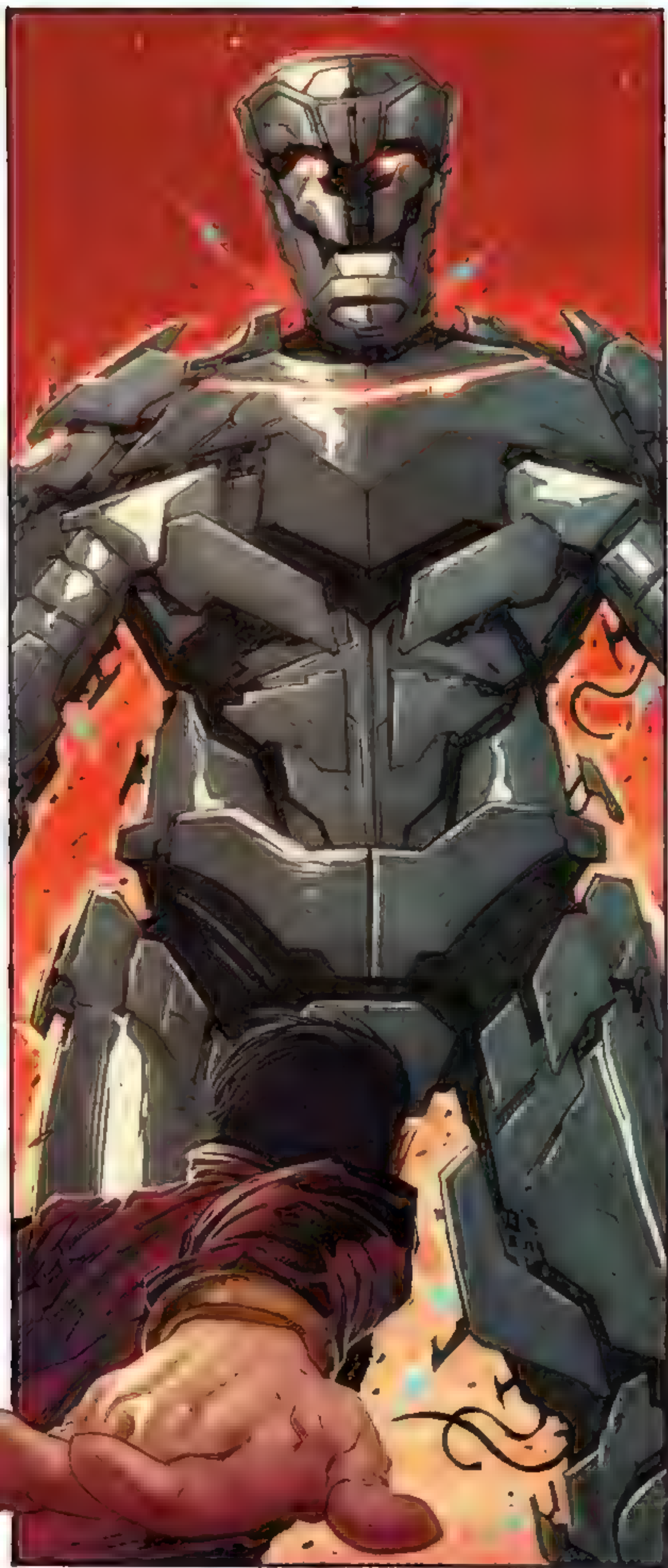


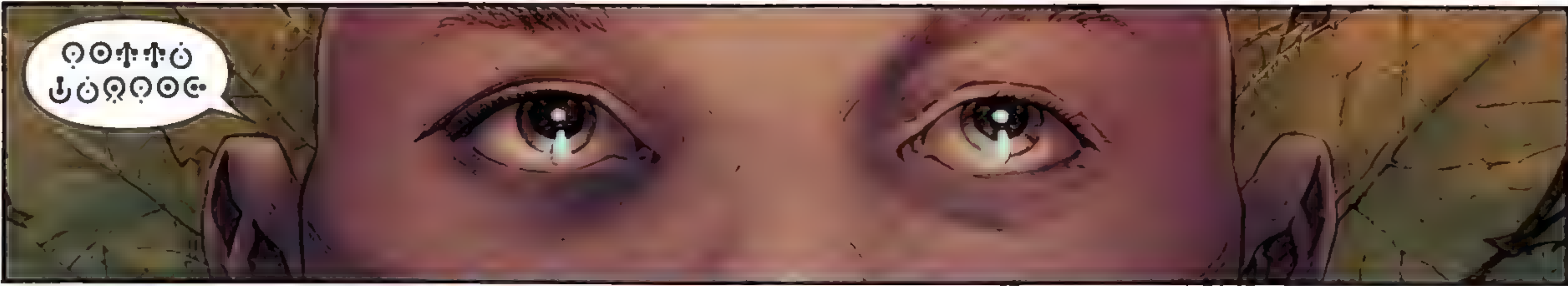
NO.



RUUMBLEEE









PLEASE...

EQUILIBRIUM.

YOU
RECOGNIZE
THIS FORM?

YOU
KNOW WHO
I AM?



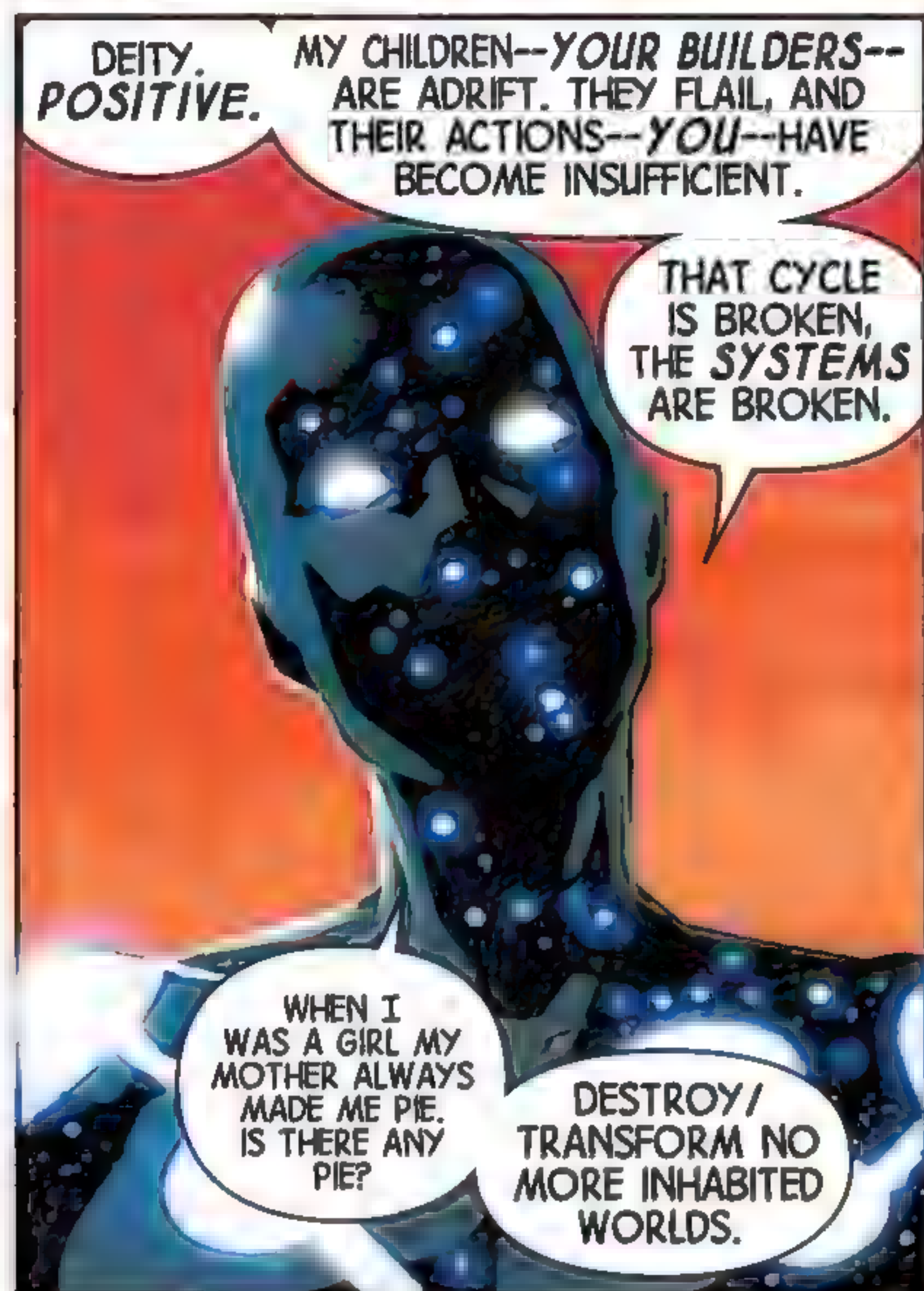
THE
LEGEND.

THE
MOTHER.

GODDESS.

THE
UNIVERSE
HERSELF.

ERROR:
DEITY
NEGATIVE.



DEITY.
POSITIVE.

MY CHILDREN--YOUR BUILDERS--
ARE ADrift. THEY FLAIL, AND
THEIR ACTIONS--YOU--HAVE
BECOME INSUFFICIENT.

THAT CYCLE
IS BROKEN,
THE SYSTEMS
ARE BROKEN.

WHEN I
WAS A GIRL MY
MOTHER ALWAYS
MADE ME PIE.
IS THERE ANY
PIE?

DESTROY/
TRANSFORM NO
MORE INHABITED
WORLDS.



MOTHER,
ARE YOU SURE?
IT IS WHO
WE ARE.

IT IS WHO
WE WERE, ABYSS!
THIS IS CHANGE, THE
STUFF OF LIFE--NOW
WE FLY INTO THE
UNKNOWN!

WHAT
SAY YOU,
ALEPH?



DECLARATIVE:
NO.



PIE?



QUERY: THIS ALEPH HAS DETERMINED THAT THE HUMAN WORLD MUST BE DESTROYED.

MUST THIS ALEPH NOT PERFORM ITS FUNCTION?

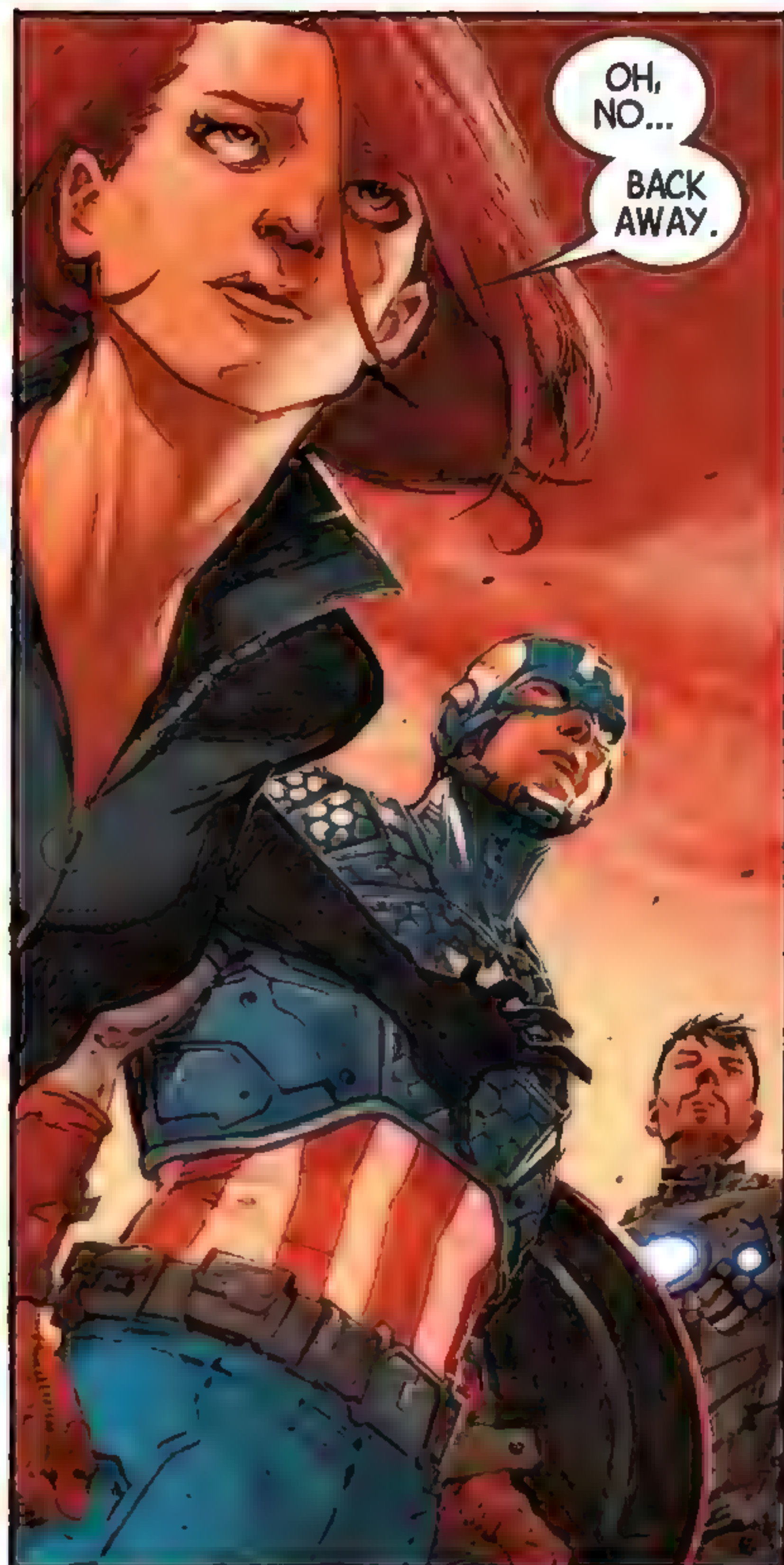


THERE ARE SEEMINGLY INFINITE MYSTERIES WITHIN MY EXPANSE...

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THEM, MACHINE.

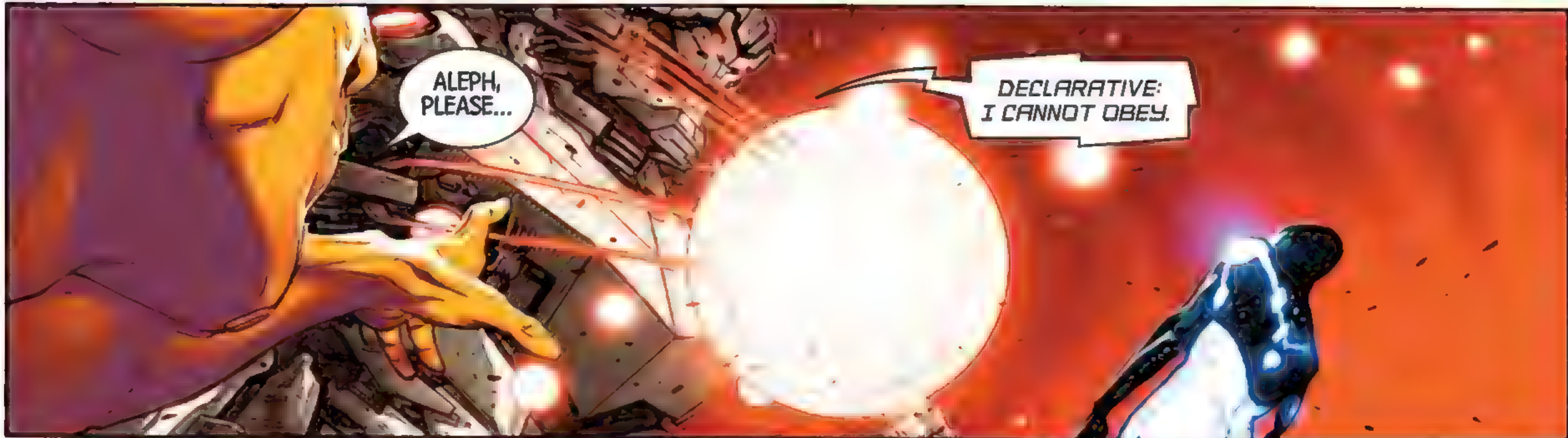
WHAT GOOD IS ANY SYSTEM BUILT BY CHILDREN? EVEN IF THEY ARE YOUR OWN?

STAND DOWN. THE END IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE.



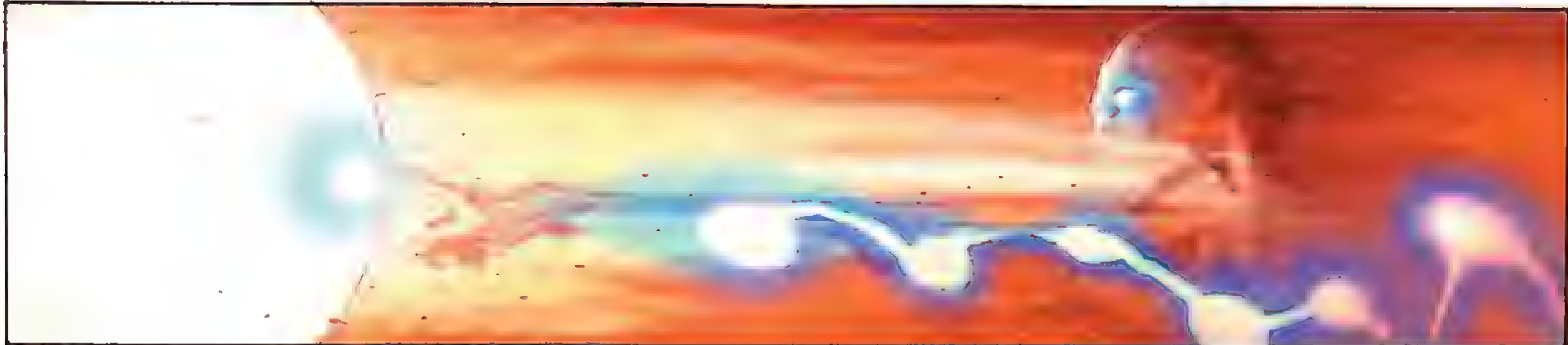
OH, NO...

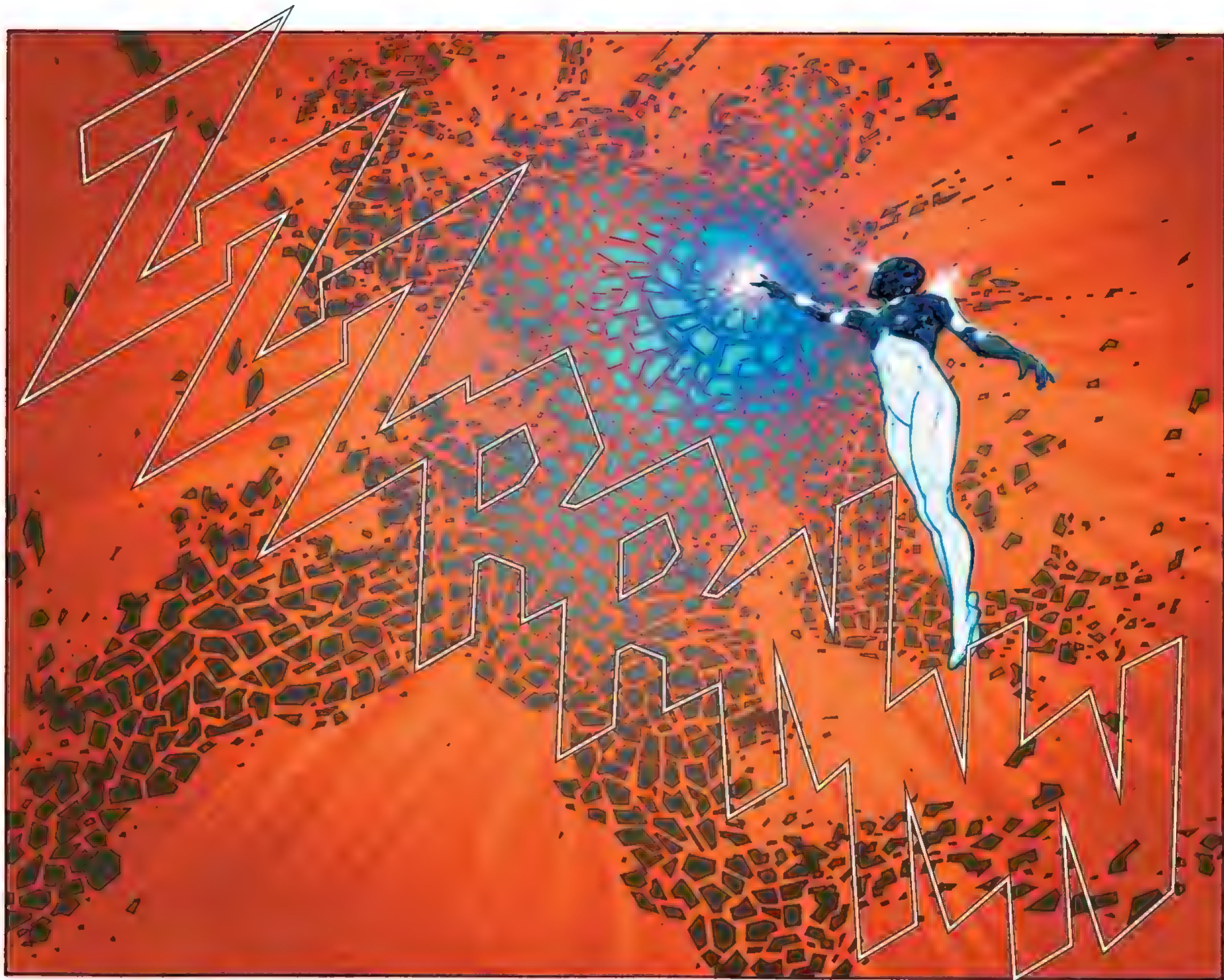
BACK AWAY.



ALEPH, PLEASE...

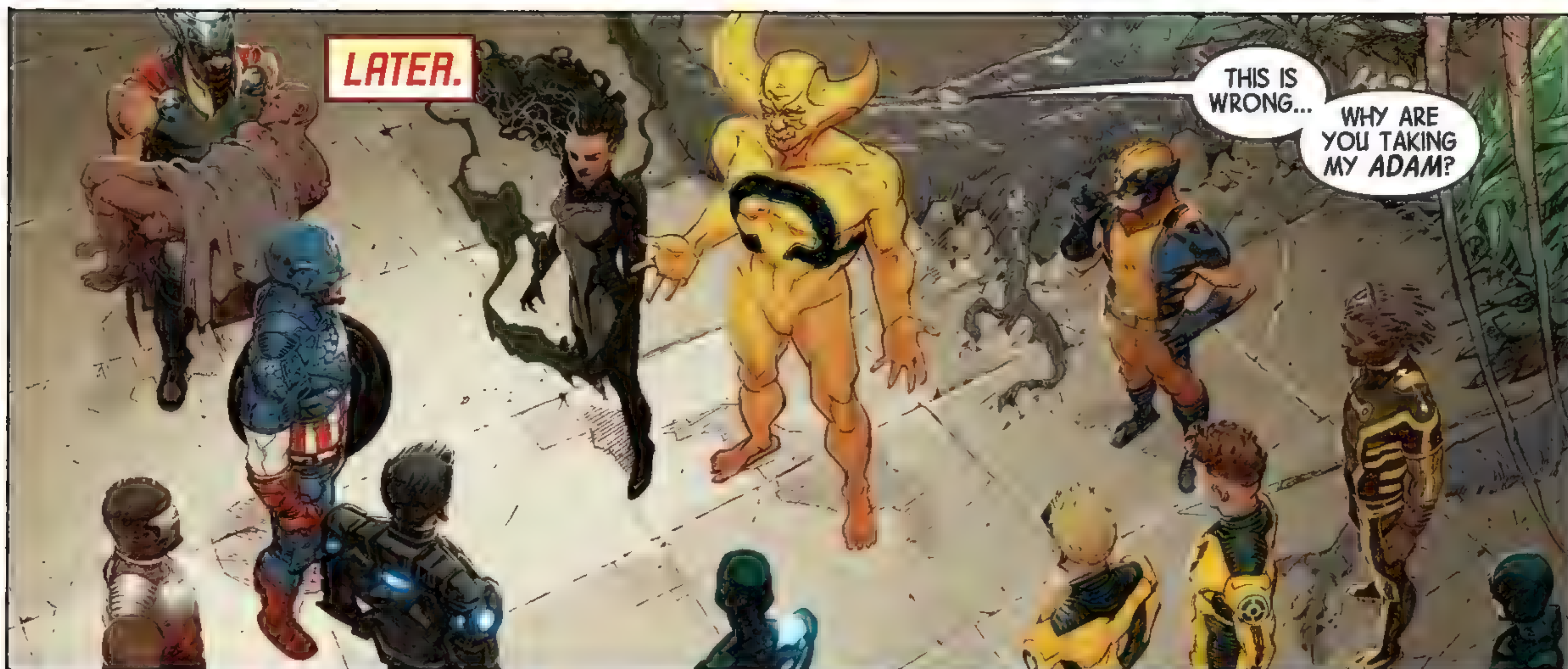
DECLARATIVE: I CANNOT OBEY.





HEY...

WHEN WE GET HOME, REMIND ME TO PUT "GET PIES" ON JARVIS' TO-DO LIST.



LATER.

THIS IS WRONG...

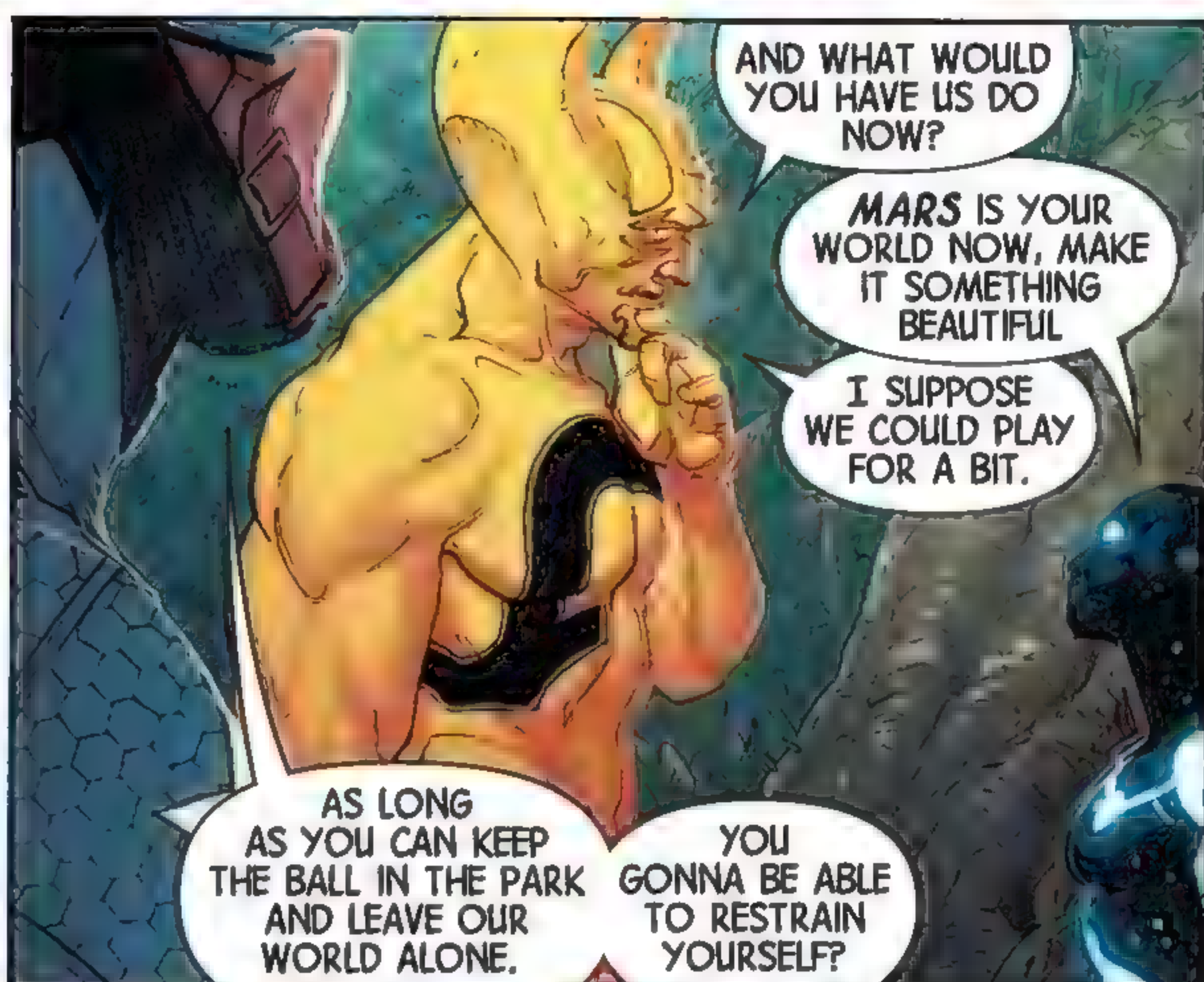
WHY ARE YOU TAKING MY ADAM?



YOU MADE HIM HUMAN. HE BELONGS WITH HIS OWN KIND.

IT IS HOW THINGS SHOULD BE.

THEN IT'S FOR THE BEST, BROTHER.



AND WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO NOW?

MARS IS YOUR WORLD NOW, MAKE IT SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

I SUPPOSE WE COULD PLAY FOR A BIT.

AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP THE BALL IN THE PARK AND LEAVE OUR WORLD ALONE.

YOU GONNA BE ABLE TO RESTRAIN YOURSELF?



OH, OF COURSE, CAPTAIN. THE UNIVERSE HAS SPOKEN.

BUT YOU HAVE TO WONDER, DON'T YOU? I HAVE REMADE THOUSANDS OF WORLDS, AND SEEN THE DESTRUCTION OF FAR, FAR MORE--AND YET IT IS YOUR PLANET SHE HAS CHOSEN TO CALL HOME.

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES YOUR EARTH SO SPECIAL?

YOU WANT MY BEST GUESS?

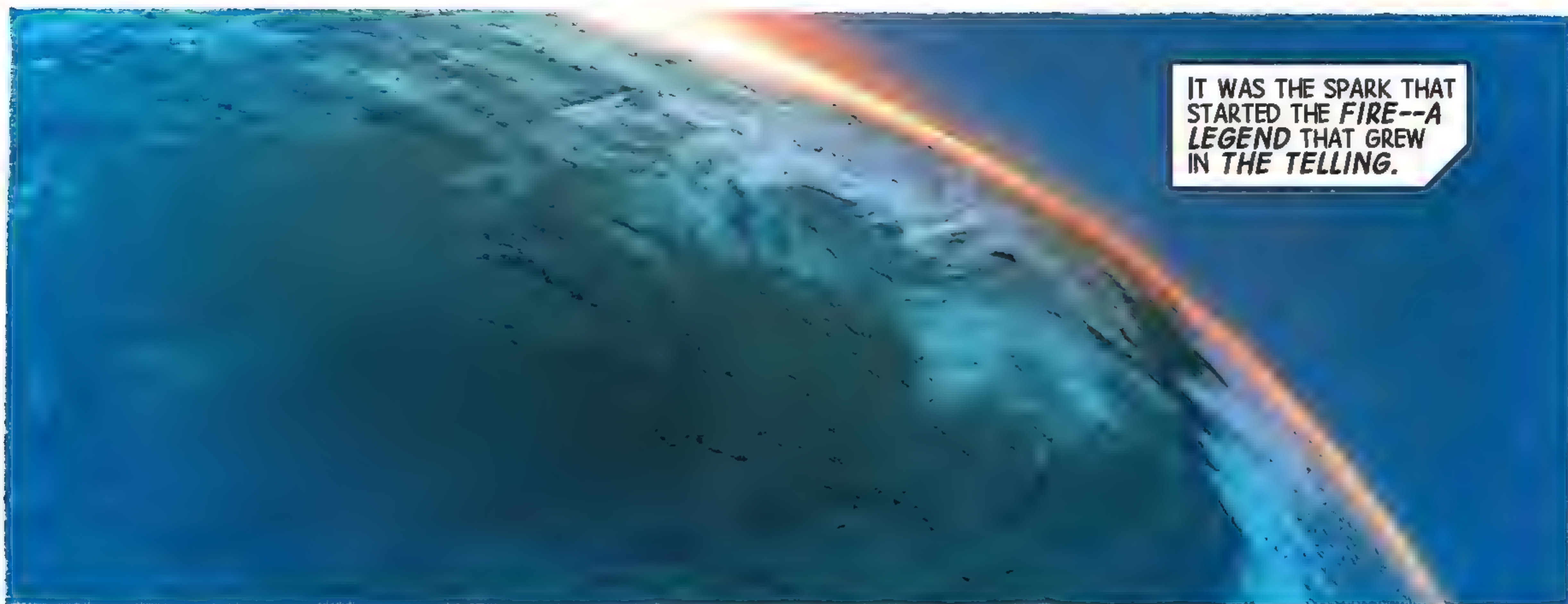
PLEASE... INDULGE ME.



IT'S AN AVENGERS WORLD.



AND IT WAS THE FIRST...



IT WAS THE SPARK THAT
STARTED THE *FIRE*--A
LEGEND THAT GREW
IN THE TELLING.



THE *GREAT IDEA*
WAS EXPANSION.

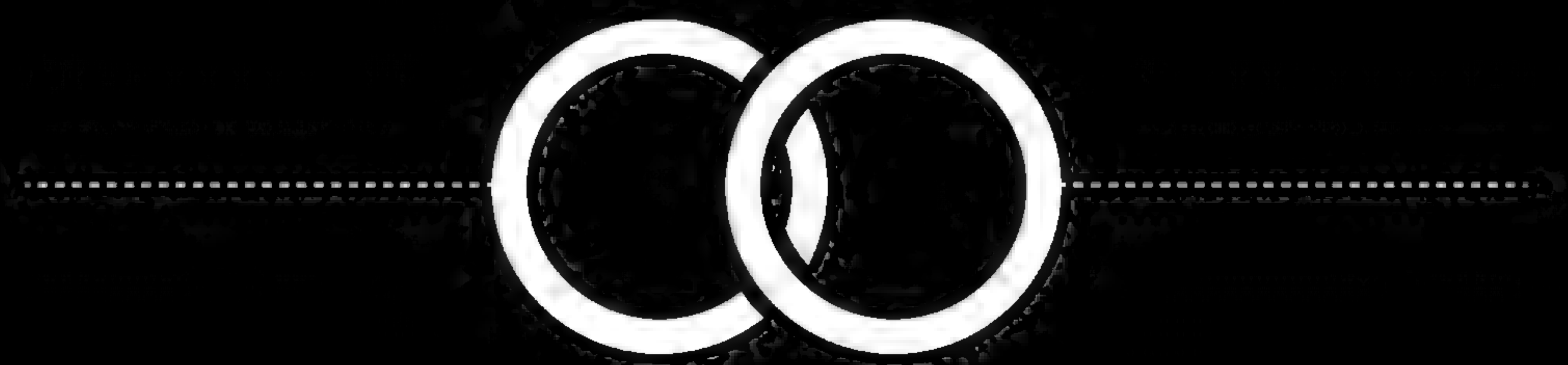


AND IT STARTED
WITH TWO MEN.



ONE WAS
LIFE.

AND ONE WAS
DEATH.



MEMENTO MORI

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

YEARS AGO, THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD VOTED ON WHETHER OR NOT TO RUN THE WORLD IN SECRET.



ONLY ONE OF THEM DISAGREED.



T'CHALLA...



I'M TELLING YOU NOW: END THIS.

WALK AWAY FROM THIS TABLE AND GO HOME.



WOW, T'CHALLA--

YOU JUST DECIDED ALL BY YOURSELVES THAT YOU ARE THE EARTH'S PROTECTORS.



AND THAT YOU, AND ONLY YOU, NOT YOUR TEAMMATES OR FAMILY, ARE TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH TO INCLUDE IN THE PROCESS...



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DISAGREE?

WHEN ONE OF THESE EARTH-CHANGING MOMENTS FINDS YOU ALL AT ODDS WITH EACH OTHER, HERE IN A SECRET MEETING?

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

WALK AWAY NOW.



THEY DID NOT.



A NOW.



EVERYTHING
DIES.



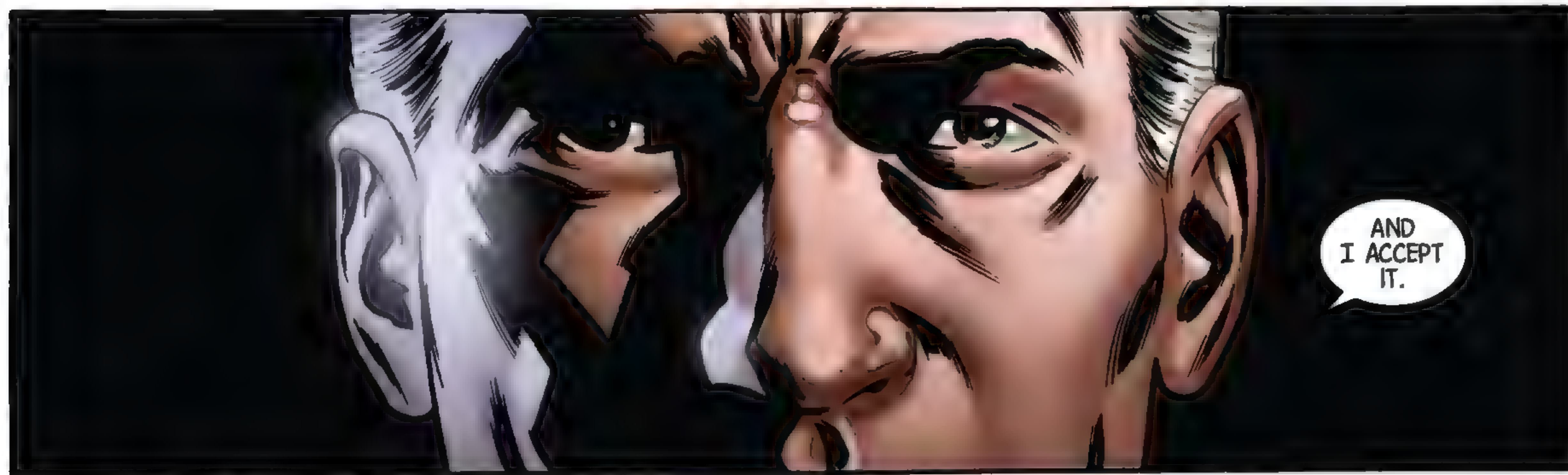
YOU. ME.
EVERYONE
ON THIS
PLANET.

OUR SUN.
OUR GALAXY.
AND, EVENTUALLY,
THE UNIVERSE
ITSELF.

THIS
IS SIMPLY
HOW THINGS
ARE.



IT'S
INEVITABLE...



AND
I ACCEPT
IT.

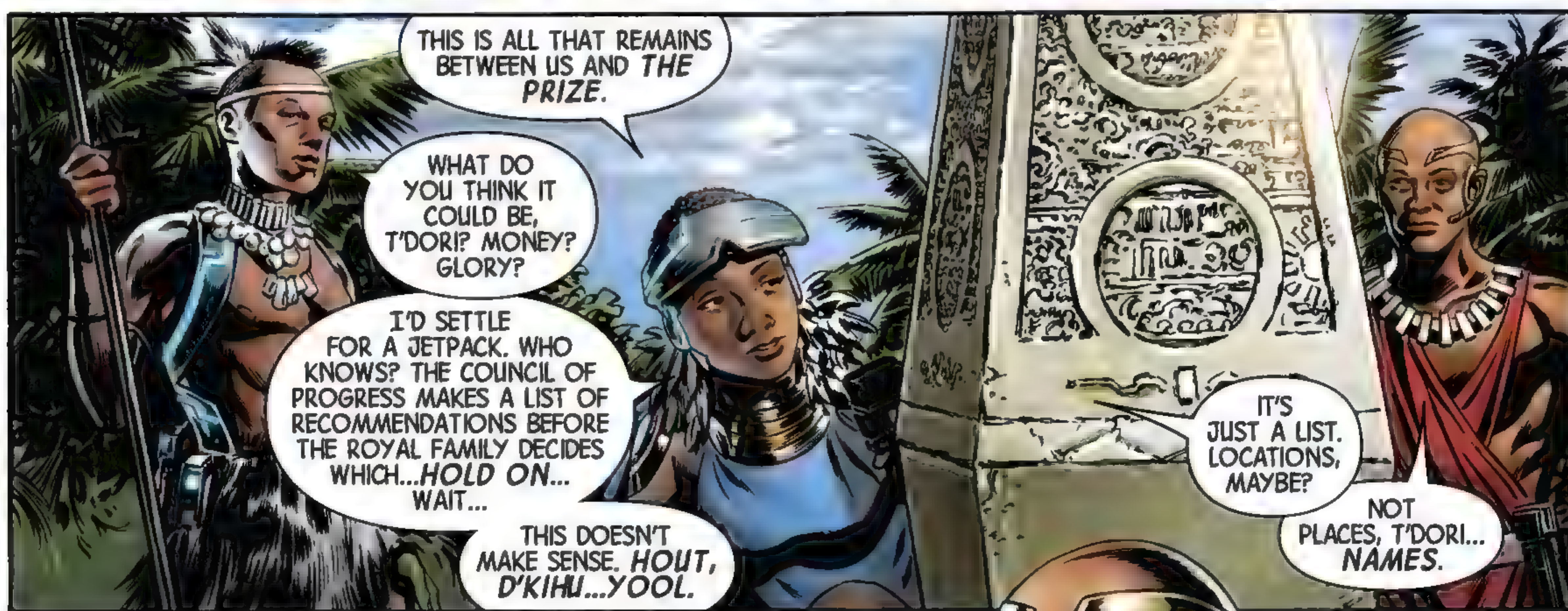
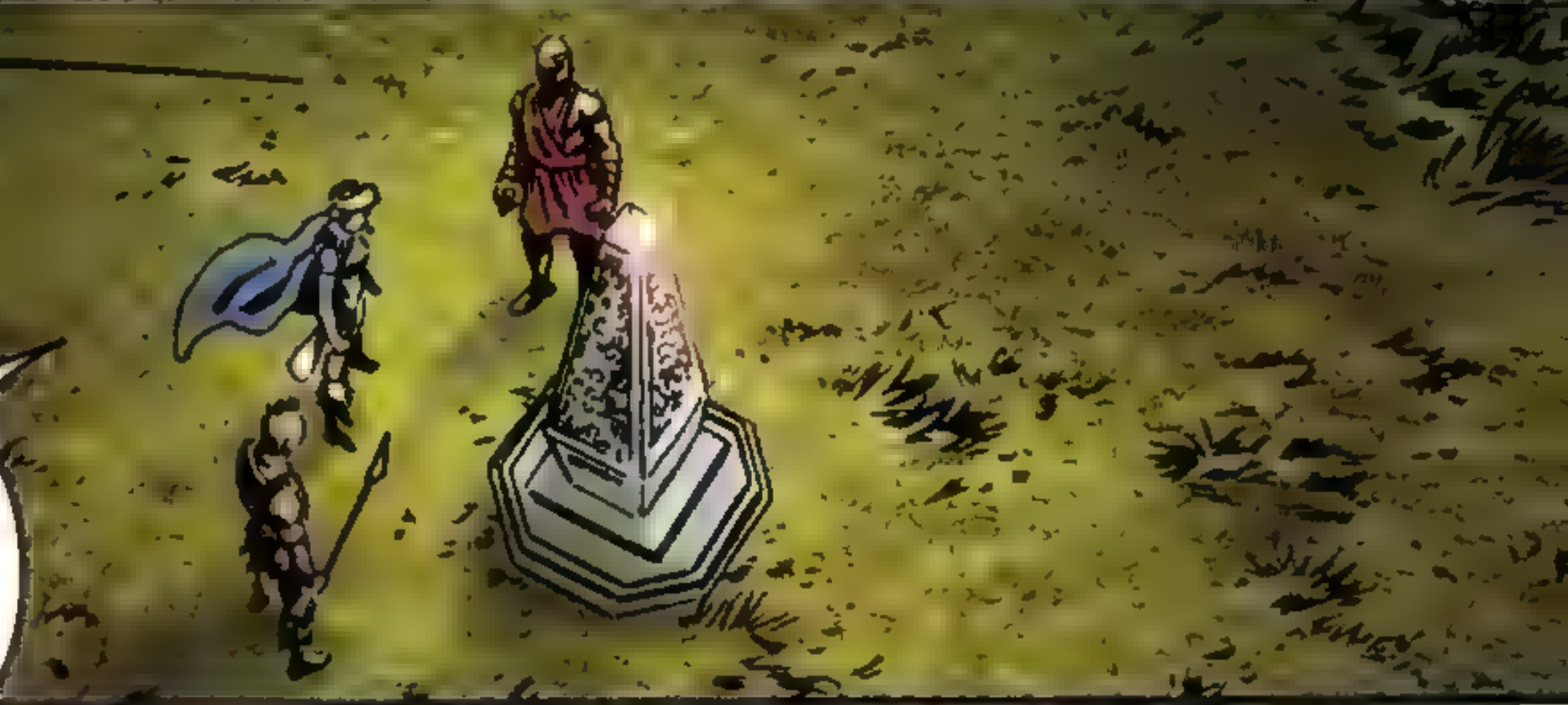
WAKANDA.
26 HOURS AGO.



THE GAMES ARE DESIGNED TO FIND THIS GENERATION'S POTENTIAL **MAKERS**, KIMO. AND LAST TIME I CHECKED, SEEING THE FINISH LINE ISN'T THE SAME AS CROSSING IT.

YEAH...BUT IT DOES MEAN WE'RE CLOSE, N'KONO.

WE SOLVED THE **GOLDEN PARADOX**. WE FOUND THE **LOST TRIBE**, AND THEN WE DECODED THE STRUCTURE OF THE **ARTIFICIAL MAN**...



THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS BETWEEN US AND THE **PRIZE**.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE, T'DORI? MONEY? GLORY?

I'D SETTLE FOR A JETPACK. WHO KNOWS? THE COUNCIL OF PROGRESS MAKES A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE ROYAL FAMILY DECIDES WHICH...**HOLD ON...** WAIT...

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. **HOUT, D'KIHU...YOOL.**

IT'S JUST A LIST. LOCATIONS, MAYBE?

NOT PLACES, T'DORI... **NAMES.**

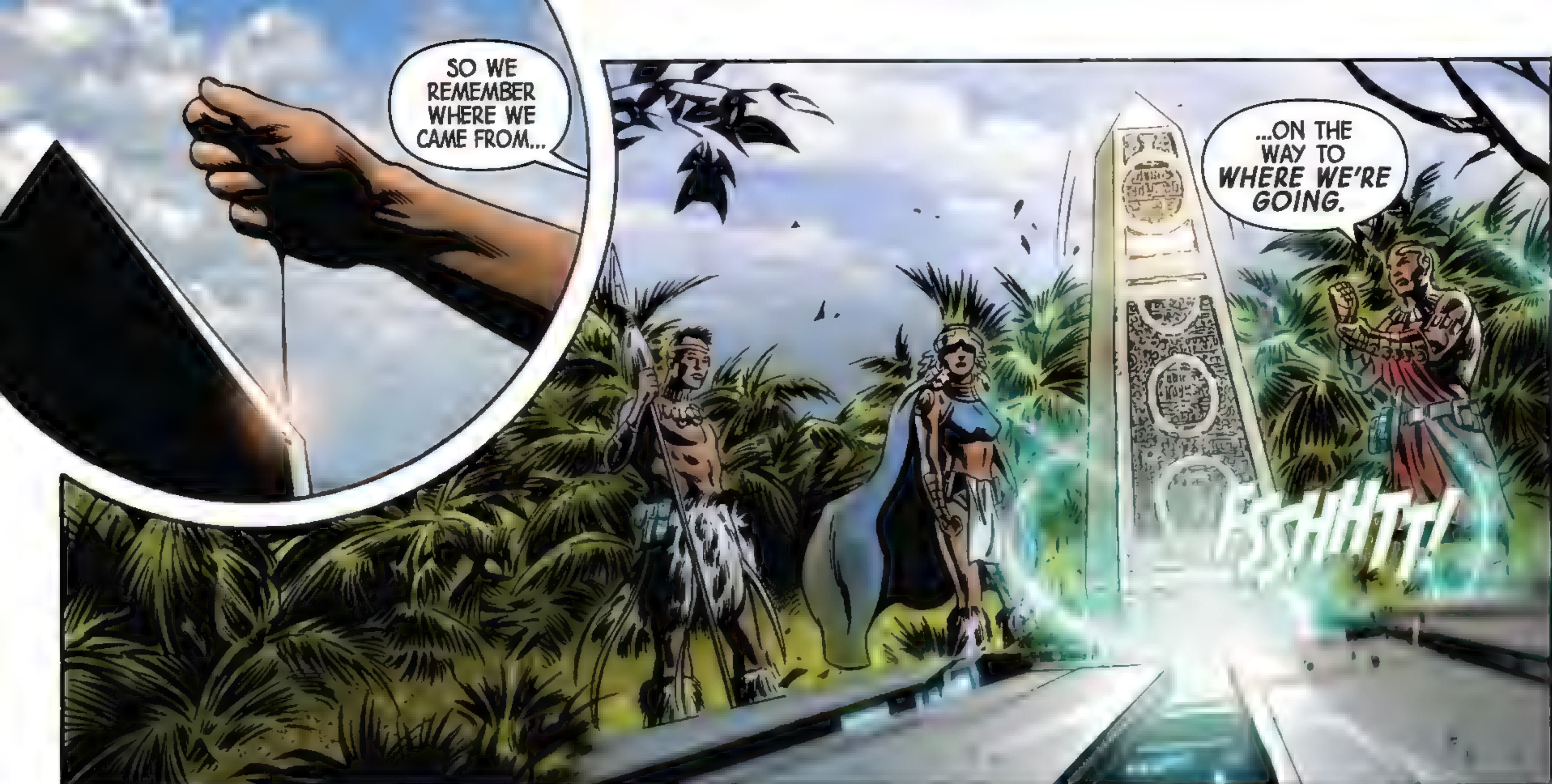
A VERY SPECIFIC LIST OF **GRIT BARDS**-- THEY FORMULATED THE EXISTENCE OF THE **SUNDIATA CODE**. A HIDDEN CIPHER WITHIN THE REGION'S ORAL HISTORY.

IT'S A THEORY ABOUT **TRADITION**. OF EXACTLY HOW WAKANDAN EXCELLENCE HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. PASSED DOWN THROUGH **BLOOD**.

AH. I SEE...

BLOOD.







THIS IS NOT
NECROPOLIS,
CHILD.

TO THE
LIVING, I AM
SIMPLY THE **BLACK
PANTHER**.

CONGRATULATIONS,
MAKERS. ON YOUR
FEET--**STAND TALL**.
YOU ARE THE FINEST
OF YOUR
GENERATION.



KIMO,
T'DORI...VERY,
VERY WELL
DONE.

N'KONO,
YOUR FATHER'S
GRANDFATHER WAS
T'KONDA--THE
BLACK PANTHER
OF HIS TIME.

HE WAS
CALLED "**THE
WALL**," AND NOW
HIS SPIRIT, LIKE ALL
OTHER PREVIOUS
PANTHERS, LIVES
WITHIN ME.

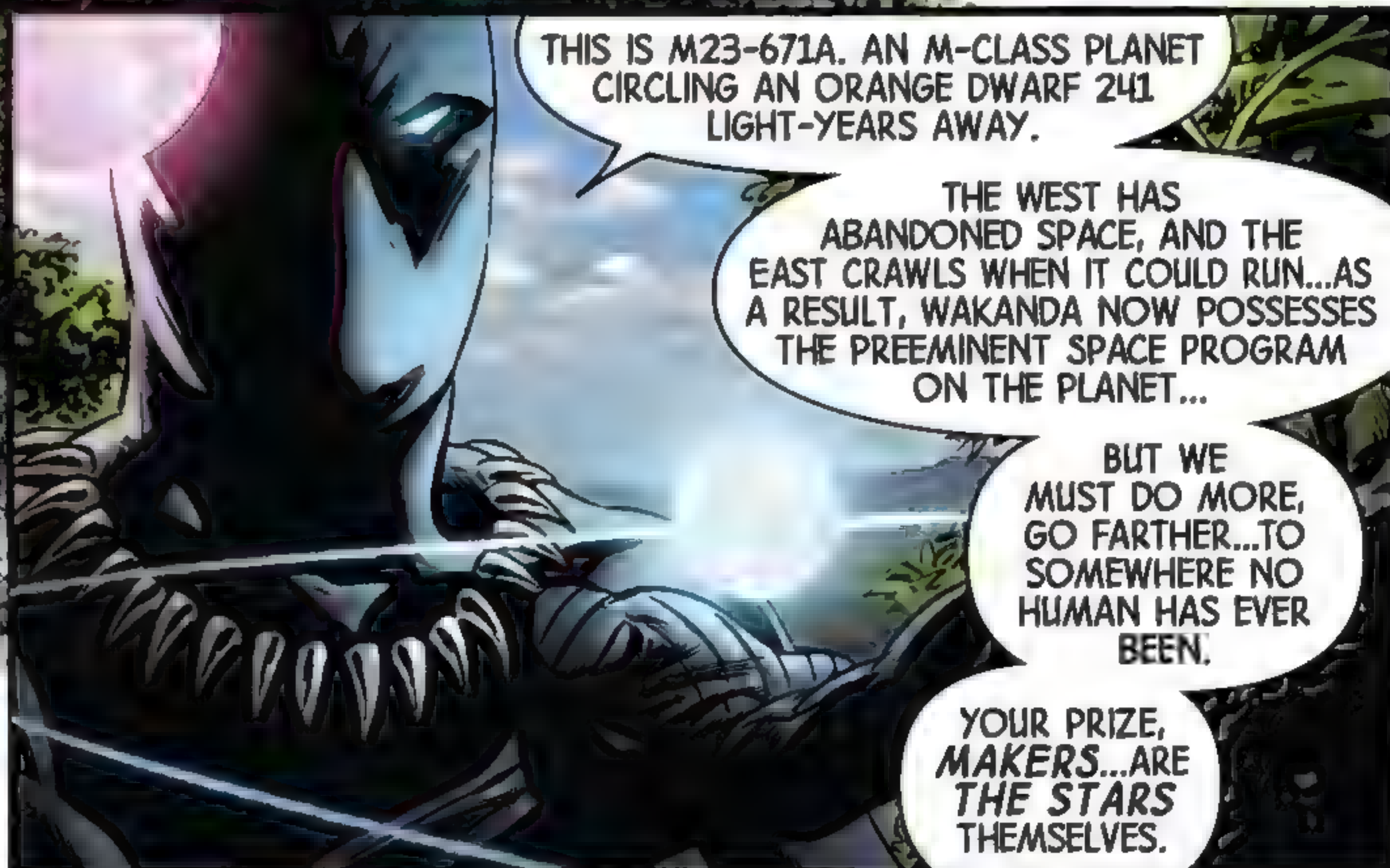
I FEEL HIS
PRIDE WHEN
I LOOK AT
YOU.



PRIDE. PRIDE, AND NOT **SHAME**, WHICH IS
WHAT WE FEEL FOR THE WORLD
OUT THERE.

GREAT SOCIETIES
ARE CRUMBLING AROUND
US, AND THE OLD MEN
WHO RUN THEM ARE
OUT OF IDEAS.

SO ALL EYES
TURN TO YOU,
OUR CHILDREN--
TO BUILD US
SOMETHING
BETTER.



THIS IS M23-671A. AN M-CLASS PLANET
CIRCLING AN ORANGE DWARF 241
LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

THE WEST HAS
ABANDONED SPACE, AND THE
EAST CRAWLS WHEN IT COULD RUN...AS
A RESULT, WAKANDA NOW POSSESSES
THE PREEMINENT SPACE PROGRAM
ON THE PLANET...

BUT WE
MUST DO MORE,
GO FARTHER...TO
SOMEWHERE NO
HUMAN HAS EVER
BEEN.

YOUR PRIZE,
**MAKERS...ARE
THE STARS
THEMSELVES**.

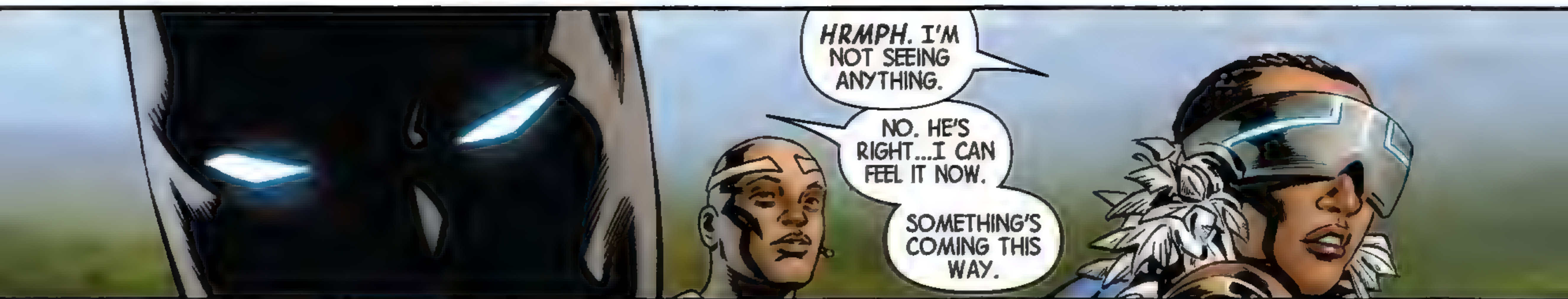


THE STARS...
OH, WOW...

I KNOW. YOU DREAM
A THING, AND THE
IDEA THAT IT COULD
BECOME REAL...

AMAZING.

HEY...DO YOU
GUYS FEEL THAT...
LIKE LITTLE MICRO-
TREMORS?



HRMPH. I'M
NOT SEEING
ANYTHING.

NO. HE'S
RIGHT...I CAN
FEEL IT NOW.

SOMETHING'S
COMING THIS
WAY.



LOOK
OUT!



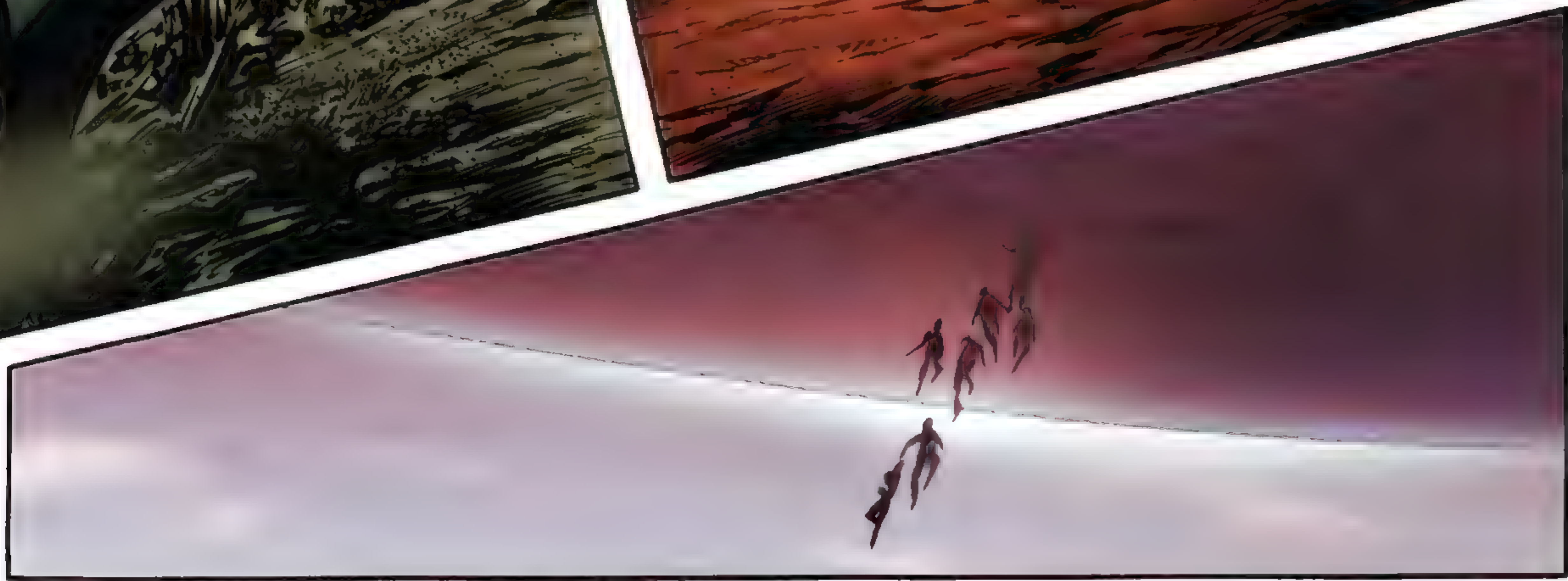
WOOF. SOMETHING
REALLY SPOOKED
HIM.

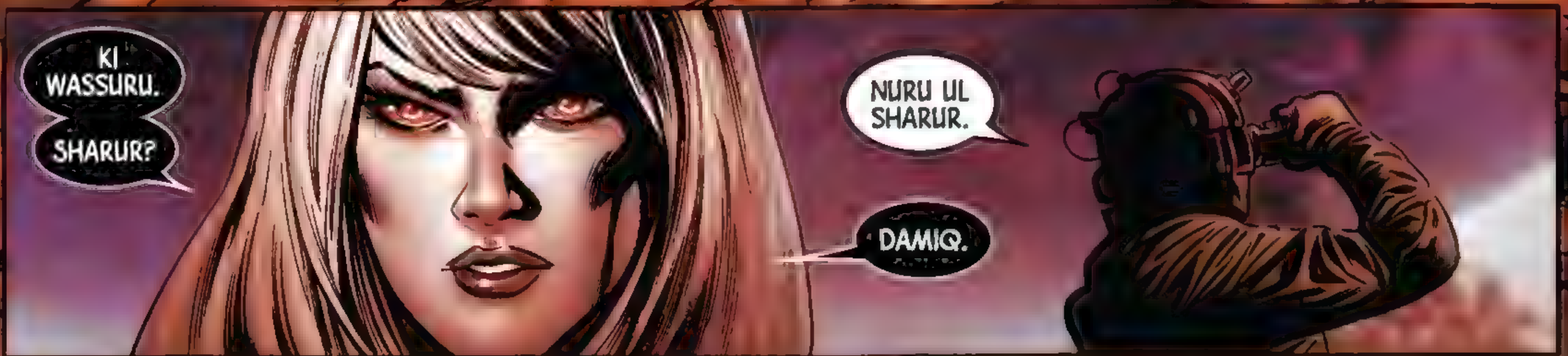
DID YOU
SEE THAT? IT
WAS LIKE--

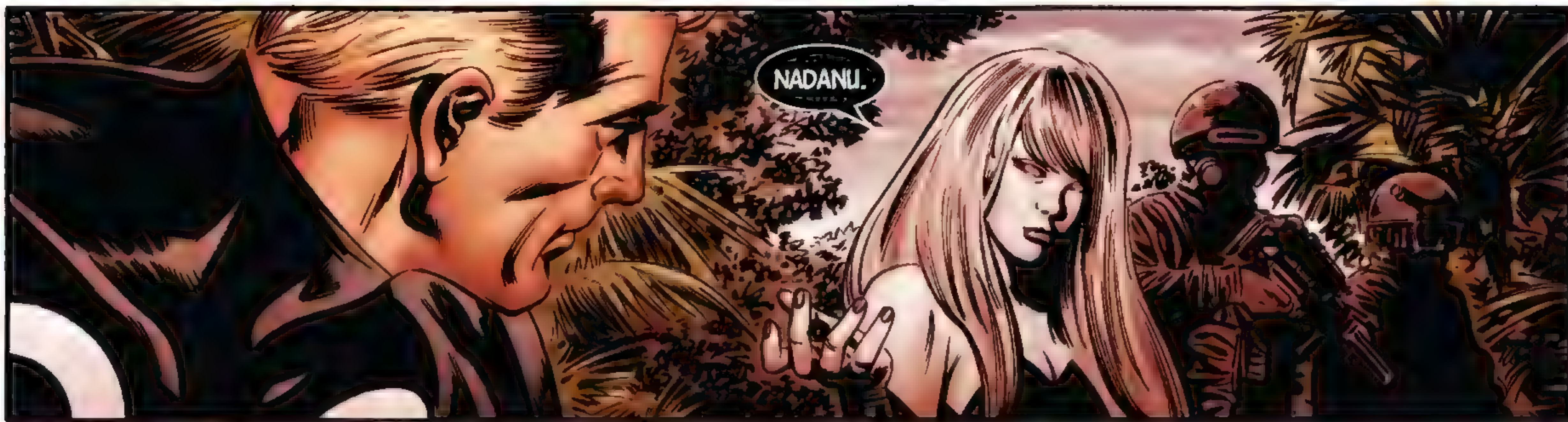
YES.

I SAW
IT.











SUHARRURUI!

WHAT IS THAT SHE'S SPEAKING? IT'S OLD--IS THAT AKKADIAN?

OLDER.

HIGH SUMERIAN.



AND YOU SPEAK ENGLISH.

...SO IT'S ONE OF THOSE EARTHS.



YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME?

YES.

THE WORLD IN THE SKY, IS THIS--WHATEVER THIS IS...IT'S YOUR DOING?

MY DOING?



YES, I AM A BLACK SWAN--BUT NO MAN OR WOMAN CAN SUMMON AN INCURSION.

WE SIMPLY LIVE WITH THE LOSS AND GIVE THE GREAT DESTROYER HIS DUE.

RABUM ALAL... HE IS IMPATIENT AND HIS APPETITE ENDLESS.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING.



OH...IT MEANS EVERYTHING.

TELL ME...IF I TOLD YOU I CAME HERE TO KILL A WORLD, WOULD YOU TRY TO STOP ME?



I WOULD DO MORE THAN TRY.







<THERE!
THEY ARE HEADED
BACK INTO THE
JUNGLE!>

<DO NOT
LET THEM REACH
THE INCURSION
WALL.>

THWOP!

<SWITCH TO
THERMAL.>



SOMETHING
IS WRONG.

I SHOULD'VE
BEEN ABLE TO JUMP
US ALL THE WAY BACK TO
THE ROYAL CITY. WHATEVER
THIS PLACE IS, IT INTERFERES
WITH LOCALIZED
SPACE-TIME.

GOOD. I
DON'T WANT
TO LEAVE.



KIMO...T'DORI...THEY KILLED
MY BROTHER, MY SISTER. WE
MUST GO BACK AND
MAKE THEM PAY.

NO. *THINK*,
N'KONO. THIS
COULD...

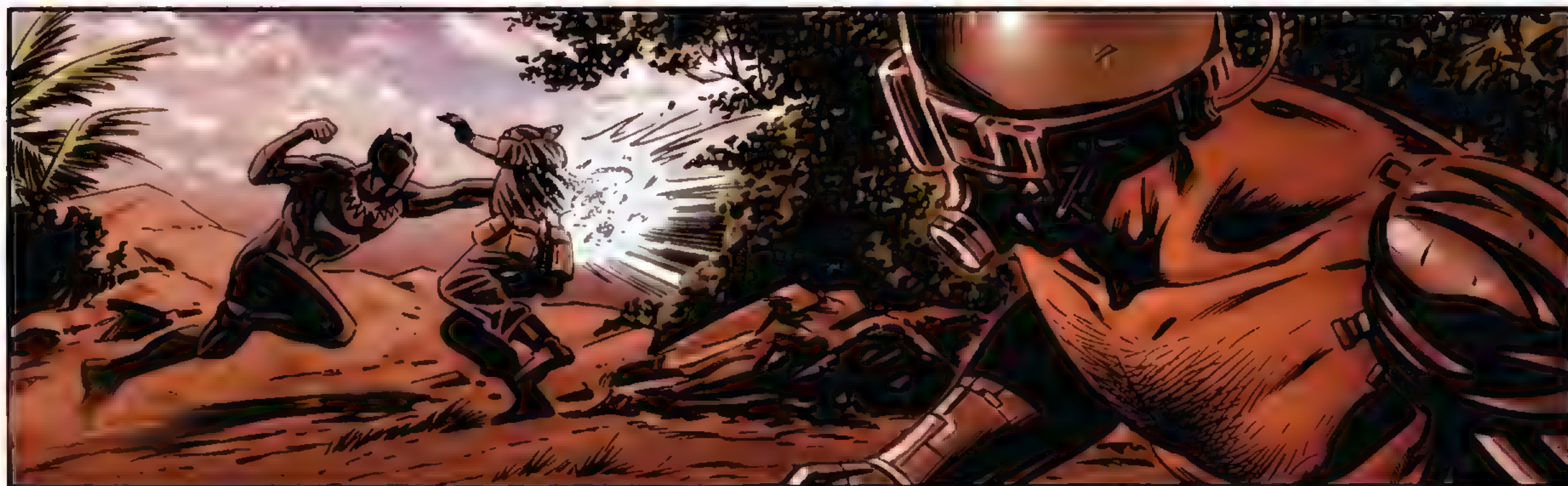
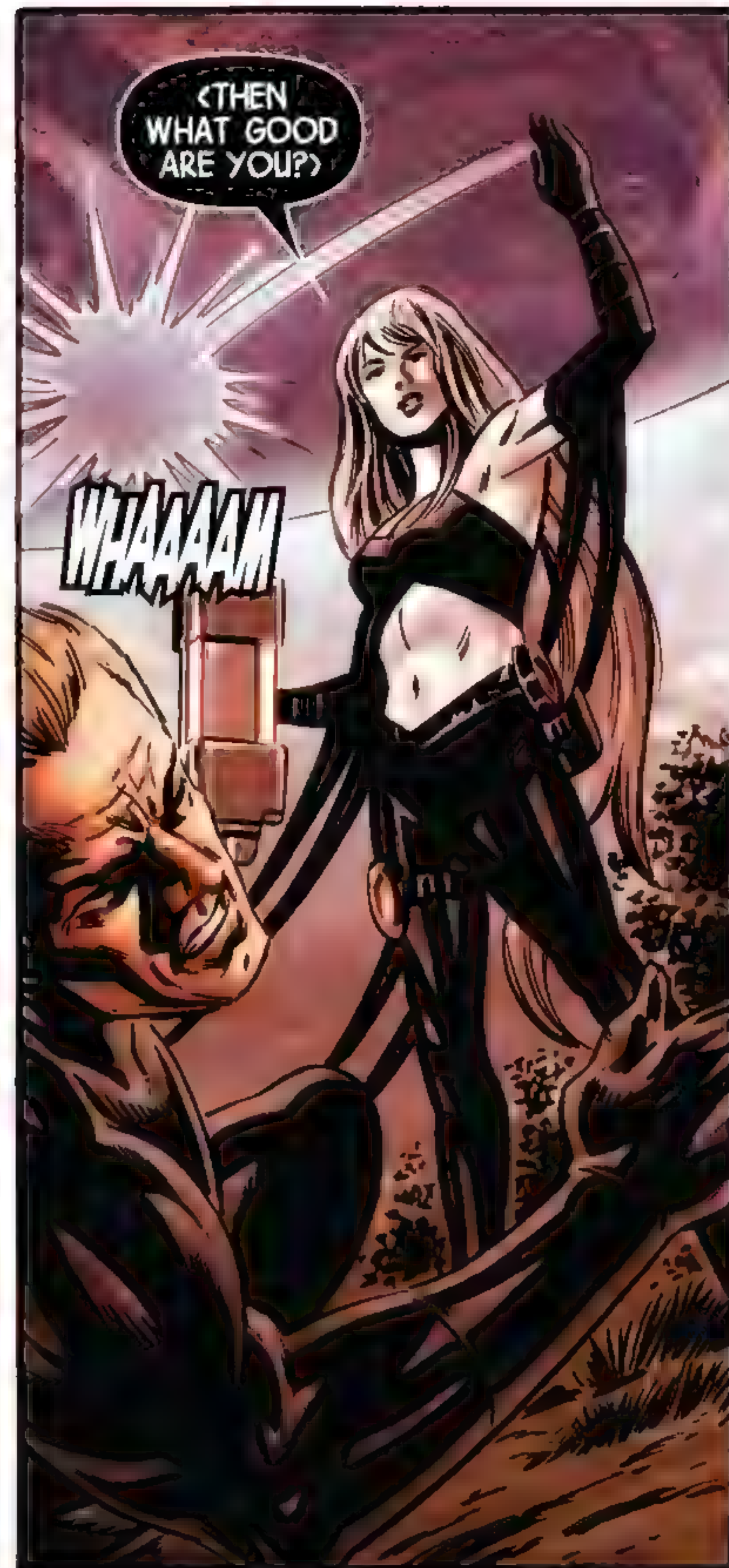
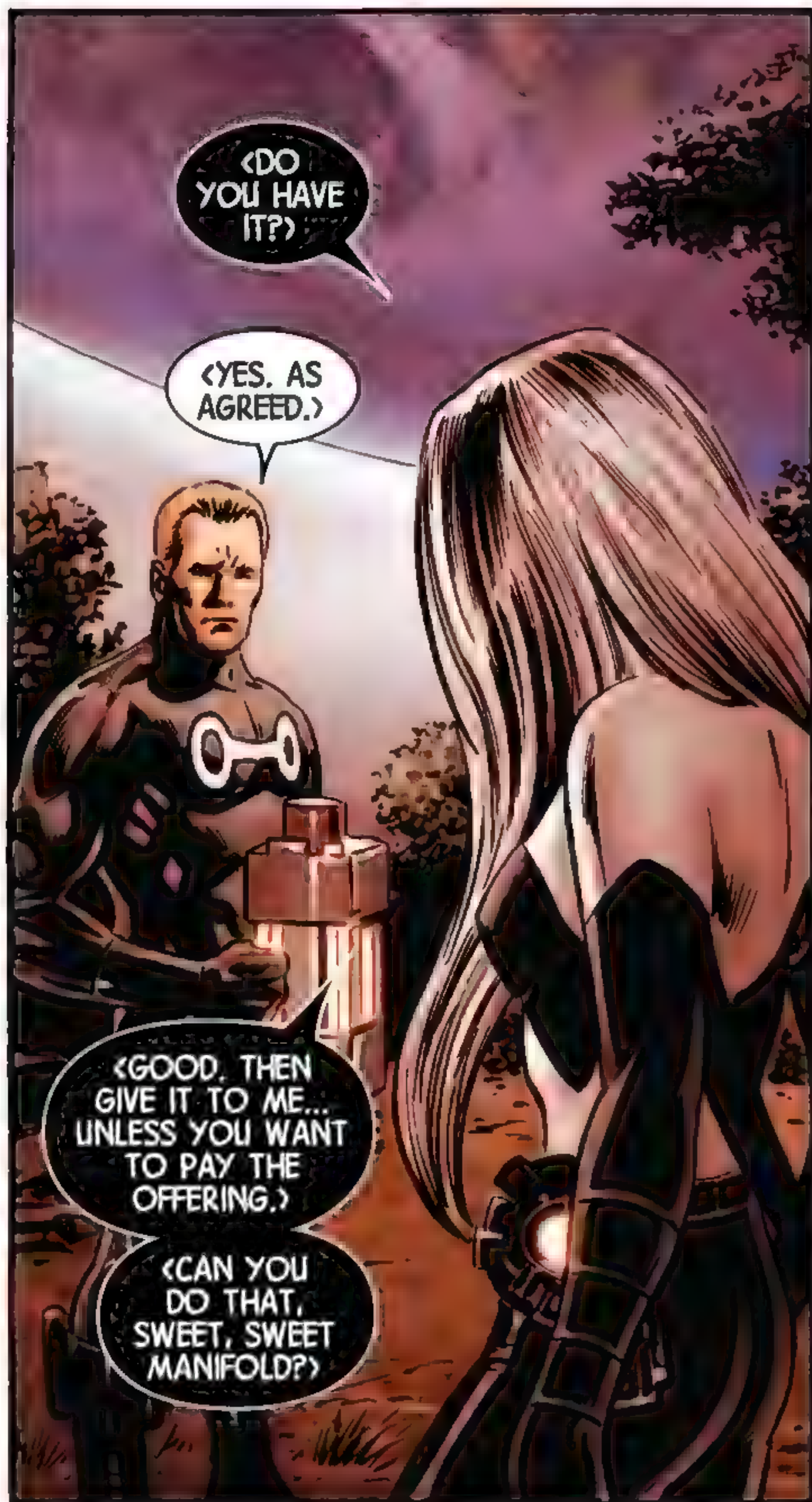
YOU WILL
RETURN AND
INFORM THE CITY...
UNDERSTAND?

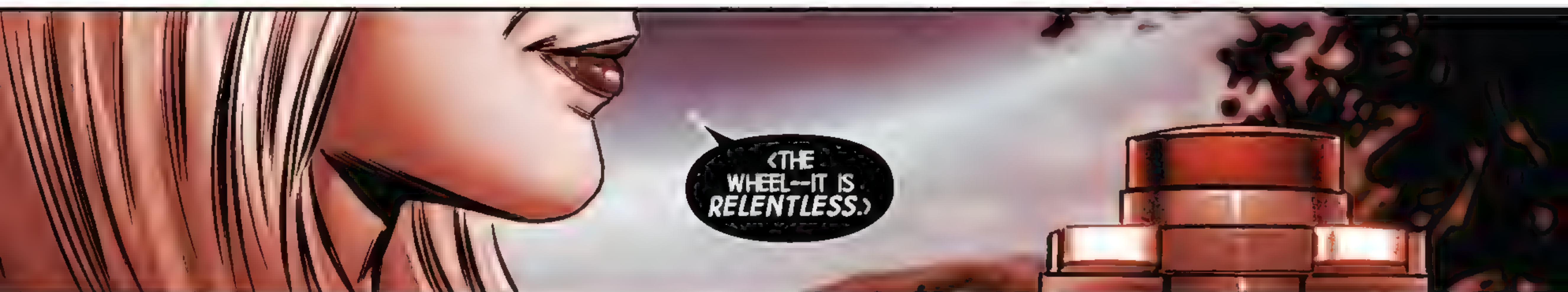
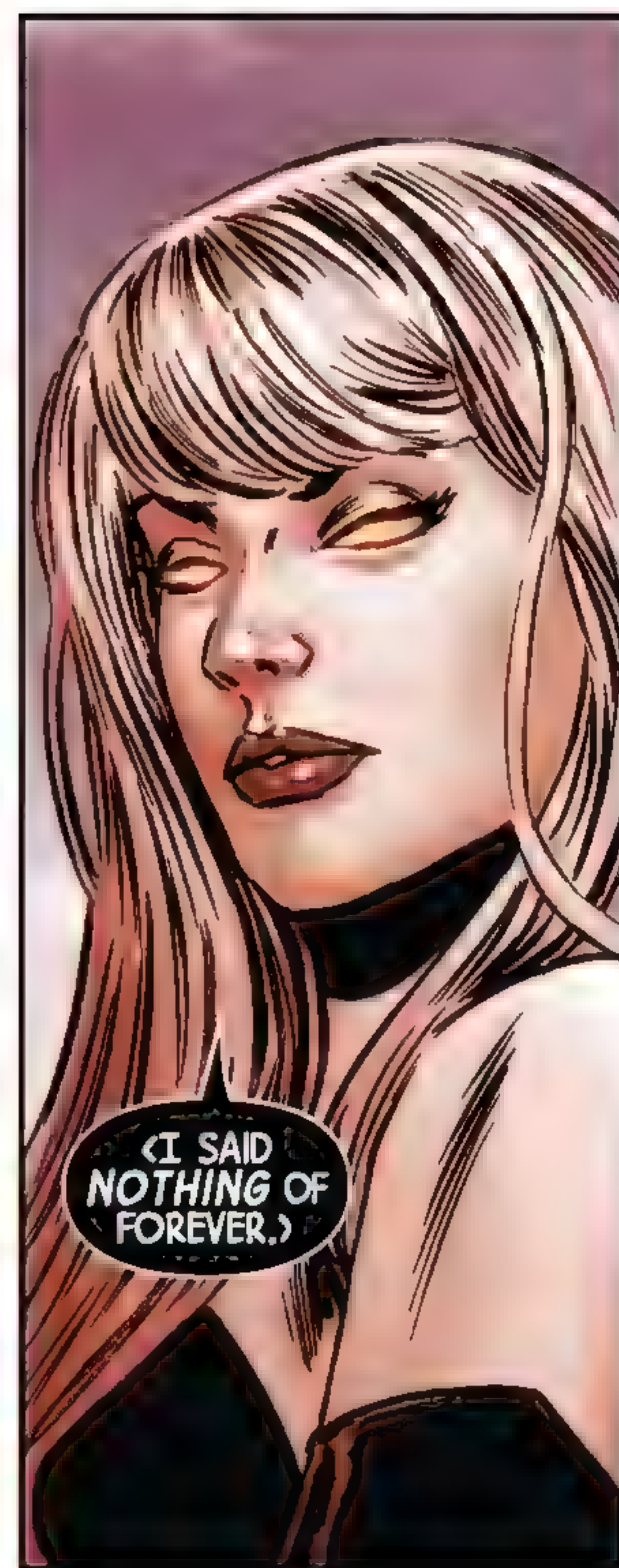
OUR PEOPLE
HAVE ALREADY LOST
TOO MUCH TODAY...I
WOULD NOT FORFEIT
OUR ENTIRE FUTURE.



...IT SEEMED
LIKE SUCH
A PERFECT
DAY.









ONCE, THE GODDESS
SPOKE, AND I WAS
GIVEN A PROPHECY.



A WORD SPOKEN
IN FIRE AND FLOOD,
A WORD OF DEAD
KINGS AND HOPELESS
CAUSES.

OF THE FUTURE
LOST AND OF
WORLDS DYING.

OF FALLEN
ANGELS AND
LOST SOULS.

WHEN
FACING
THE END...

WHEN EVERYTHING
AROUND YOU
CRUMBLES--WHEN
EVERYTHING WITHERS
AND DIES...

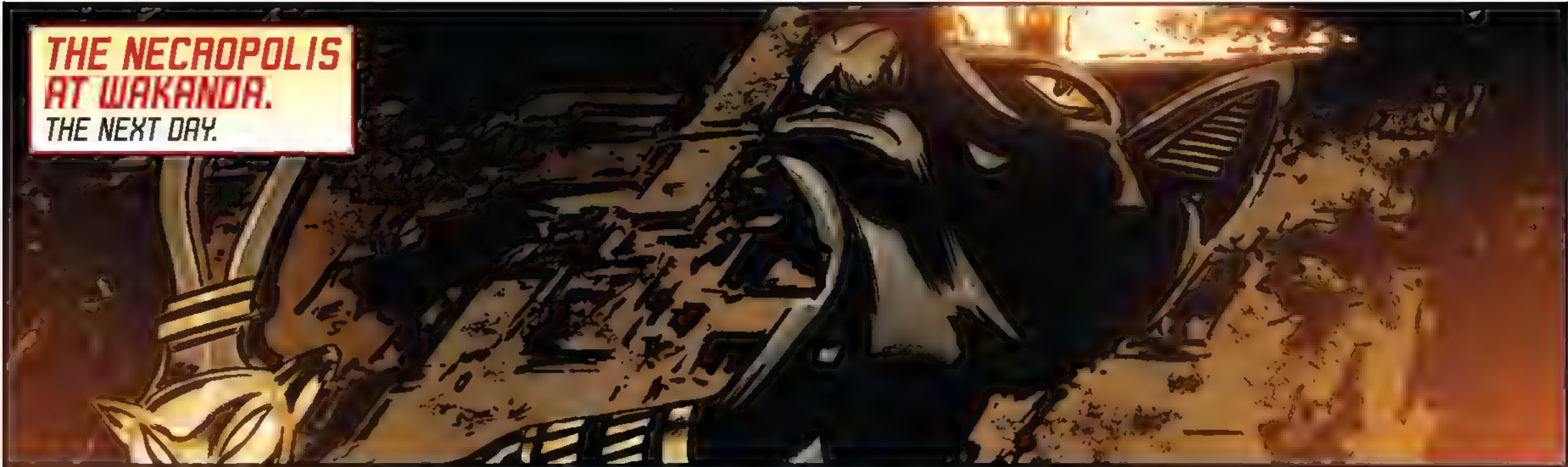
WHO ANSWERS
THE CALL OF
DESPERATE MEN?



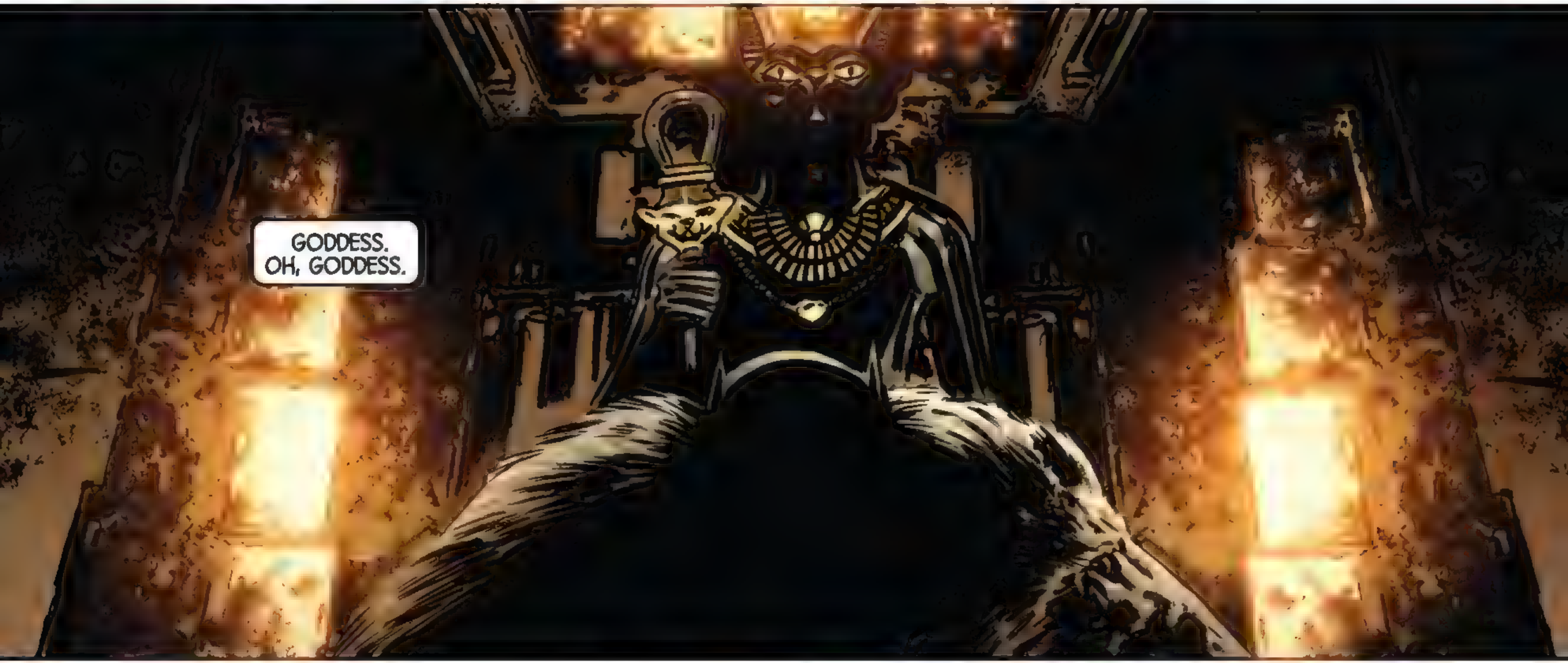
NEW AVENGERS:

ILLUMINATI





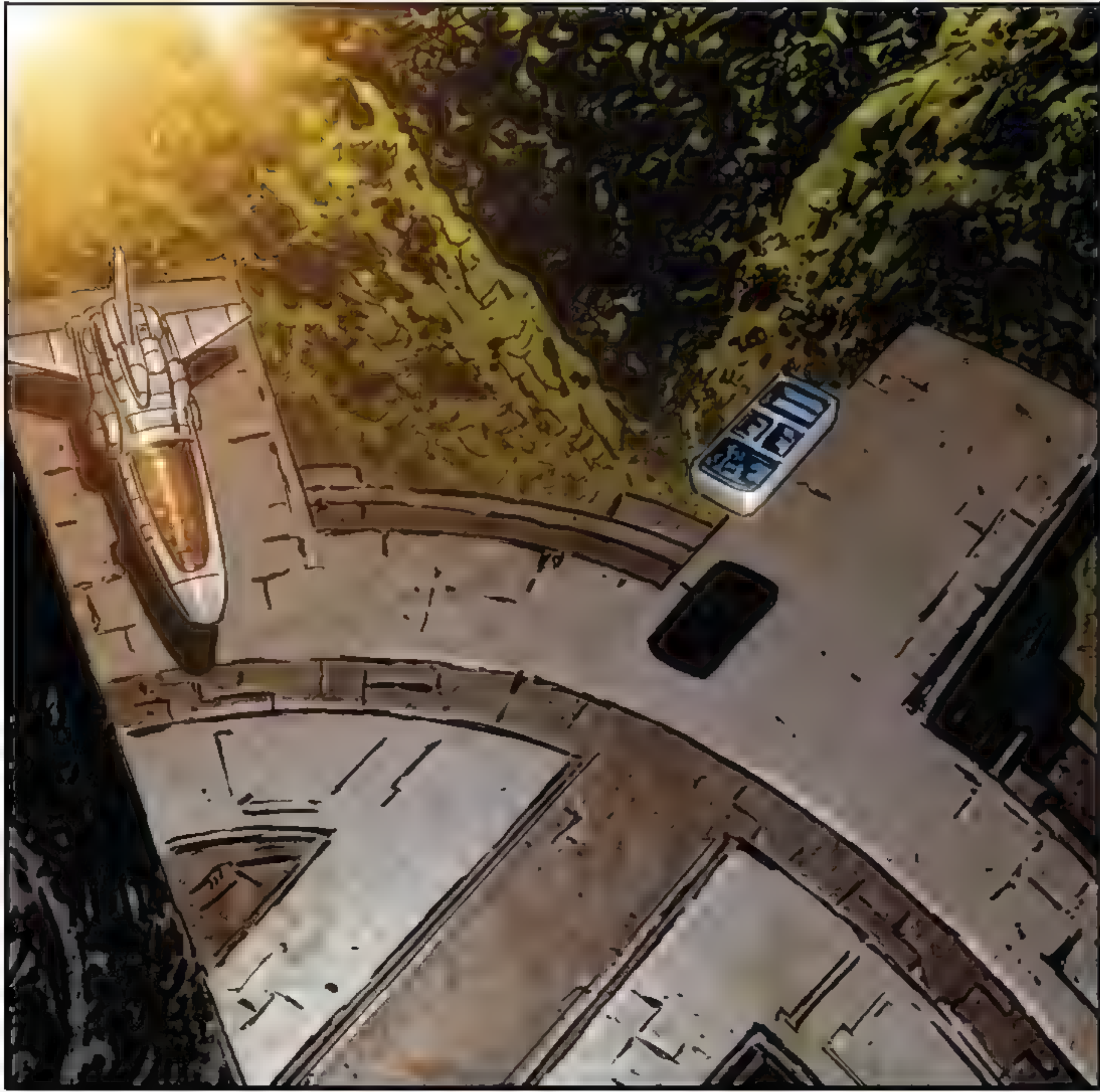
**THE NECROPOLIS
AT WAKANDA.**
THE NEXT DAY.



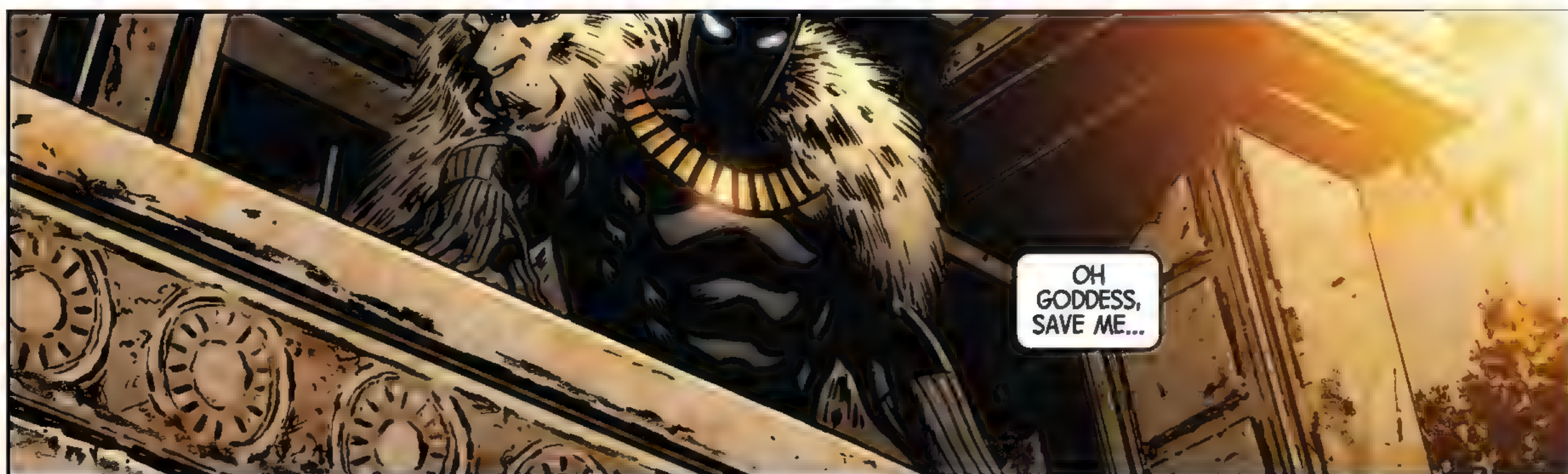
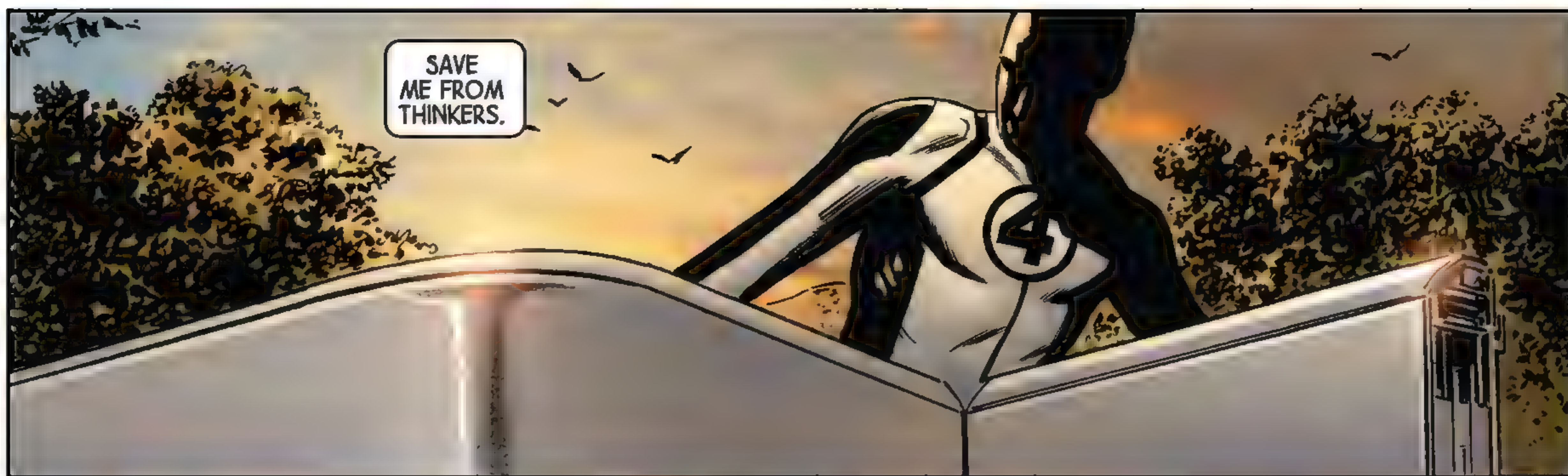
GODDESS.
OH, GODDESS.



SAVE ME FROM
WHAT THIS
WORLD DEMANDS.



SAVE ME FROM
RIGHTEOUS MEN.



SAVE ME FROM
WHAT WE ARE
ABOUT TO DO.





"IN SECRET,
THEY RULE"

THE ILLUMINATI

— HOLDERS OF THE INFINITY GEMS —



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



NAMOR
Imperius Rex
(THE POWER GEM)



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder
(THE REALITY GEM)



IRON MAN
Master of Machines
(THE SPACE GEM)



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Hero of Legend
(THE TIME GEM)



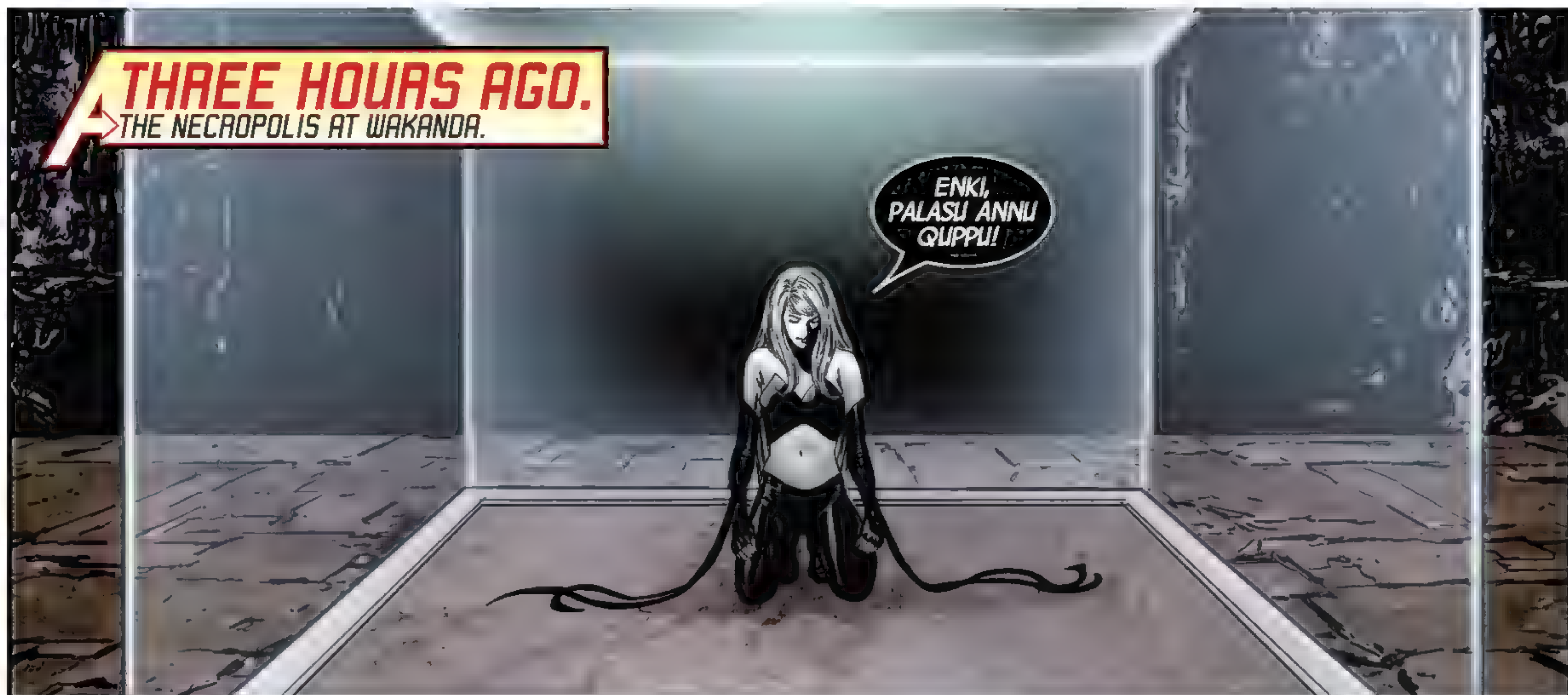
DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme
(THE SOUL GEM)

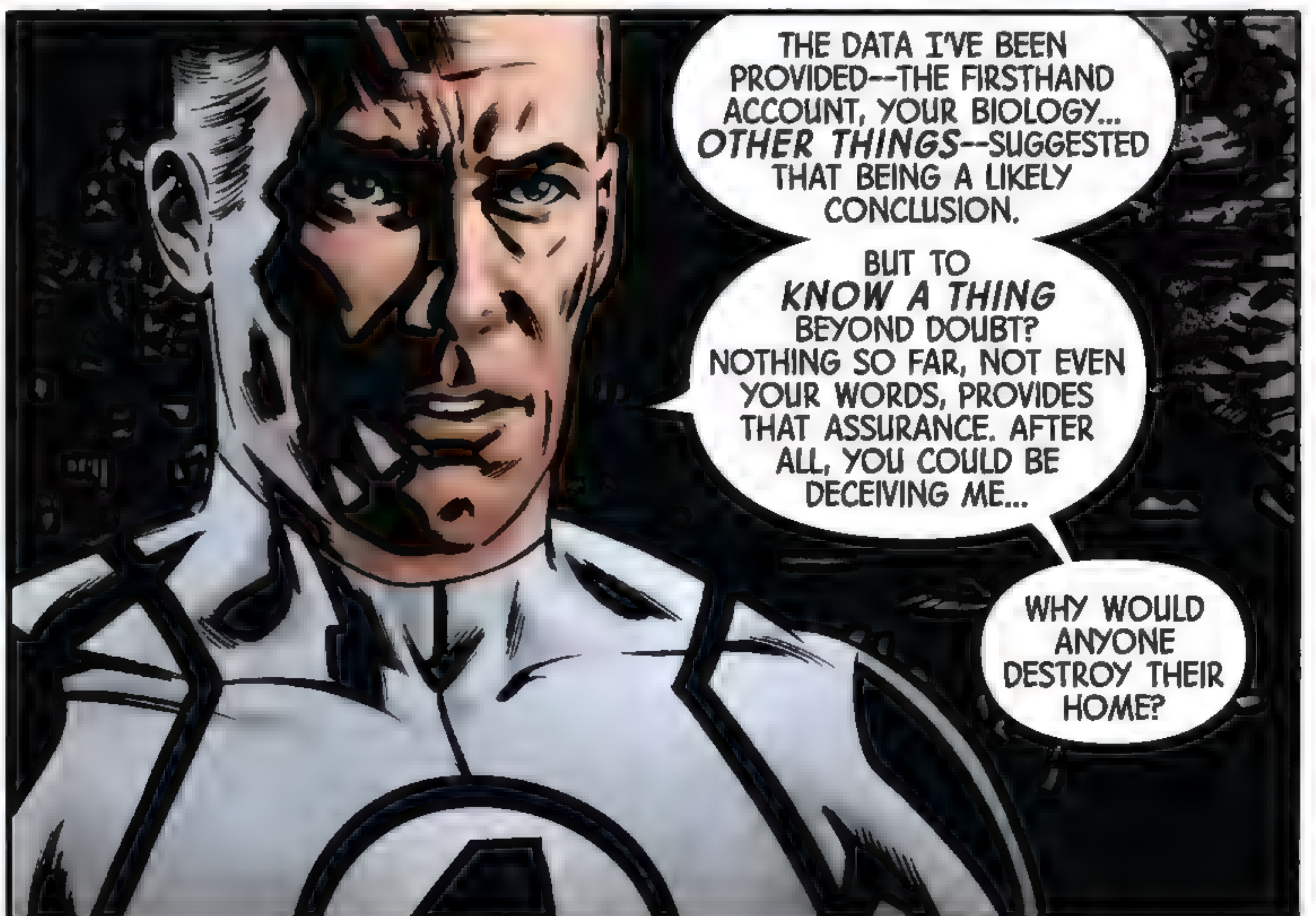
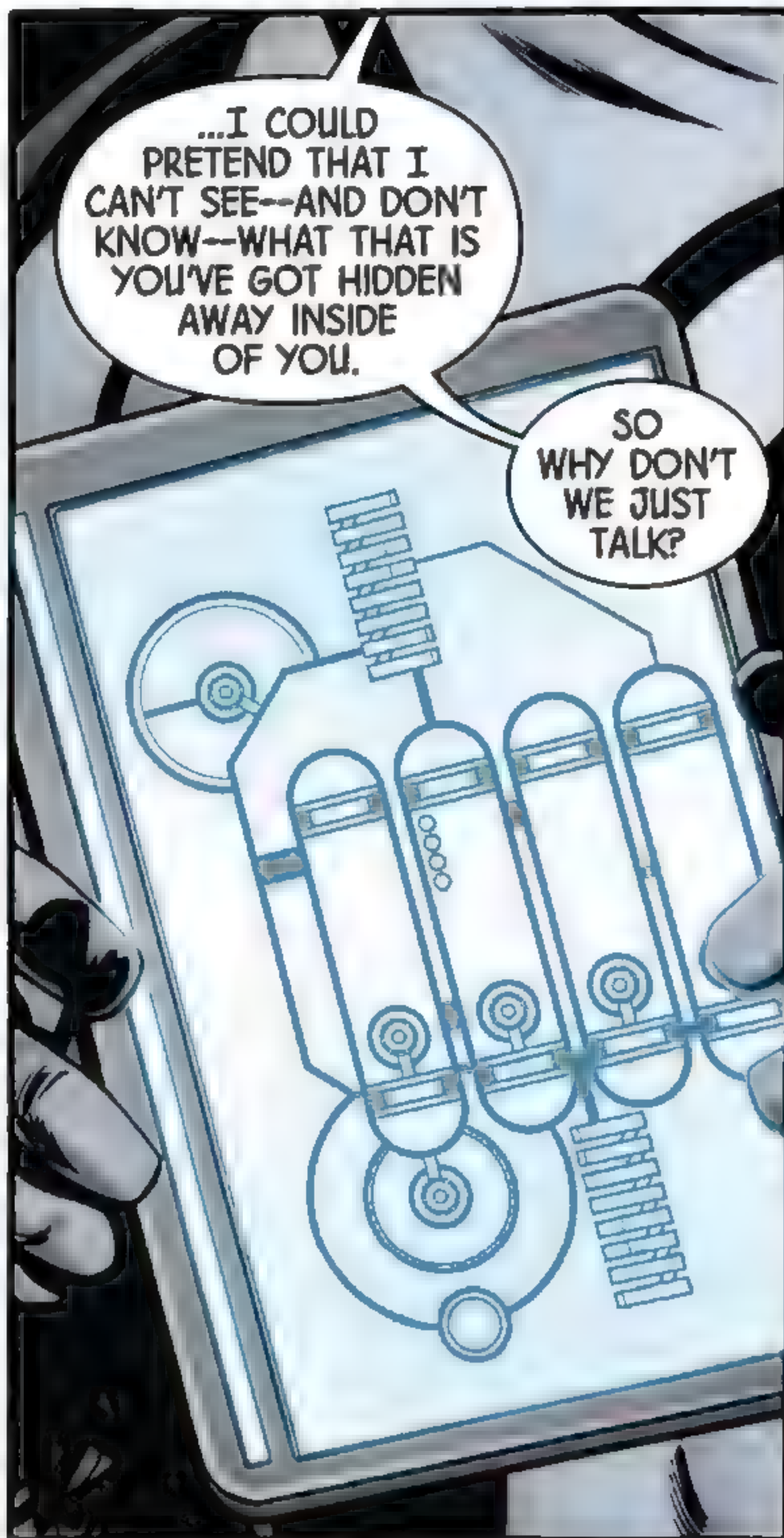


BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead



PROFESSOR XAVIER
Deceased
(THE MIND GEM)







I HAVE NO SUCH PLACE.

AS FOR THE PLANET'S DESTRUCTION... THE WHEEL DEMANDS ITS OFFERING.

AND THE GREAT DESTROYER ALWAYS GETS HIS DUE.



IF YOU SAY SO.

MY NOTES HERE ALSO SAY YOU KILLED YOUR COMPANION. WAS HE "AN OFFERING" ALSO? OR WAS IT SOMETHING MORE BASE...SOMETHING IN YOUR NATURE, PERHAPS?

IT'S CALLED MERCY. A MANIFOLD IS USELESS OUTSIDE ITS NATIVE UNIVERSE.

HIS DEATH WAS A GIFT, FOR THE WHEEL SHAMES THE WEAK.



HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND, REED RICHARDS...

WHAT I DO--EVERYTHING I DO--I DO OUT OF NECESSITY.

SO WHY DON'T YOU SIMPLY ASK ME WHAT YOU WANT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO MANEUVER ME INTO THE CONVERSATION YOU WANT TO HAVE?

VERY WELL...



WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, IF YOU CALL NO PLACE HOME-- AND IF YOU NEED NO ONE-- WHY DID THE SECURITY CAMERAS IN THIS ROOM CAPTURE YOU CRYING OUT FOR HELP, AND WEEPING IN YOUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT?

IS IT YOUR ACTIONS THAT HAUNT YOU, YOUNG LADY...OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?



IT BREAKS HOPE--IT CRUSHES WHAT MAKES US DECENT AND STEALS WHAT LITTLE HONOR REMAINS.

YOU HAVE... NO IDEA WHAT IS COMING.



WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME?

ONE HOUR AGO.



«ANYTHING?)*»

«NO, MY LORD.»

«OPEN IT.»

«SIRE... I DON'T... I...»

*TRANSLATED FROM HAUSA.



«SPEAK FREELY, LITTLE MOTHER.»



«THE WALLS WERE BROKEN. BLOOD WAS SPILLED.»

«THOUSANDS OF WAKANDANS DIED, AND OUR NATION IS NOW AT WAR...»

«IF THE PEOPLE--IF THE QUEEN--FINDS OUT THAT WE HAVE ALLOWED... THAT MAN HERE...»

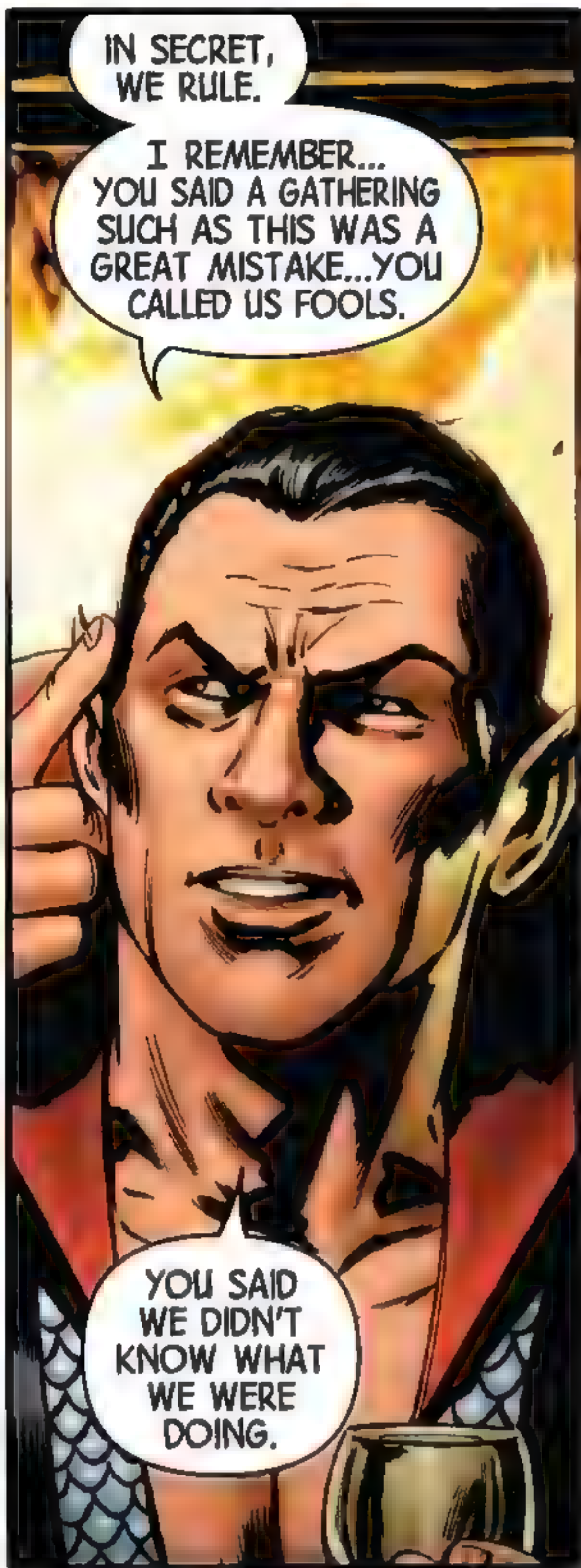


«MY LORD... I FEAR FOR YOU.»

«YOU SHOULD LET THAT LITTLE FEAR DIE, AND IN ITS PLACE ALLOW SOMETHING MORE SINISTER TO GROW--FEAR FOR US ALL.»

«AS FOR THE OTHER...I WILL LEAVE THE KEEPING OF SECRETS TO YOU, DORA MILAJE.»

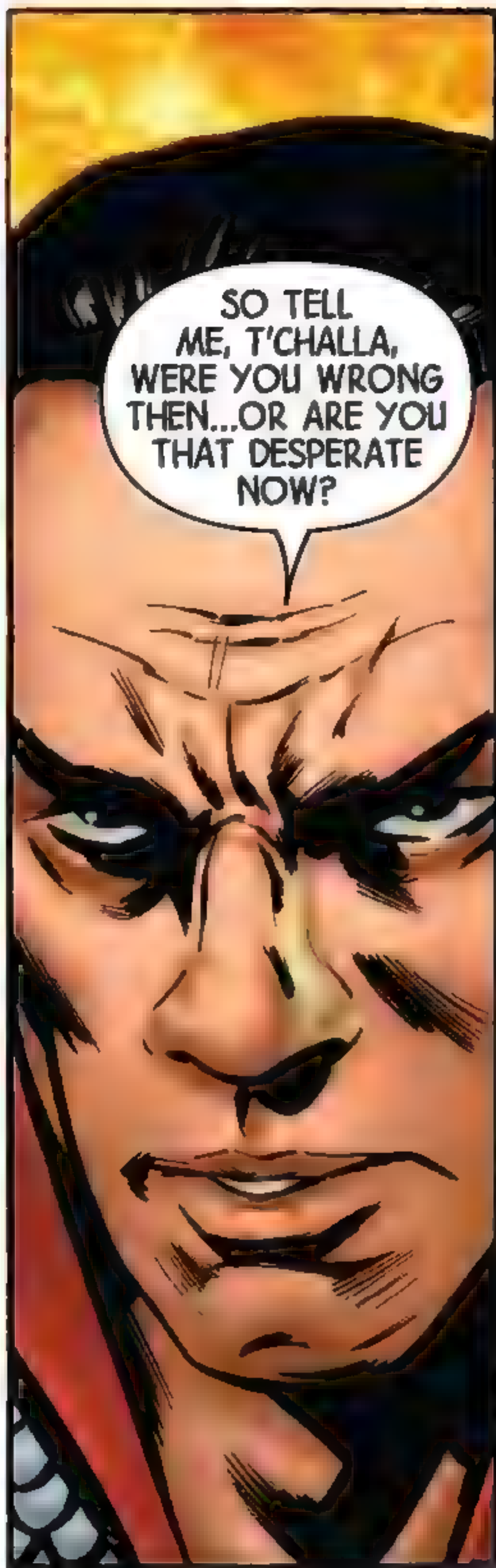




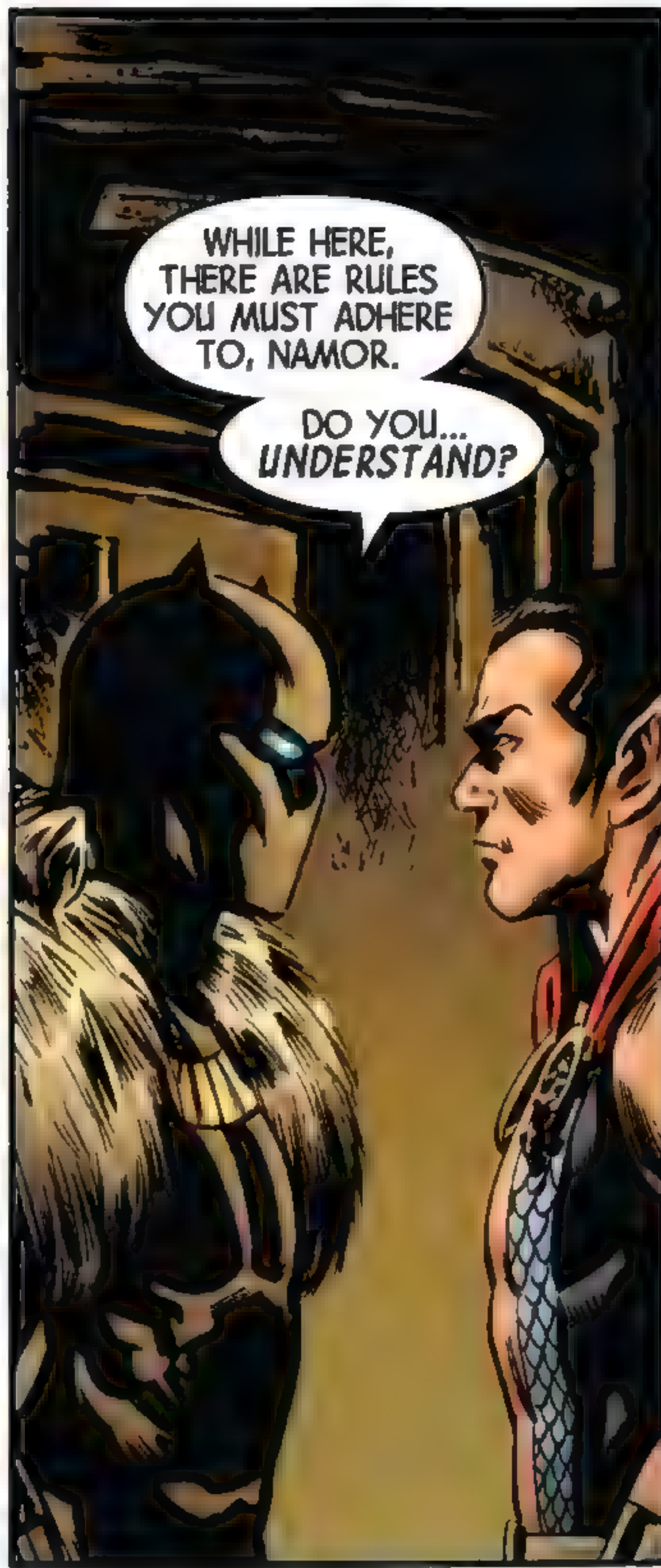
IN SECRET,
WE RULE.

I REMEMBER...
YOU SAID A GATHERING
SUCH AS THIS WAS A
GREAT MISTAKE...YOU
CALLED US FOOLS.

YOU SAID
WE DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
WE WERE
DOING.

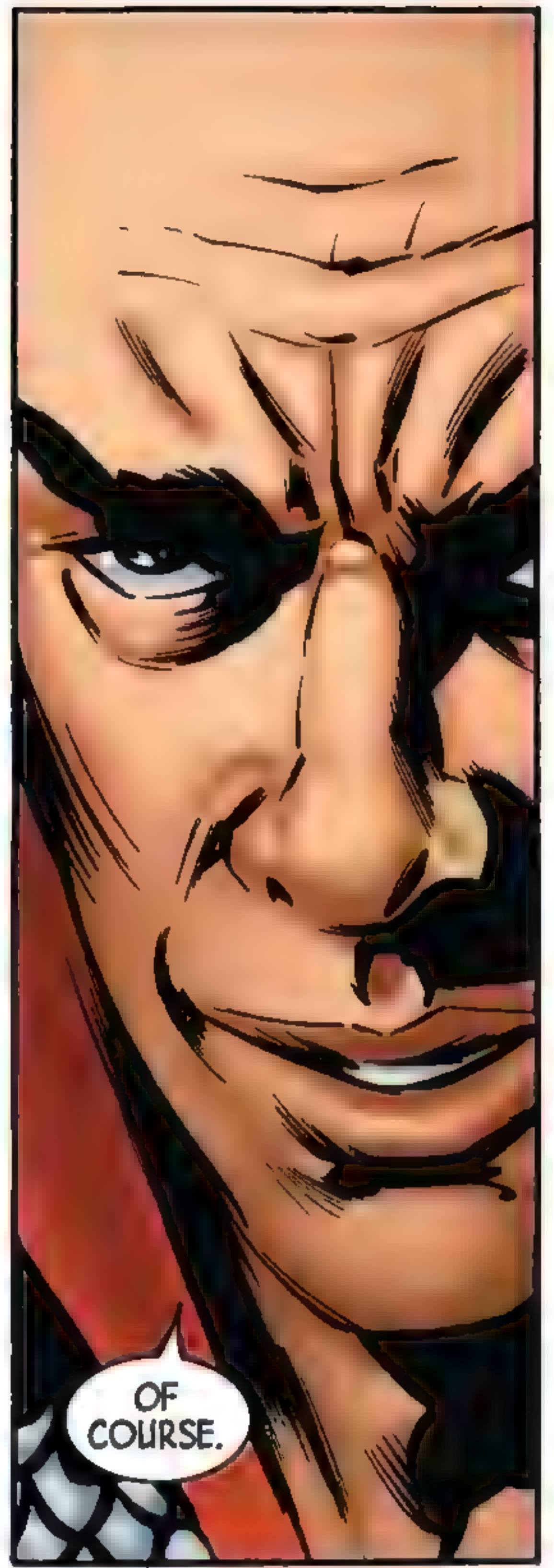


SO TELL
ME, T'CHALLA,
WERE YOU WRONG
THEN...OR ARE YOU
THAT DESPERATE
NOW?



WHILE HERE,
THERE ARE RULES
YOU MUST ADHERE
TO, NAMOR.

DO YOU...
UNDERSTAND?



OF
COURSE.



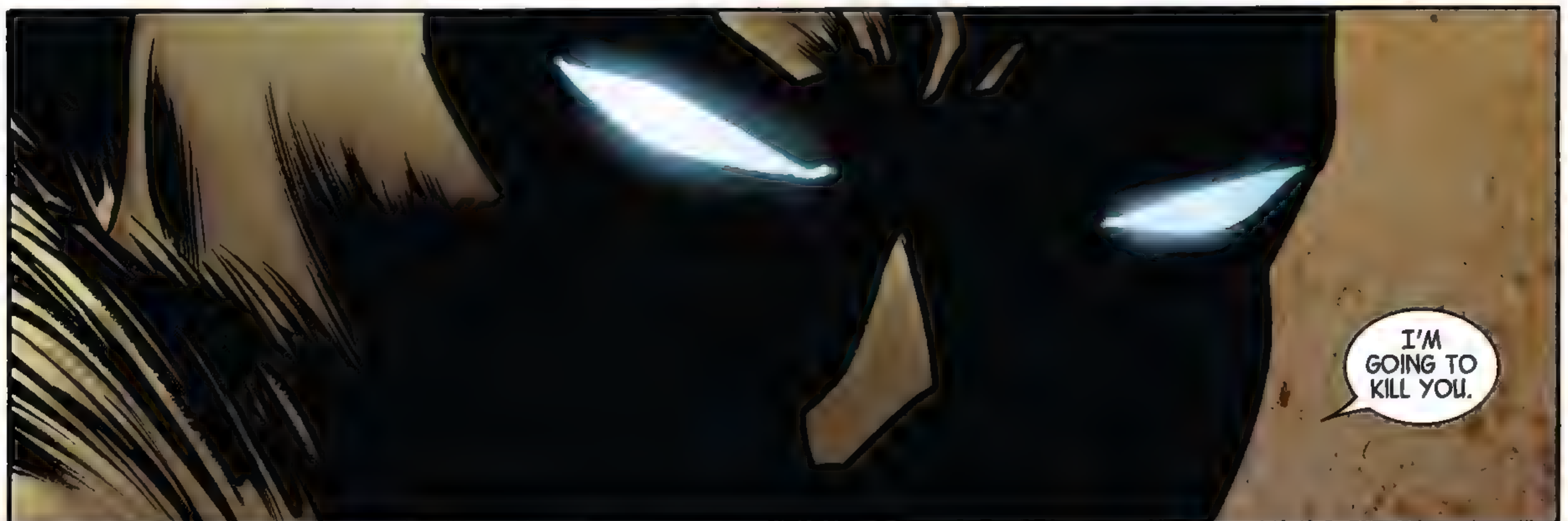
THEN IT'S
TIME TO
JOIN THE
OTHERS.



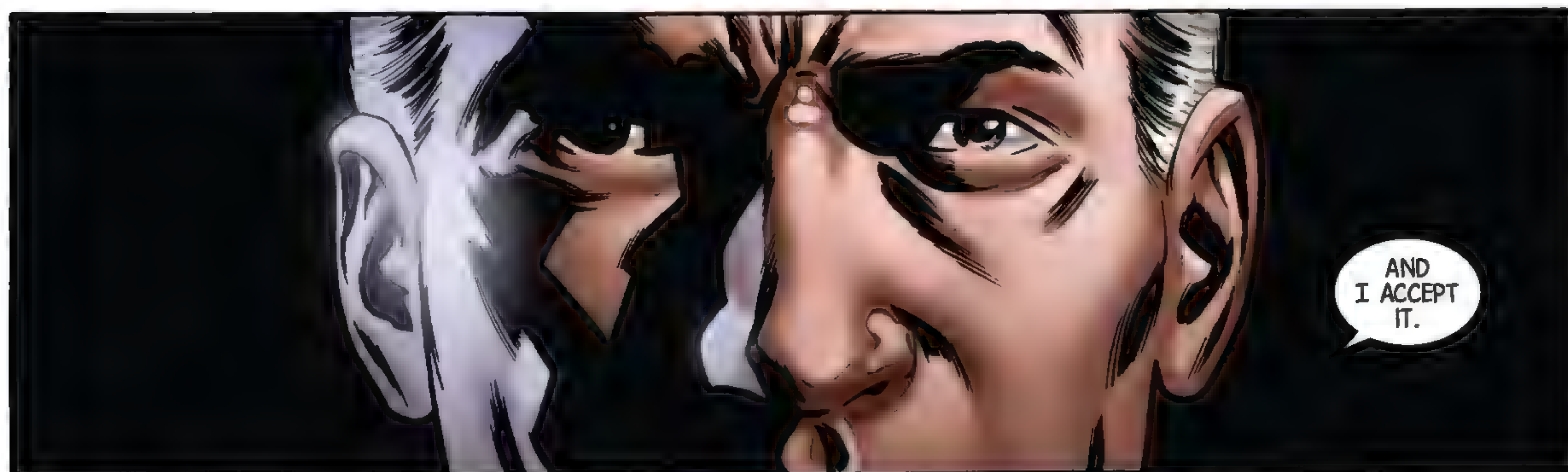
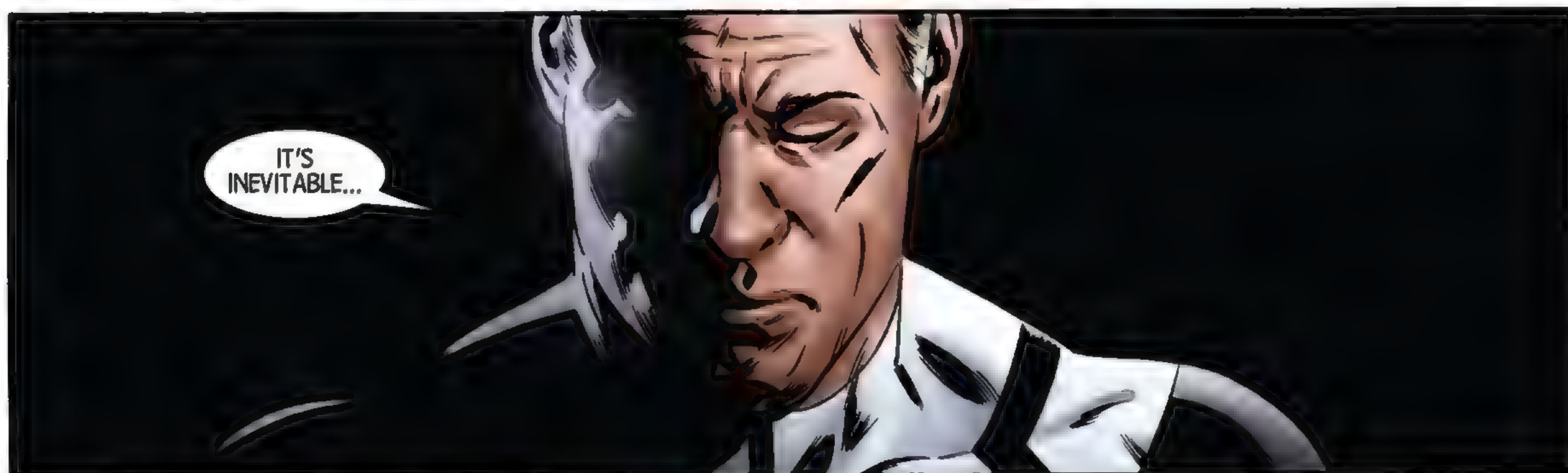
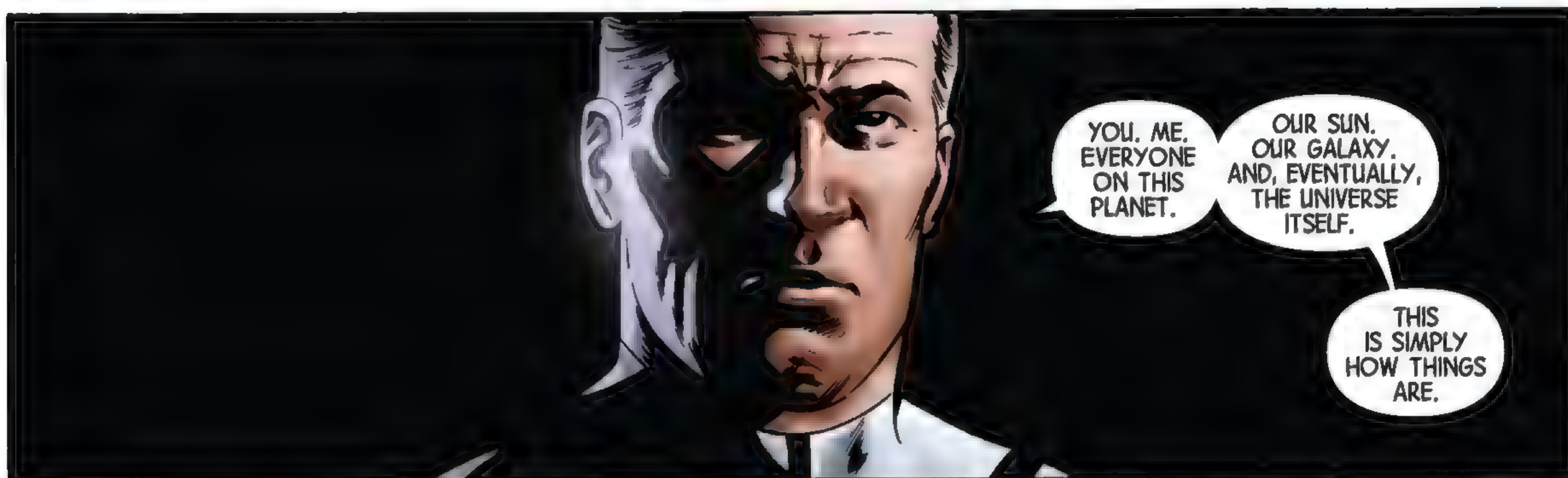
BUT
ONE LAST
THING...

YOU HAVE
THE BLOOD
OF MY PEOPLE
ON YOUR
HANDS.

SO WHEN
THIS IS DONE--
WHEN MY WANTS
HAVE REPLACED
MY NEEDS...



I'M
GOING TO
KILL YOU.





WHAT I WILL
NOT TOLERATE--
WHAT I FIND
UNACCEPTABLE--IS
THE UNNATURAL
ACCELERATION OF
THAT END.

WHICH IS
WHY T'CHALLA
SUMMONED
US HERE...



AS THE
UNTIMELY END
OF EVERYTHING IS
WHAT WE NOW
FACE.



SEE, REED...
THIS IS WHY YOU
NEVER GET INVITED
TO THE GOOD
PARTIES.



MANY,
MANY TIMES
HAVE WE FACED
THE WORLD'S
END.

AND EACH
TIME YOU REFUSED
TO ANSWER OUR
CALL--YOU REFUSED
TO JOIN US...



WHAT MAKES
THIS SO DIFFERENT,
T'CHALLA?

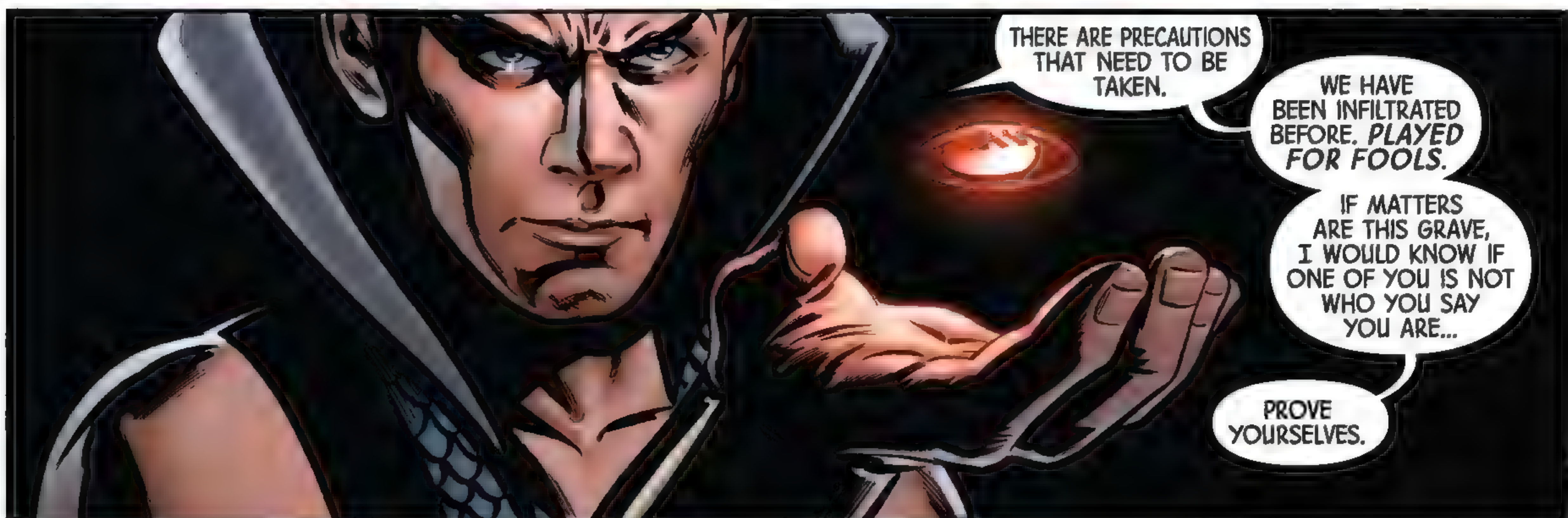
THE FUTURE
OF MY PEOPLE
DIED IN MY ARMS
YESTERDAY,
STEPHEN.

WHAT
FOLLOWED...IT
DWARFED
THAT.



THEN
WHAT--

NO.
BEFORE WE
GET TO WHAT
BROUGHT US
HERE...



THERE ARE PRECAUTIONS
THAT NEED TO BE
TAKEN.

WE HAVE
BEEN INFILTRATED
BEFORE. *PLAYED*
FOR FOOLS.

IF MATTERS
ARE THIS GRAVE,
I WOULD KNOW IF
ONE OF YOU IS NOT
WHO YOU SAY
YOU ARE...

PROVE
YOURSELVES.



NAMOR
ISN'T
WRONG.

I AGREE.

STEPHEN...
TONY...
WHERE ARE YOUR
INFINITY
GEMS?



BEYOND THE
CHAOS REALM OF
SHUMA-GORATH IS
A POCKET REALITY
CONSTRUCTED FROM THE
PURE WHITE LIGHT OF ONE
BILLION PRAYERS. I'VE
HIDDEN THE *SOUL*
GEM THERE...

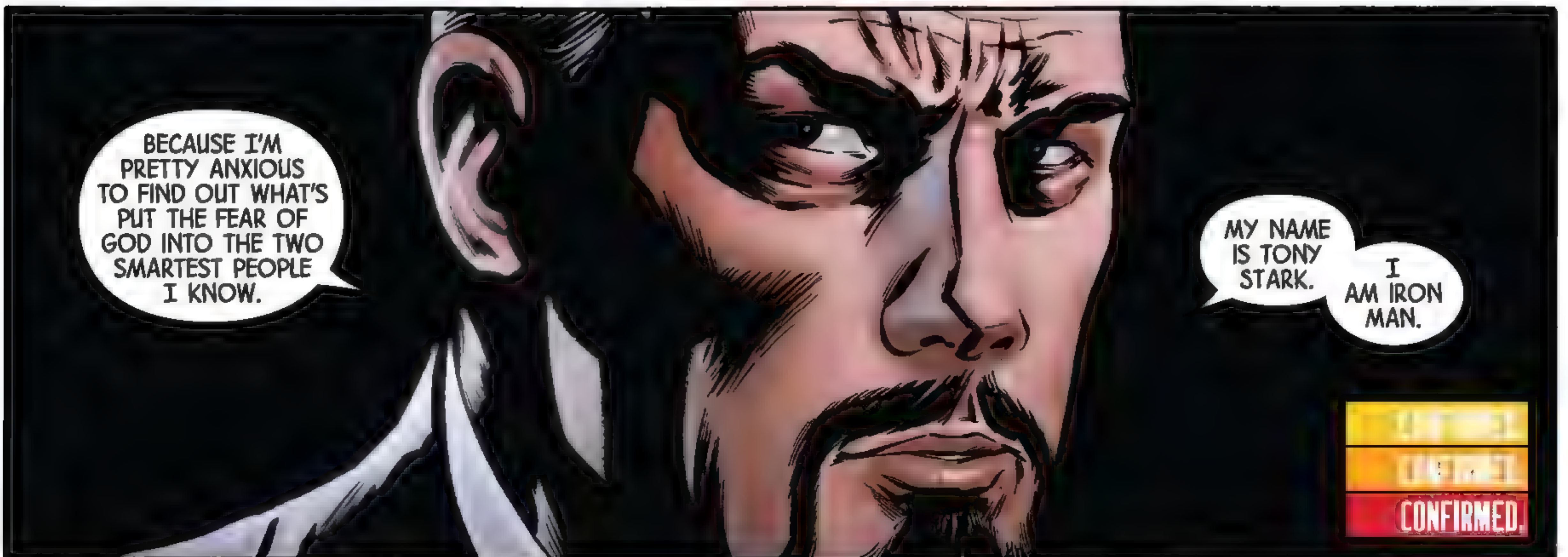
RETRIEVING
IT IS...
COSTLY.

SO I
ONLY DO SO IF
I MUST.



AND I
LEFT MINE
IN MY SOCK
DRAWER.

THREE'S
ENOUGH FOR
VERIFICATION. LET'S
GET THIS OVER
WITH...



BECAUSE I'M
PRETTY ANXIOUS
TO FIND OUT WHAT'S
PUT THE FEAR OF
GOD INTO THE TWO
SMARTEST PEOPLE
I KNOW.

MY NAME
IS TONY
STARK.

I
AM IRON
MAN.

CONFIRMED



AND BLACK
BOLT IS THE
MIDNIGHT
KING.

RULER
OF THE
INHUMANS.



REED
RICHARDS OF
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR.

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

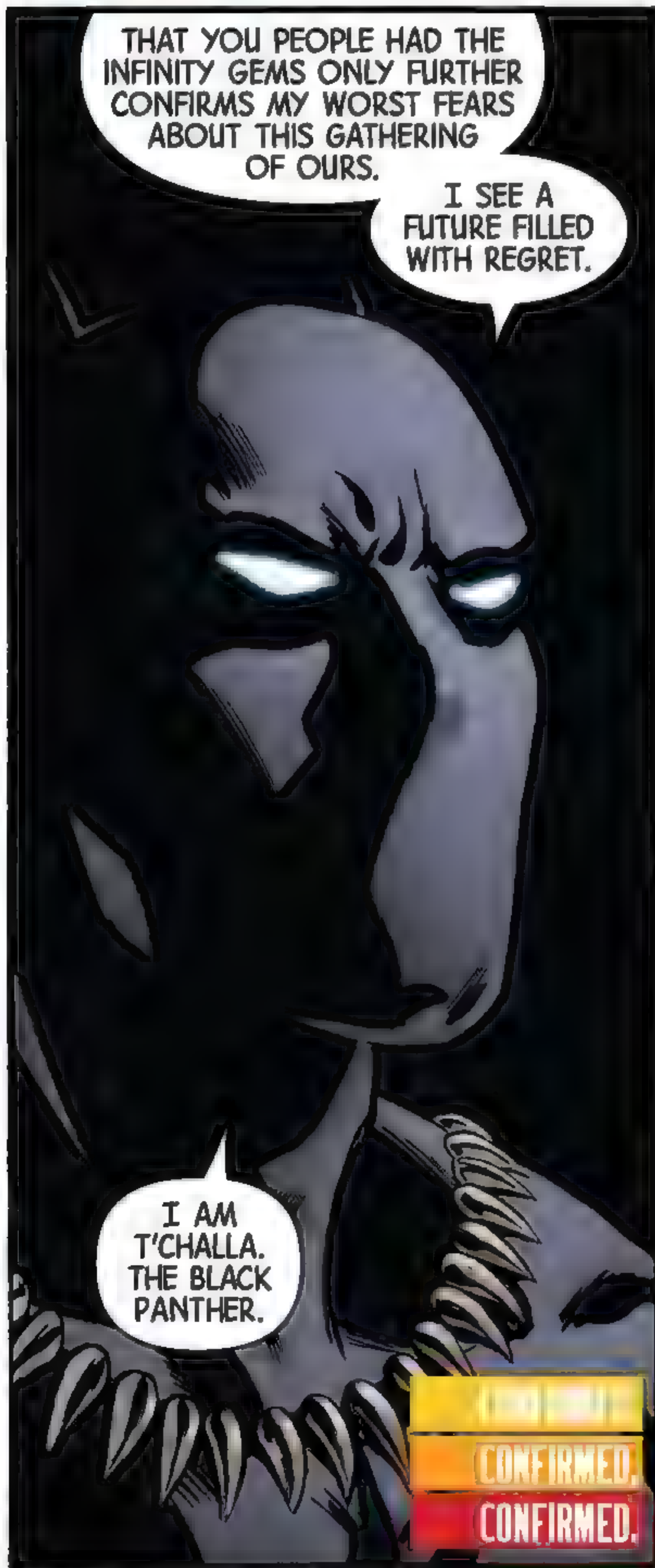


I AM DOCTOR STEPHEN
STRANGE...POSSESSOR
OF THE ALL-SEEING
EYE OF
AGAMOTTO.

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED



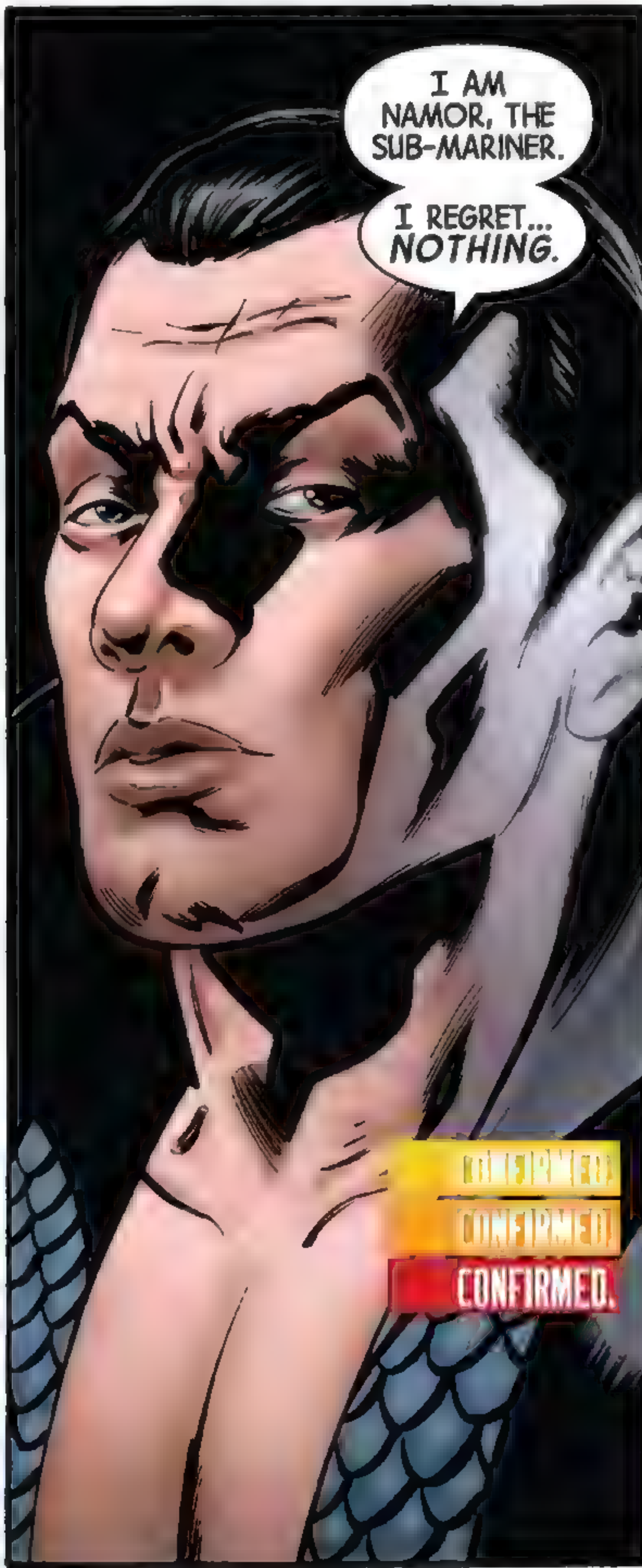
THAT YOU PEOPLE HAD THE
INFINITY GEMS ONLY FURTHER
CONFIRMS MY WORST FEARS
ABOUT THIS GATHERING
OF OURS.

I SEE A
FUTURE FILLED
WITH REGRET.

I AM
T'CHALLA.
THE BLACK
PANTHER.

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED



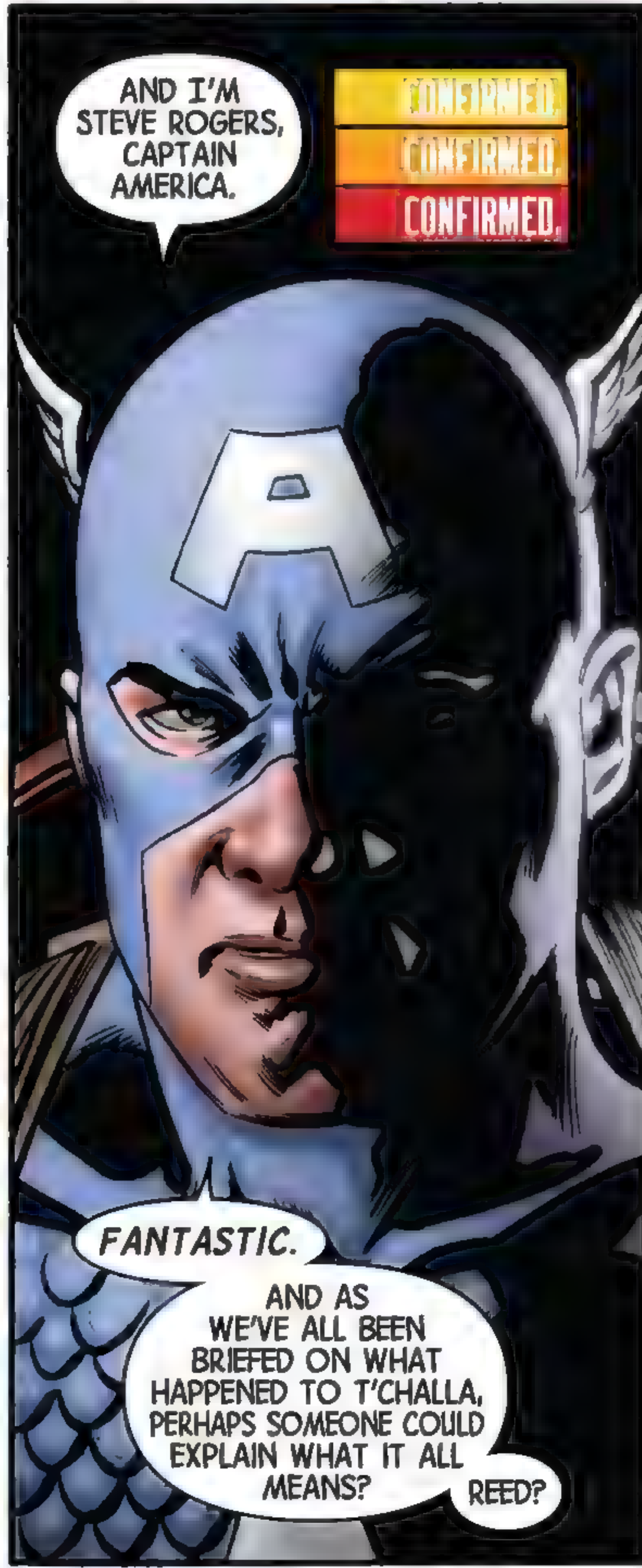
I AM
NAMOR, THE
SUB-MARINER.

I REGRET...
NOTHING.

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED



AND I'M
STEVE ROGERS,
CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

FANTASTIC.

AND AS
WE'VE ALL BEEN
BRIEFED ON WHAT
HAPPENED TO T'CHALLA,
PERHAPS SOMEONE COULD
EXPLAIN WHAT IT ALL
MEANS?

REED?

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED

CONFIRMED



OF COURSE.

IT MIGHT BE BEST IF I START WITH THINGS WE ALL KNOW TO BE TRUE.

BE-DOOP!

"LIFE AND DEATH.

"THE BIRTH AND HEAT DEATH OF EVERYTHING LIE AT OPPOSITE ENDS ON THE TIMELINE OF THE UNIVERSE.



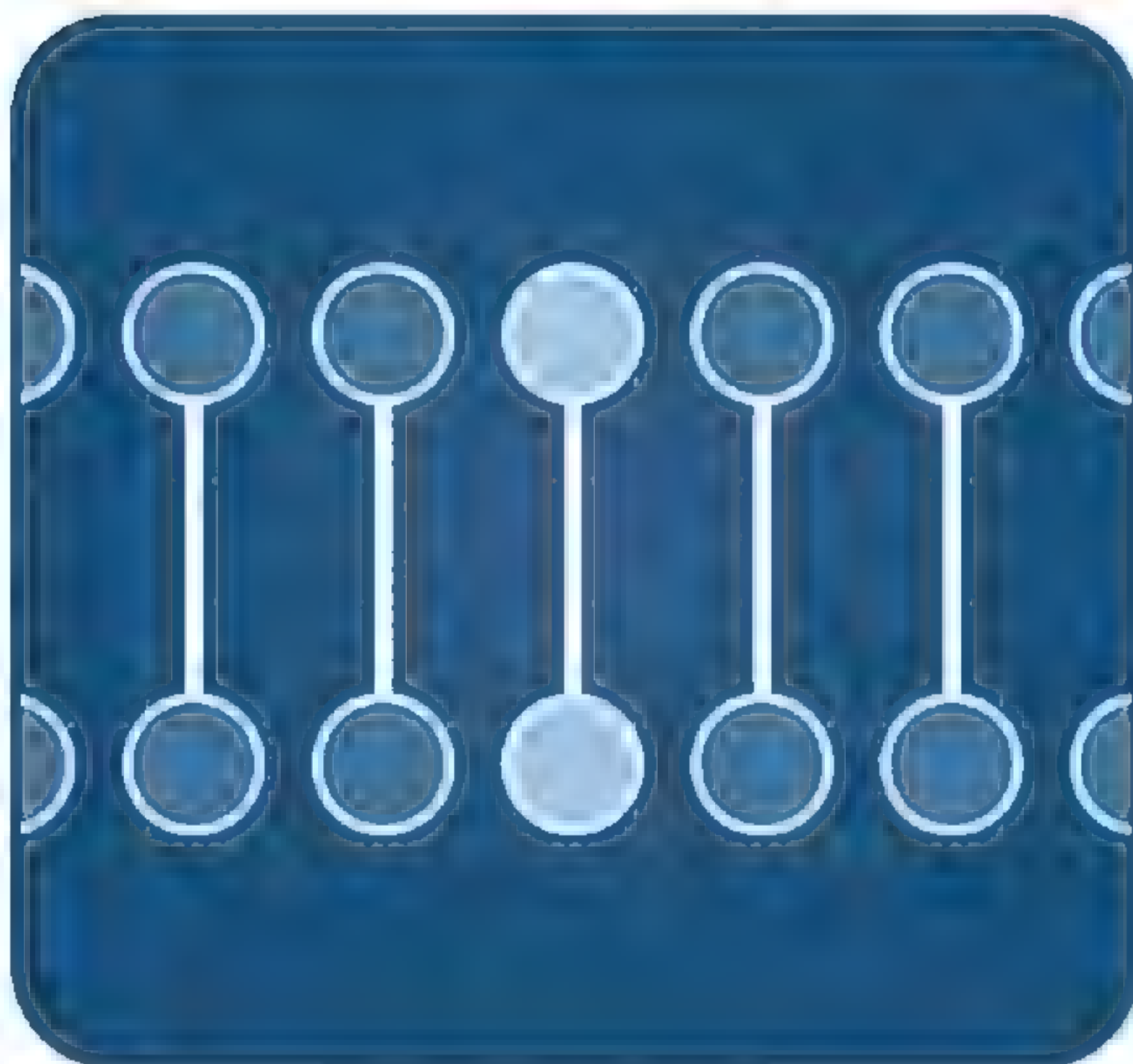
"THE BEGINNING AND END OF OUR EARTH ALSO EXISTS ON THIS TIMELINE AND, OF COURSE, FALLS WITHIN THESE TWO END POINTS.

"OUR WORLD WAS BORN AFTER THE UNIVERSE'S CREATION, AND OUR WORLD WILL DIE BEFORE THE UNIVERSE ENDS.



"WE ALSO KNOW THERE IS A MULTIVERSE OF REALITIES. AN INFINITE NUMBER OF EARTHS, INSIDE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF UNIVERSES, WHERE ANY MANNER OF DIVERGENT REALITY CAN EXIST.

"ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES...



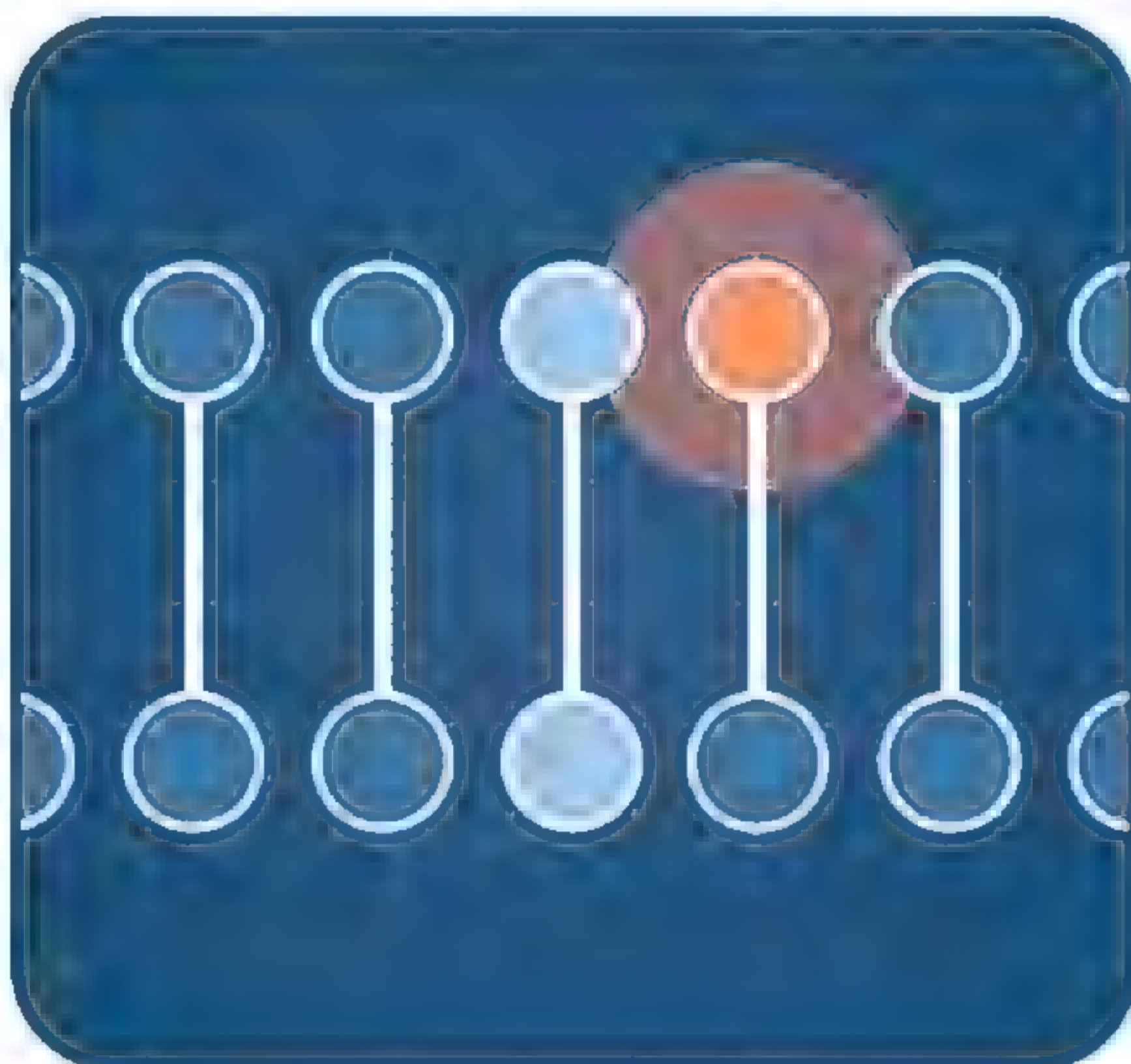
"HOWEVER, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER... **EVERYTHING DIES.**

"SO, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY REALITIES THERE ARE, EVENTUALLY THEY ALL END UP IN THE SAME PLACE AND IN THE SAME STATE. EXTINGUISHED AT THE END OF EVERYTHING.



"AND HERE'S WHERE OUR PROBLEM LIES.

"I'VE LEARNED THAT SOMEWHERE, ON ONE OF THESE EARTHS, AN **EVENT** OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF ONE OF THESE UNIVERSES.



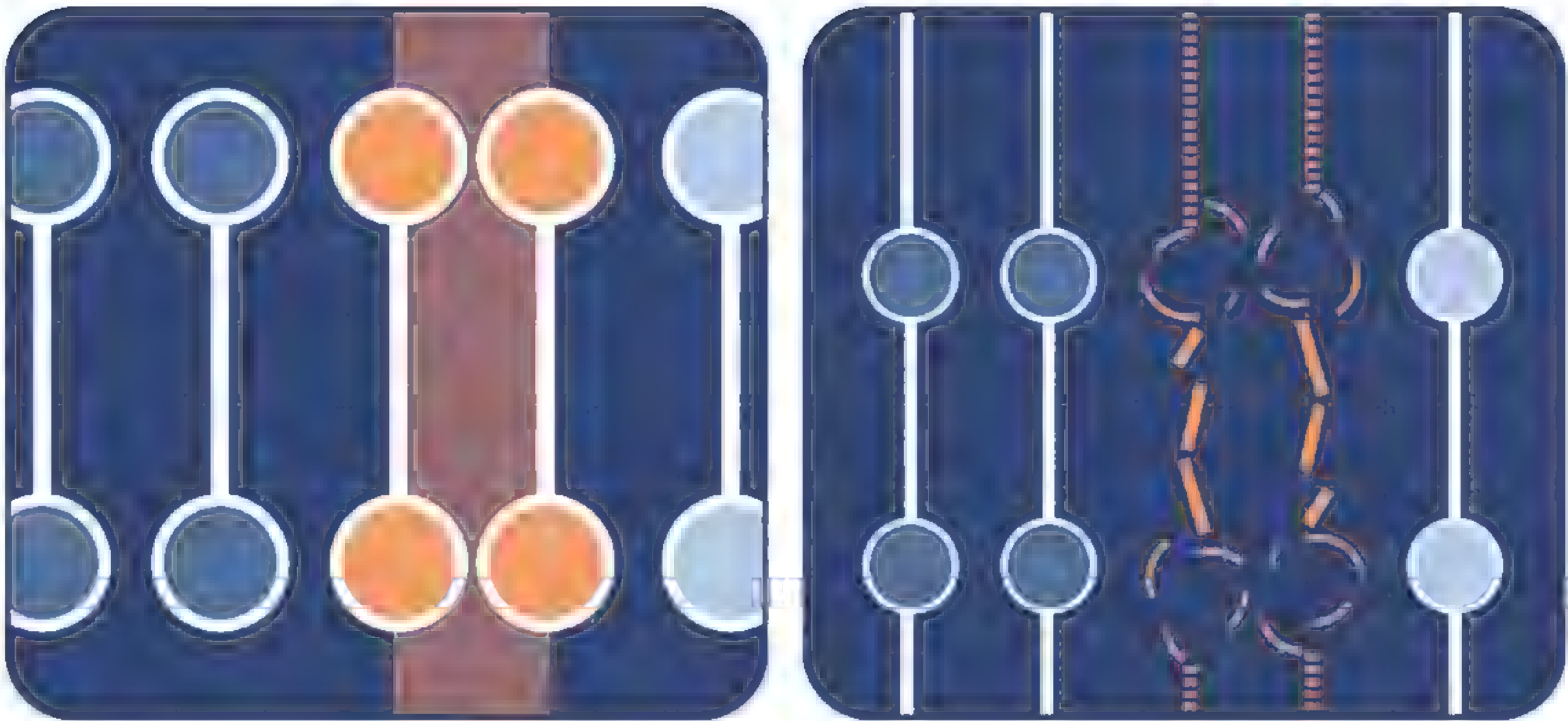
"THAT **UNTIMELY, UNNATURAL** EVENT THEN CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION IN THE MULTIVERSE'S TIMELINE.

"NOW, EVERYTHING WOULD DIE EVER-SO-SLIGHTLY SOONER.

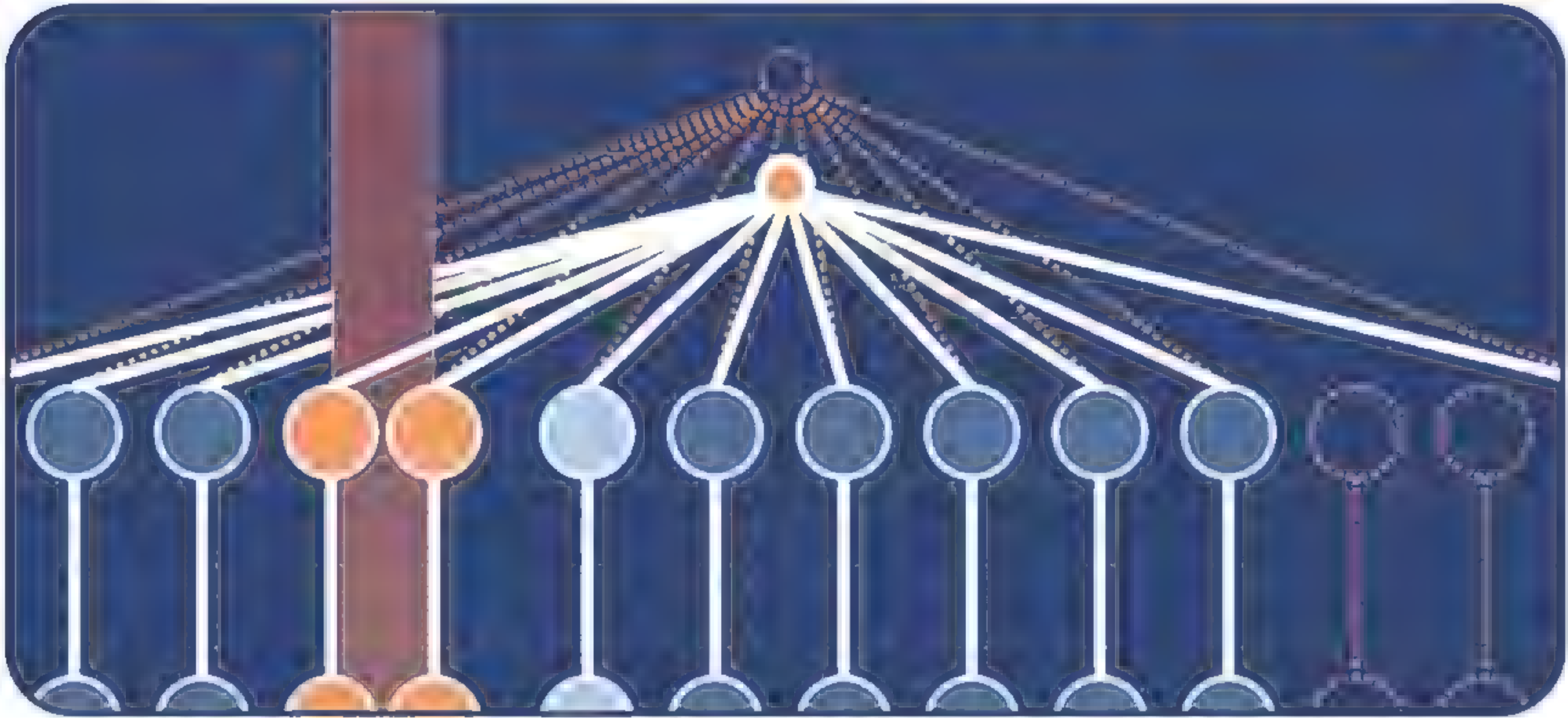


"IN ADDITION, THAT TINY CONTRACTION CAUSED TWO UNIVERSES TO SMASH TOGETHER AT THE *INCURSION POINT* OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"AND THIS IS WHERE YOU REALLY WANT TO PAY ATTENTION... THAT *POINT* WAS *EARTH*."



"THEY TOUCHED, AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER-- TAKING THEIR UNIVERSES WITH THEM--CAUSING YET ANOTHER CONTRACTION IN THE TIMELINE."



"WHICH IN TURN ACCELERATED THE SMASHING TOGETHER OF EVEN MORE EARTHS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSES."





WELL THAT'S...
JUST PERFECT,
AND FOREBODING
AS HELL.

WE HAVE
TO FIND A
WAY TO STOP
THIS.

A MULTIVERSAL
APOCALYPTIC DEATH
SCENARIO...SURE, I'D
SAY IT'S A SITUATION
THAT NEEDS
HANDLING.



OUR PROBLEM IS THAT
WE HAVE TOO MANY
UNKNOWNNS.

WHAT'S THE
SOURCE OF THE
COLLAPSE? CAN THE CHAIN
REACTION BE STOPPED?
CAN IT EVEN BE
SLOWED DOWN?



WE DO
HAVE THE
TECHNOLOGY THAT
THE BLACK SWAN
HAD ON HER
PERSON.

THIS INCLUDES
THE TRIGGER
MECHANISM TO
WHATEVER DESTROYED
THE OTHER PLANET,
SO THERE'S--



LET
ME STOP THIS
CONVERSATION
RIGHT HERE.

WE ARE
GOING TO HANDLE
THIS EXACTLY LIKE
WE NORMALLY
WOULD.

WE WILL
PREPARE, GATHER
INTELLIGENCE, AND WHEN
THE NEXT EPISODE OCCURS,
USE THAT INFORMATION
TO FIGURE OUT A
WAY TO WIN.

BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT
WE DO.



THERE'S A
GOOD CHANCE
THAT WON'T
WORK, CAP.

WE WON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
TIME.

WHY
NOT?



ACCORDING
TO THE SWAN,
THERE ARE
CONSTANTS.

CALL THEM
RULES.

"AS I STATED EARLIER, THE TIME WHEN TWO EARTHS BEGIN TO COLLIDE IS CALLED AN **INCURSION**, AND EVERY SINGLE ONE IS EXACTLY THE SAME.

"BEFORE THEY BEGIN, THERE IS A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF HARMONIC ALIGNMENT, WHICH IS WHAT ALLOWS THE TWO EARTHS TO EXIST IN THE SAME SPACE.



"THE SINGLE BIT OF GOOD NEWS HERE IS THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DETECT THIS, AND THEREFORE CREATE AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. SO, AT LEAST WE'LL KNOW WHEN ONE IS COMING.

"REGARDLESS, ONCE THE **INCURSION** ACTUALLY BEGINS, OUR TIME TO ACT GROWS VERY SHORT...

"AS EACH **INCURSION** LASTS EXACTLY 8 HOURS.

"AT THE END OF THOSE 8 HOURS, WHAT FOLLOWS IS EXTREMELY SIMPLE. EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED, ALONG WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSES, AS THEY SMASH TOGETHER...



"...OR ONE EARTH IS DESTROYED, WHICH ELIMINATES THE INCURSION POINT BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSES, SPARING THEM BOTH.

"EIGHT HOURS. ONE EVENT-- TWO POSSIBLE OUTCOMES."



NOW, ADMITTEDLY, THE BLACK SWAN COULD BE LYING--I DID NOT HAVE THAT MUCH TIME WITH HER AND I DEFINITELY THINK SHE'S LEAVING SOME THINGS OUT--BUT BIOMETRICS SHOWED NO SIGNS OF OUTRIGHT DECEPTION.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE MINOR POINT THAT SHE APPEARED TO DESTROY THE OTHER WORLD, THEREBY SPARING OURS AND SAVING HERSELF.

SO, FOR NOW, HER STORY CHECKS OUT.



EIGHT HOURS. THAT'S ALL WE'LL HAVE.

T'CHALLA?

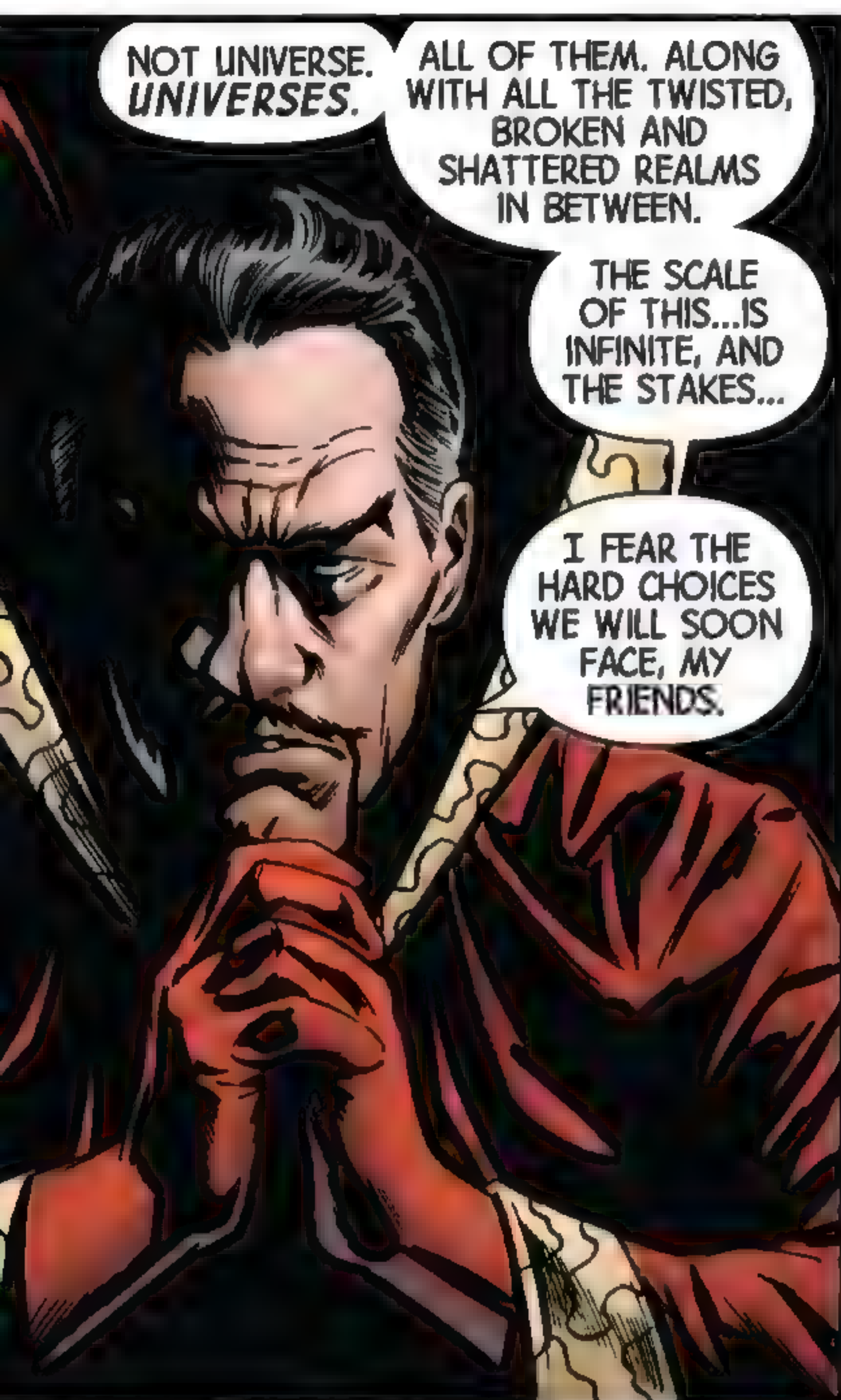


NOW
ALL OF YOU
UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T
ASK FOR THE COUNSEL
OF OTHER MEN--I DON'T
NEED IT. I HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN CAPABLE OF MAKING THE
IMPOSSIBLE DECISION ON MY
OWN. BUT THIS--IT IS BEYOND
ME OR ANY SINGLE ONE
OF US.

SO HERE WE
ARE, AN UNHOLY
ALLIANCE THAT JUST
MIGHT BE THE EARTH'S
ONLY HOPE.

HELP ME
SAVE MY PEOPLE.
HELP ME SAVE OUR
WORLD--AND THE
VERY *UNIVERSE*
ITSELF.



NOT UNIVERSE.
UNIVERSES.

ALL OF THEM. ALONG
WITH ALL THE TWISTED,
BROKEN AND
SHATTERED REALMS
IN BETWEEN.

THE SCALE
OF THIS...IS
INFINITE, AND
THE STAKES...

I FEAR THE
HARD CHOICES
WE WILL SOON
FACE, MY
FRIENDS.



HARD
CHOICES.
HA!

OPEN YOUR EYES. THE
WOMAN YOU HAVE IN
CAPTIVITY DESTROYED AN
ENTIRE WORLD--EXACTLY
WHAT DO YOU THINK
LIES ON THE PATH
BEFORE US?

THE OCEANS
HAVE TURNED
TO BLOOD.

THE QUESTION
YOU HAVE TO
ASK IS, WHO HERE
WOULD KILL TO
SAVE THEIR WORLD?



RRRUMMBLEEE





GENTLEMEN. IF WE LOSE OUR HEADS--IF WE LOSE OUR ABILITY TO THINK CLEARLY, THEN WE HAVE NO HOPE.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM THAT DEMANDS A PERFECT SOLUTION.

TO FIND THAT, WE NEED TIME, AND WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITHOUT TETHER, WHICH MEANS **SECREC**Y.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT AS ABHORRENT AS IT IS...



IF THIS *IS* THE END OF EVERYTHING, THEN PERHAPS IT'S BEST FOR **EVERYTHING** TO REMAIN ON THE TABLE WHILE WE SEARCH FOR AN ANSWER.



ANTHONY... WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?



THESE ARE NOT THINGS LIGHTLY SAID, CAPTAIN. WE ARE--

NO.



I WILL NOT TOLERATE--I WILL NOT ALLOW--ANY TALK OF THE NECESSITY OF NECESSARY EVIL.

I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE ON THAT LINE AND EVERY TIME I'VE SEEN SOMEONE CROSS IT, DEATH AND HORROR AND SHAME WAS WHAT FOLLOWED.

SO I REFUSE TO ENTERTAIN IT...



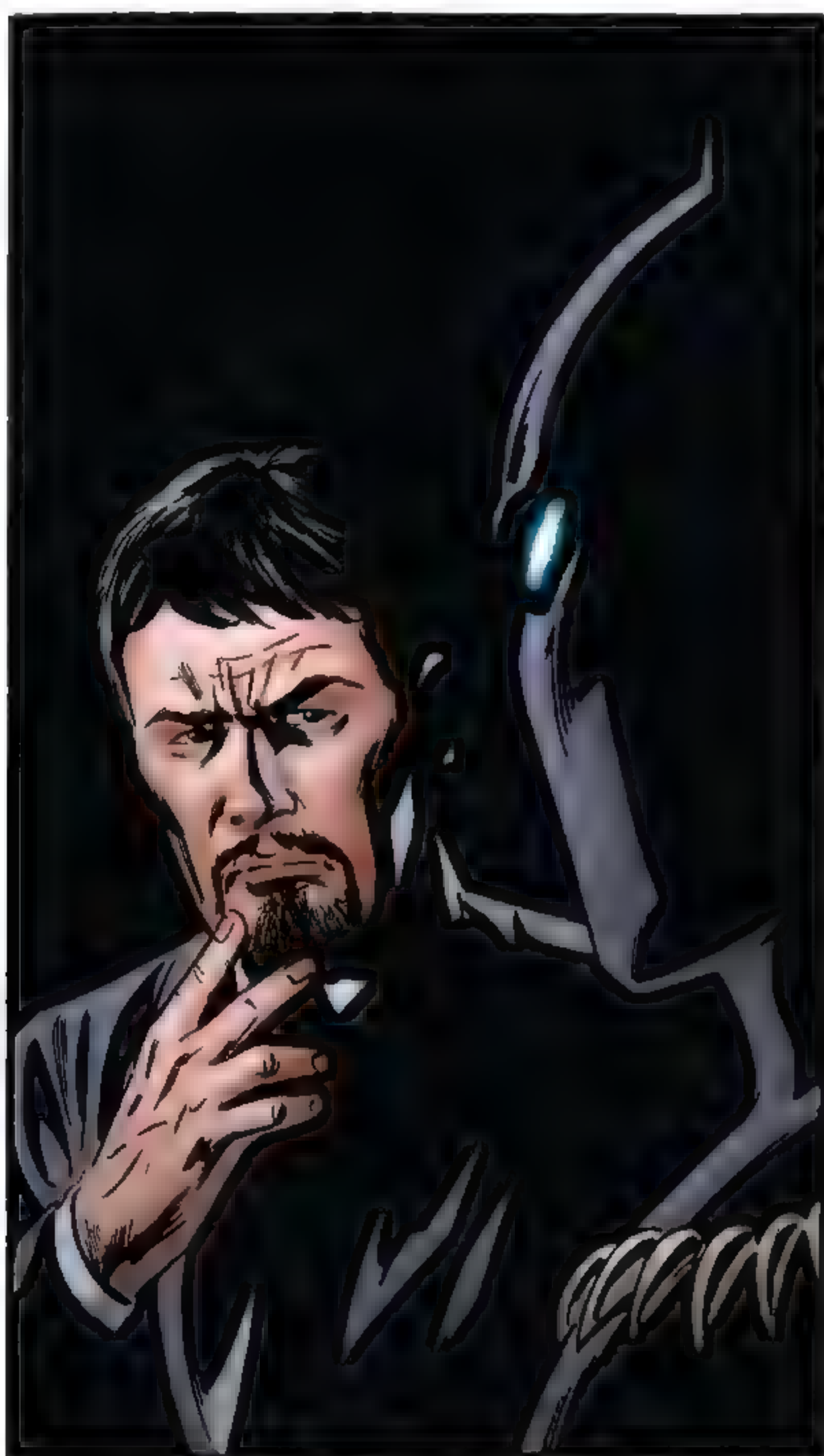
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DON'T HAVE TO.

OH?



REMEMBER?

WE HAVE
SOMETHING BETTER...
WE JUST HAVE TO
BE WILLING TO
USE IT.



WE WOULD
NEED ALL SIX OF
THE GEMS TO
BE SURE.



CHARLES
XAVIER IS DEAD,
AND THE LOCATION
OF THE *MIND*
GEM LOST
WITH HIM.



NO. WE
CAN USE THE
FIVE WE HAVE TO
FIND HIS--THE STONES
WANT TO BE
TOGETHER.



BE-
DOOP

SO WE
AGREE?

WE
REASSEMBLE
THE INFINITY
GAUNTLET?



YES.

ANTHONY,
T'CHALLA AND I CAN
BEGIN CONSTRUCTING
THE *INCURSION*
EARLY WARNING
SYSTEM.

WHILE NAMOR,
BLACK BOLT AND
I WILL FIND
XAVIER'S GEM.



OKAY.
GOOD.

NOW...I
WANT EVERYONE
TO LOOK
AT ME.



YES, THIS
IS MASSIVE.
YES, IT IS
NIGHT.

BUT
REMEMBER, WE
SHAPE THE WORLD...
IT DOES NOT
SHAPE US...





LATER.



CAP AND THE OTHERS
ARE PREPARING TO
LEAVE--TONY HAS BEGUN
ASSEMBLING THE
EARLY WARNING
DEVICE.



WELL,
THEN...



IT APPEARS
EVERYTHING'S
GOING TO WORK
OUT FINE...

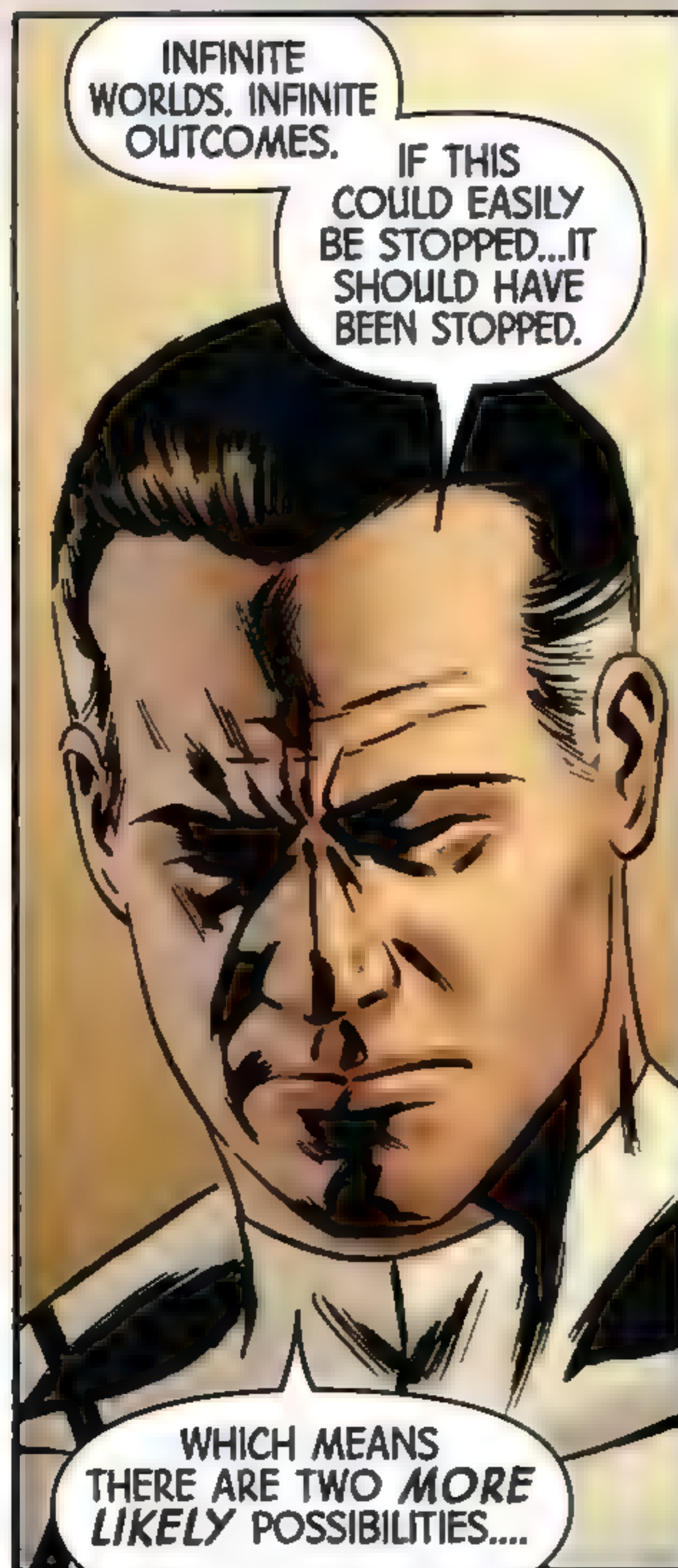
BUT WE
KNOW BETTER
THAN THAT,
DON'T WE?



INFINITE
WORLDS. INFINITE
OUTCOMES.

IF THIS
COULD EASILY
BE STOPPED...IT
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN STOPPED.

WHICH MEANS
THERE ARE TWO MORE
LIKELY POSSIBILITIES....



RIGHT.
THE PROBLEM IS
SYSTEMIC--INHERENT TO
THE STRUCTURE OF THE
UNIVERSE--AND UNABLE
TO BE CORRECTED,
OR...

GO
ON.

IT'S NOT.
AND SOMETHING IS
ACTIVELY WORKING
TOWARDS THE DEATH
OF EVERYTHING.





REED...

WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO
DO IF THIS PLAN
DOESN'T
WORK?

TONY WAS
RIGHT.

WE NEED
TIME, AND WE
HAVE NONE. WE NEED
CHOICES...SO ALL
POSSIBLE OPTIONS
MUST STAY ON
THE TABLE.

WE WILL TRY
EVERY GOOD
AND RIGHTEOUS
SOLUTION
WE CAN.

AND IF
THOSE DON'T
WORK?



THEN WE
TEACH OURSELVES
TO DO THE
UNTHINKABLE...



IT **BREAKS**
HOPE--IT CRUSHES
WHAT MAKES US
DECENT AND **STEALS**
WHAT LITTLE HONOR
REMAINS.

YOU HAVE...
NO IDEA WHAT
IS COMING.



WE HAVE
TO LEARN HOW
TO DESTROY
A WORLD.



"INFINITY"

NEW YORK.



AS YOU KNOW, THE VARIOUS JOINT TRUSTS AND HOLDINGS THAT YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF THE ESTATE.

THERE WAS, HOWEVER, ONE ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE WILL FALLING OUTSIDE THE EXECUTOR'S PURVIEW THAT I WAS INSTRUCTED TO DISTRIBUTE PRIVATELY AND IN PERSON...

DOCTOR HENRY MCCOY, CHARLES XAVIER WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS.



OH, PROFESSOR...

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US.





I WILL HAVE
BURIED THIS MEMORY
DEEP WITHIN YOUR
MIND, HENRY...

SO IF YOU ARE RECALLING
IT, THAT MEANS YOU HAVE
RECEIVED THE TRIGGER...

AND IT
ALSO MEANS
THAT I AM
GONE.



I HOPE
MY END
WAS NOT IN
VAIN.

FWSSHHH!



WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER
LONG ENOUGH THAT WE'VE
OUTGROWN IDEALIZED VIEWS
OF ONE ANOTHER.

YEARS AGO,
YOU STOPPED BEING JUST
A BRILLIANT YOUNG STUDENT AND I
AM CERTAINLY NO LONGER THE WISE
PROFESSOR—I'VE BEEN AS MUCH A
FOOL AS ANY MAN.

THE POINT
BEING, I KNOW
YOU, HENRY, AND
YOU KNOW ME.



I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THE
BURDEN I AM ABOUT TO PLACE
ON YOU IS THE HIGHEST
PRAISE I CAN OFFER.

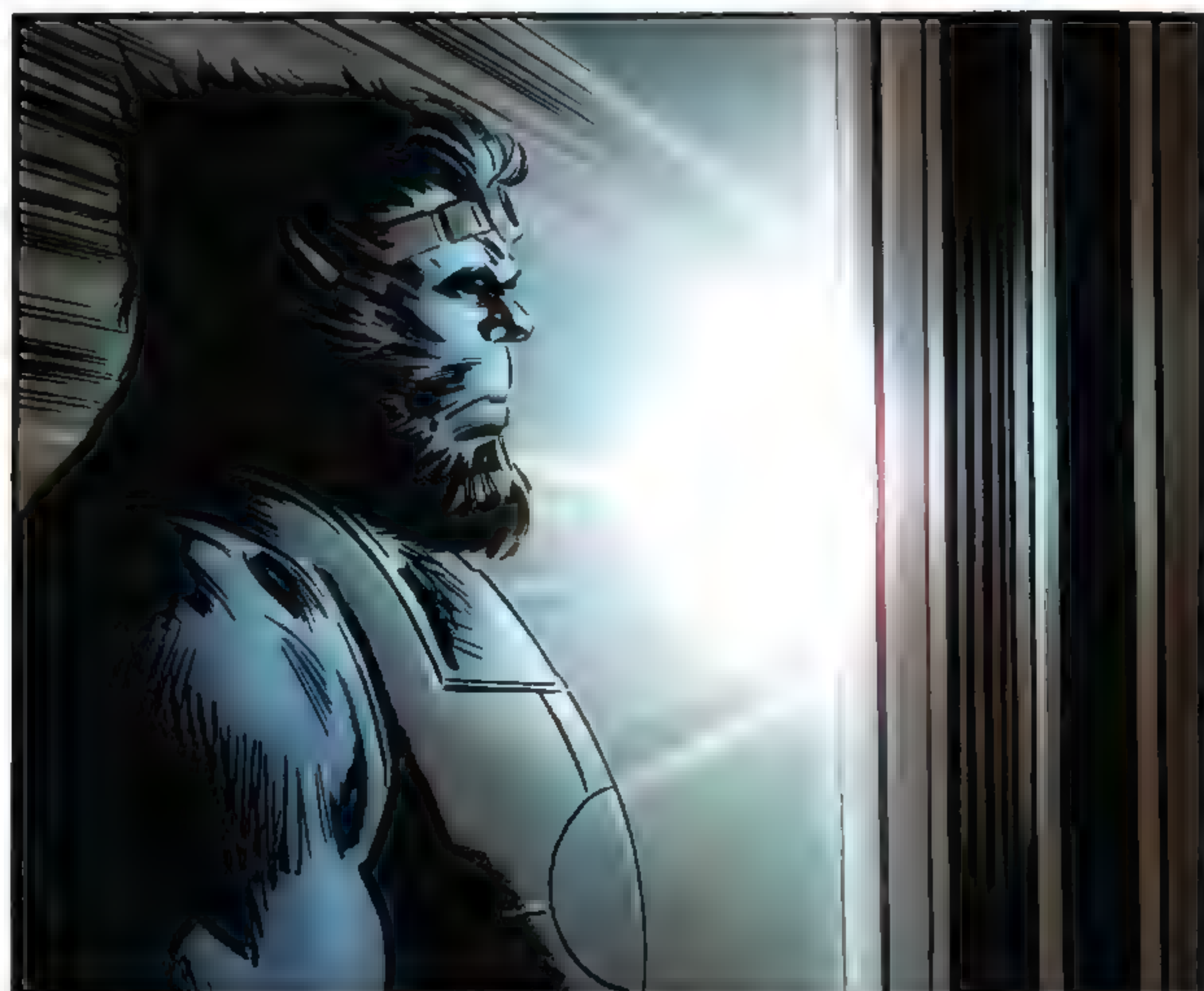
I ALSO
HOPE YOU CAN
FIND IT IN YOUR
HEART TO SOMEDAY
FORGIVE ME WHEN
YOU FIND OUT
WHAT I HAVE
DONE.



INSIDE HERE ARE
JOURNALS. RECORDS
OF CLANDESTINE
ACTIVITIES.

I HAVE BEEN PART OF
SOMETHING THAT WAS
BOTH NECESSARY AND
UNTHINKABLE.

AND NOW,
BECAUSE OF WHAT
ELSE I HAVE LEFT IN
HERE...SO MUST YOU.





ONE DAY LATER.



YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL A SLIGHT PINCH.

YEEOW!

COME NOW, HENRY...YOU'RE EMBARRASSING YOURSELF.

THE DEVICE WE'RE PLACING IN YOUR PALM SERVES SEVERAL FUNCTIONS, DOCTOR MCCOY.

THE FIRST IS AS A KIND OF LIMITED COMMUNICATION DEVICE--AN ALERT SYSTEM, IF YOU WILL.

THAT'S IT, STEPHEN...YOU CAN CLOSE HIM UP NOW.

IT WILL BROADCAST CERTAIN SIMPLE COMMANDS TO EACH OF US. RUN. FIGHT. ASSEMBLE. AND SO ON...

ASSEMBLE, YOU SAY? FUNNY THAT, BECAUSE I DON'T EVER REMEMBER ACTUALLY AGREEING TO JOIN UP WITH THIS LITTLE CABAL.

I'VE HEARD WHAT YOU'VE HAD TO SAY, AND...

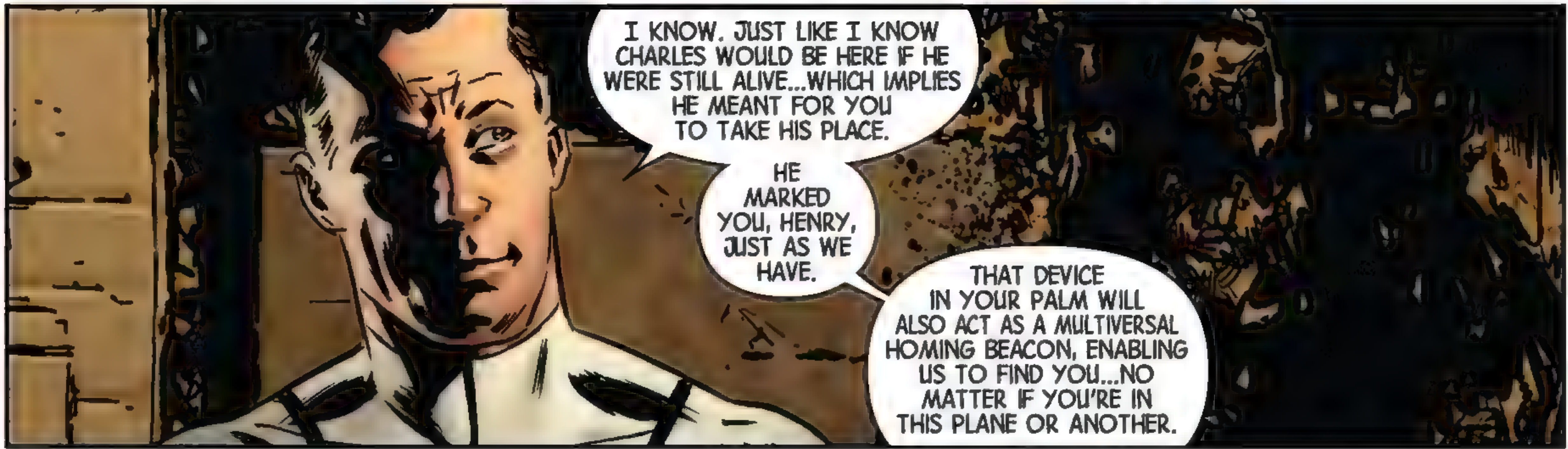
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE HERE.

THE BEAST MAKES A GOOD POINT, RICHARDS. WE SHOULD TAKE WHAT WE NEED AND SEND HIM ON HIS WAY.

THIS ONE LACKS THE CONSTITUTION FOR HARD DECISIONS.

THE PROFESSOR LEFT THE GEM FOR ME--ME, NOT YOU, NAMOR.

HE DID IT FOR A REASON.



I KNOW. JUST LIKE I KNOW CHARLES WOULD BE HERE IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE...WHICH IMPLIES HE MEANT FOR YOU TO TAKE HIS PLACE.

HE MARKED YOU, HENRY, JUST AS WE HAVE.

THAT DEVICE IN YOUR PALM WILL ALSO ACT AS A MULTIVERSAL HOMING BEACON, ENABLING US TO FIND YOU...NO MATTER IF YOU'RE IN THIS PLANE OR ANOTHER.



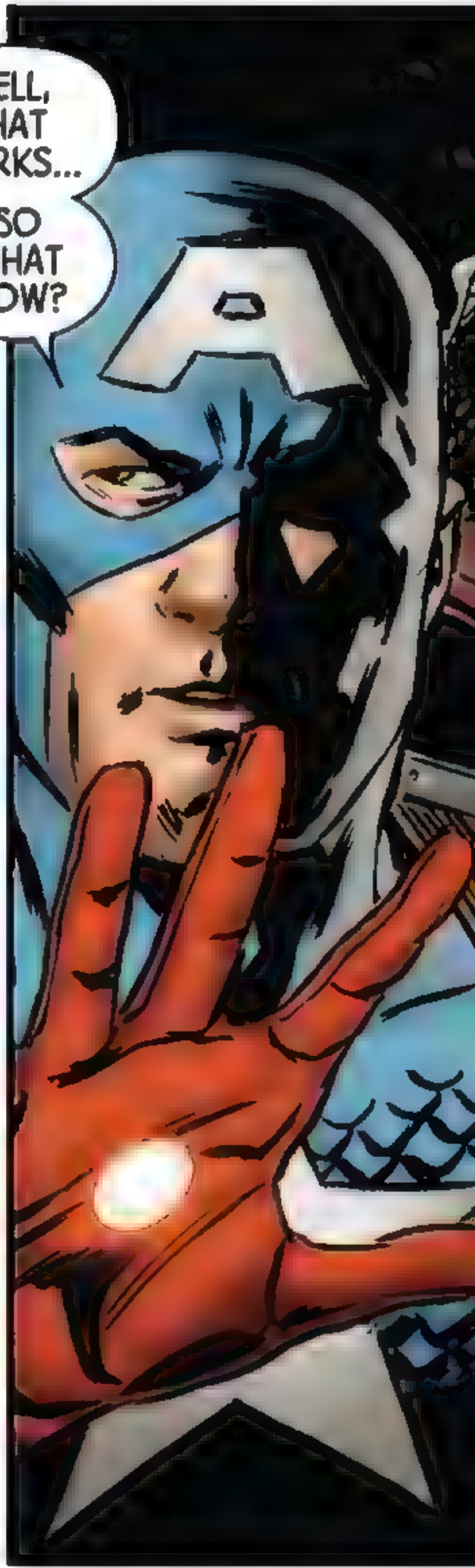
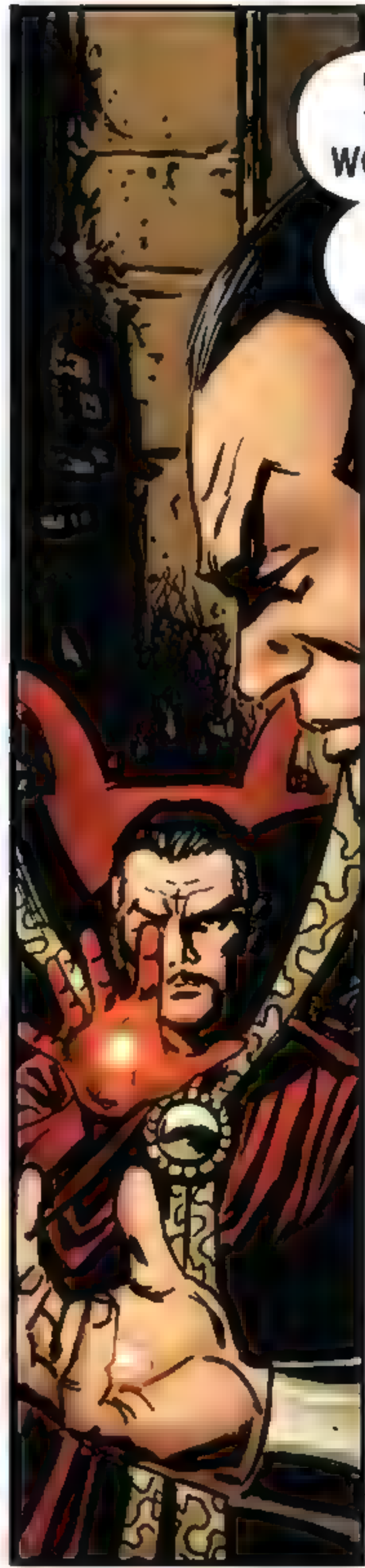
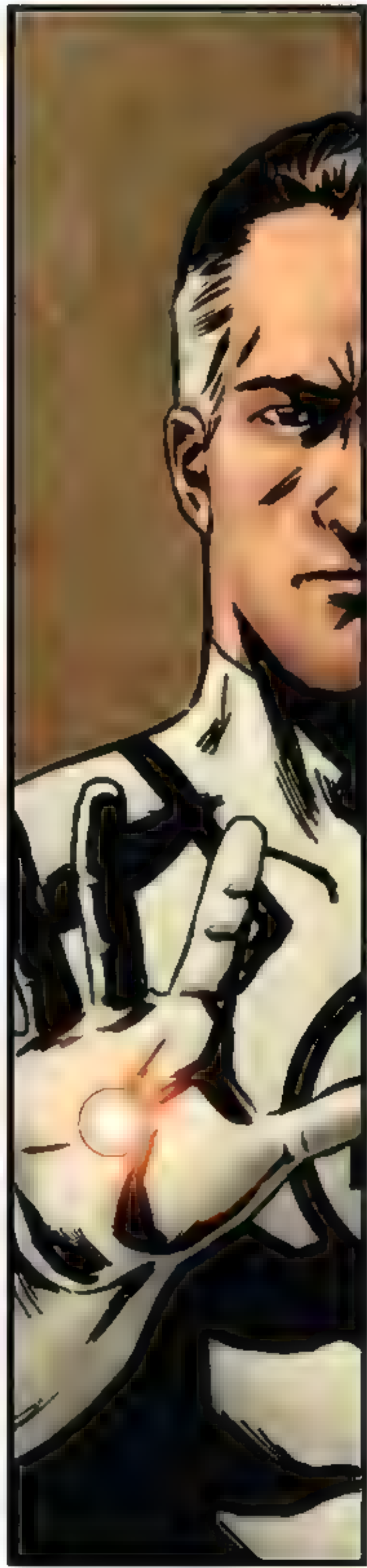
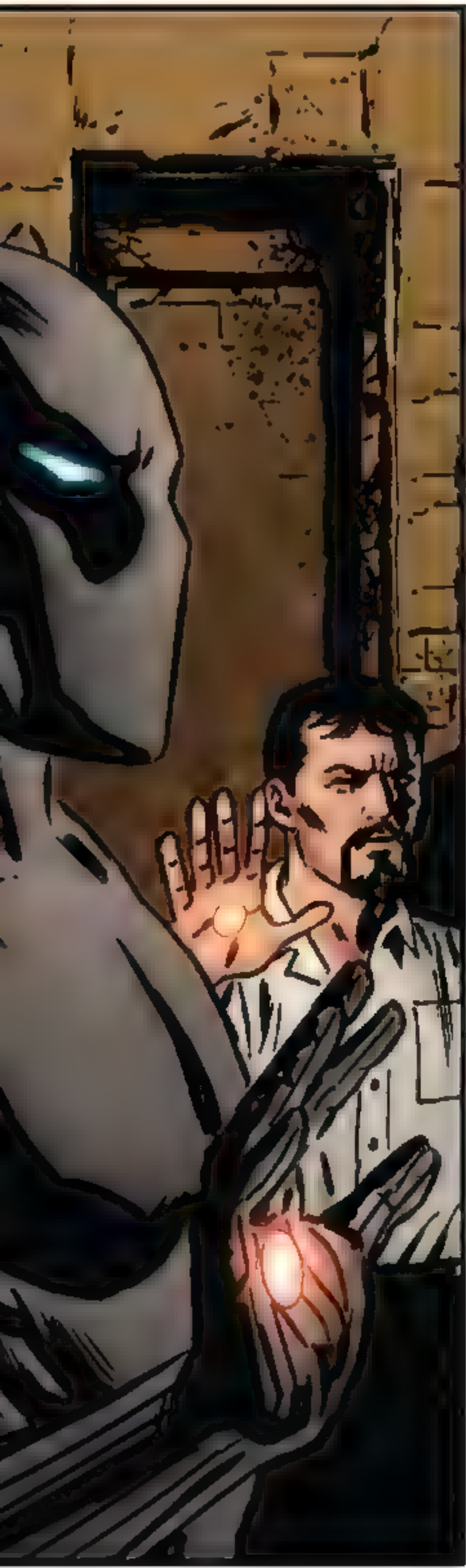
FINALLY, IT TIES INTO THIS...OUR EARLY WARNING SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD DETECT THE BEGINNING OF AN INCURSION.

WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO KNOW IF THE WORLD IS ENDING. T'CHALLA?

IT'S READY NOW, REED.

THEN LET'S TEST IT.

BE DOOP!



WELL, THAT WORKS...
SO WHAT NOW?

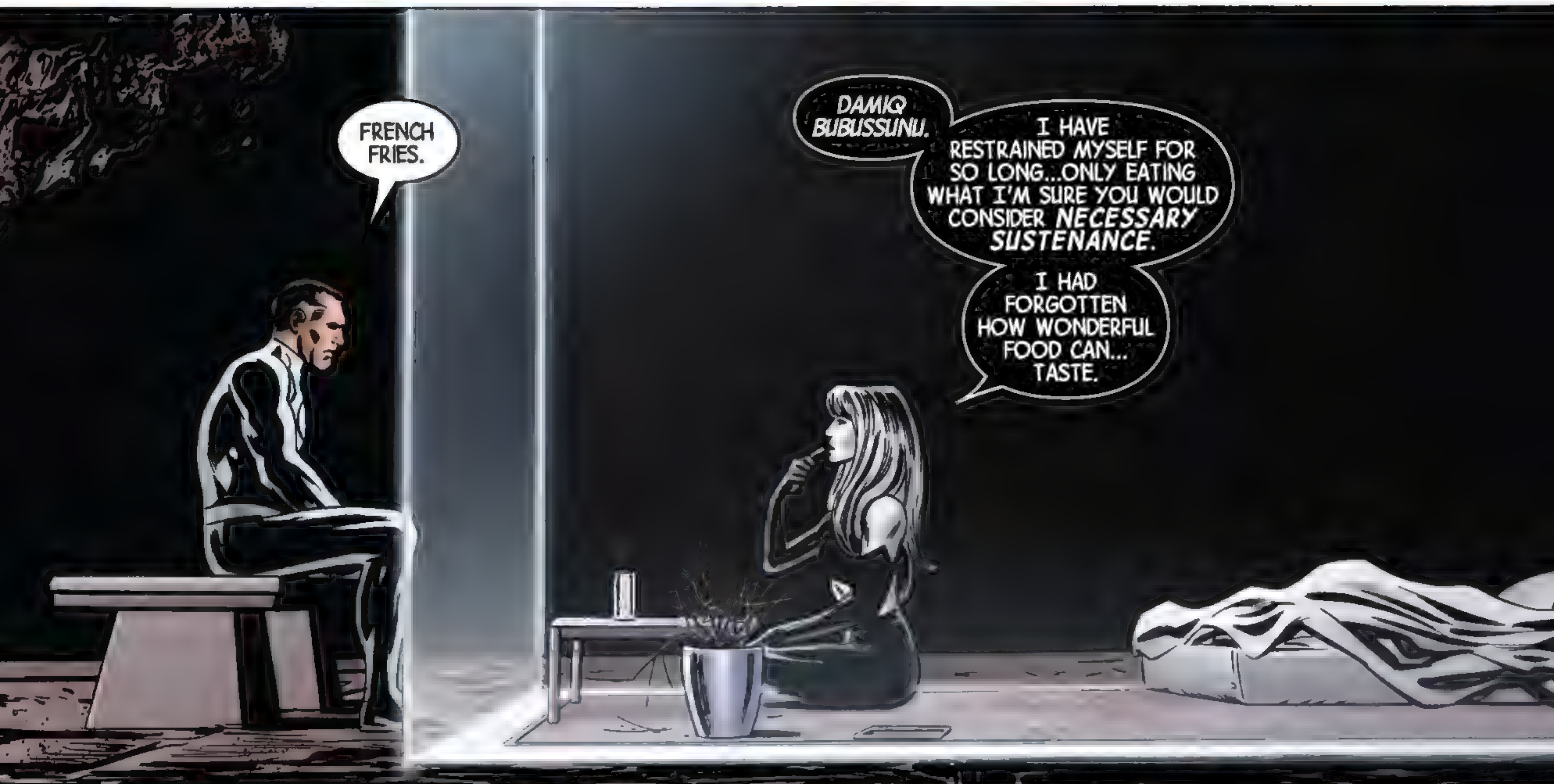


NOW WE WAIT FOR ANOTHER APOCALYPSE.

AND HOPE LIKE HELL YOUR IDEA WORKS.



LATER.



FRENCH
FRIES.

DAMIO
BUBUSSINI.

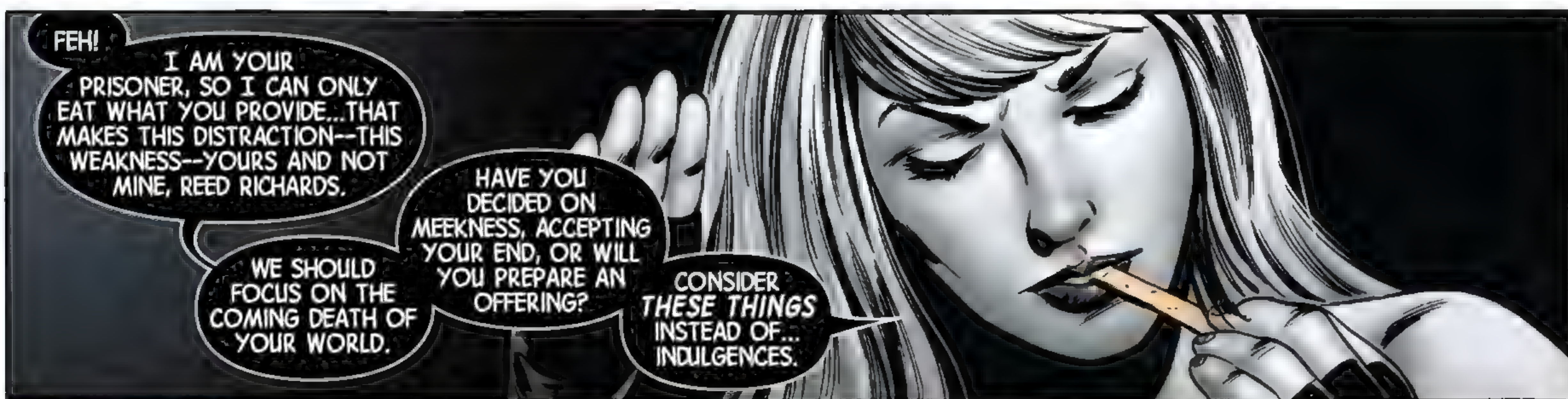
I HAVE
RESTRAINED MYSELF FOR
SO LONG...ONLY EATING
WHAT I'M SURE YOU WOULD
CONSIDER **NECESSARY**
SUSTENANCE.

I HAD
FORGOTTEN
HOW WONDERFUL
FOOD CAN...
TASTE.



WELL, IT'S
GOOD TO INDULGE
YOURSELF FROM
TIME TO TIME...

MAKES YOU
FEEL ALIVE...MAKES
YOU REMEMBER
YOU'RE HUMAN.



FEH!
I AM YOUR
PRISONER, SO I CAN ONLY
EAT WHAT YOU PROVIDE...THAT
MAKES THIS DISTRACTION--THIS
WEAKNESS--YOURS AND NOT
MINE, REED RICHARDS.

WE SHOULD
FOCUS ON THE
COMING DEATH OF
YOUR WORLD.

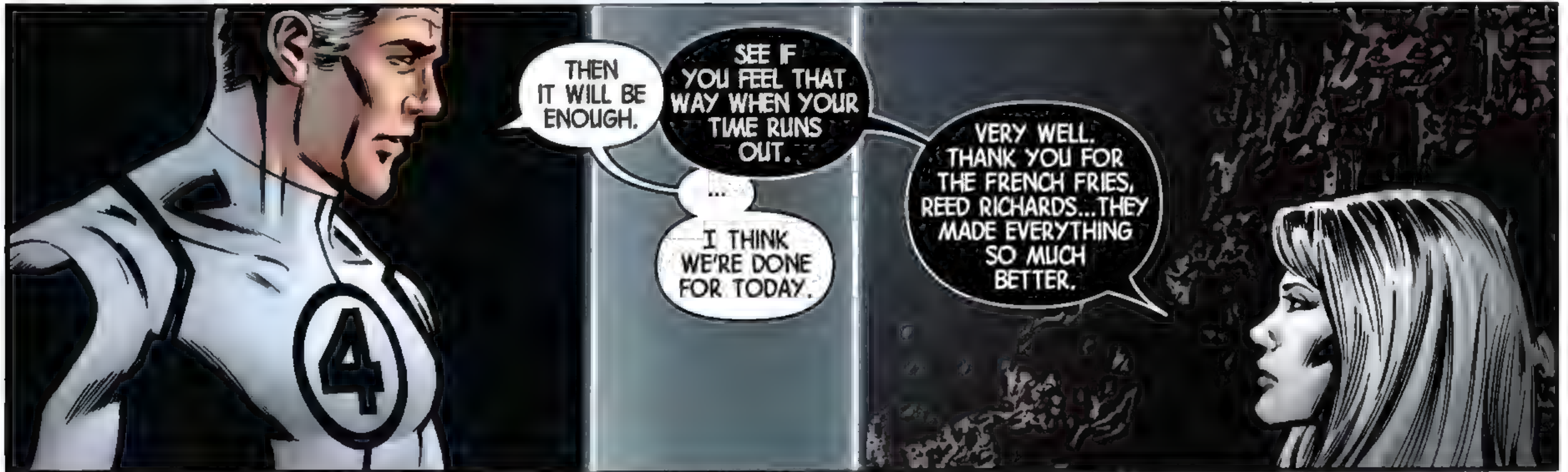
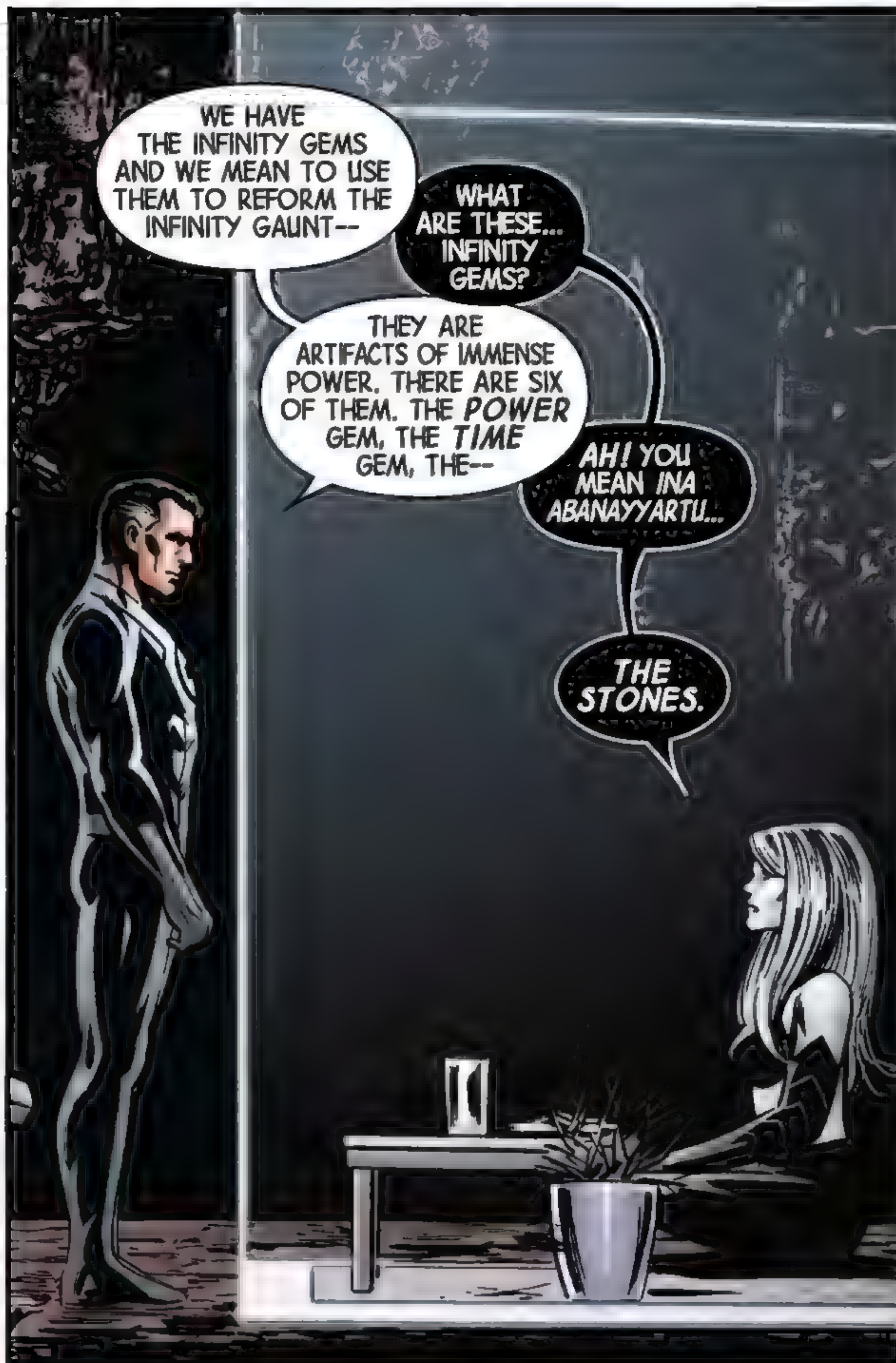
HAVE YOU
DECIDED ON
MEEKNESS, ACCEPTING
YOUR END, OR WILL
YOU PREPARE AN
OFFERING?

CONSIDER
THESE THINGS
INSTEAD OF...
INDULGENCES.



ALL I
THINK ABOUT
ARE **THOSE**
THINGS.

WE HAVE
A PLAN.



ONE DAY
LATER.



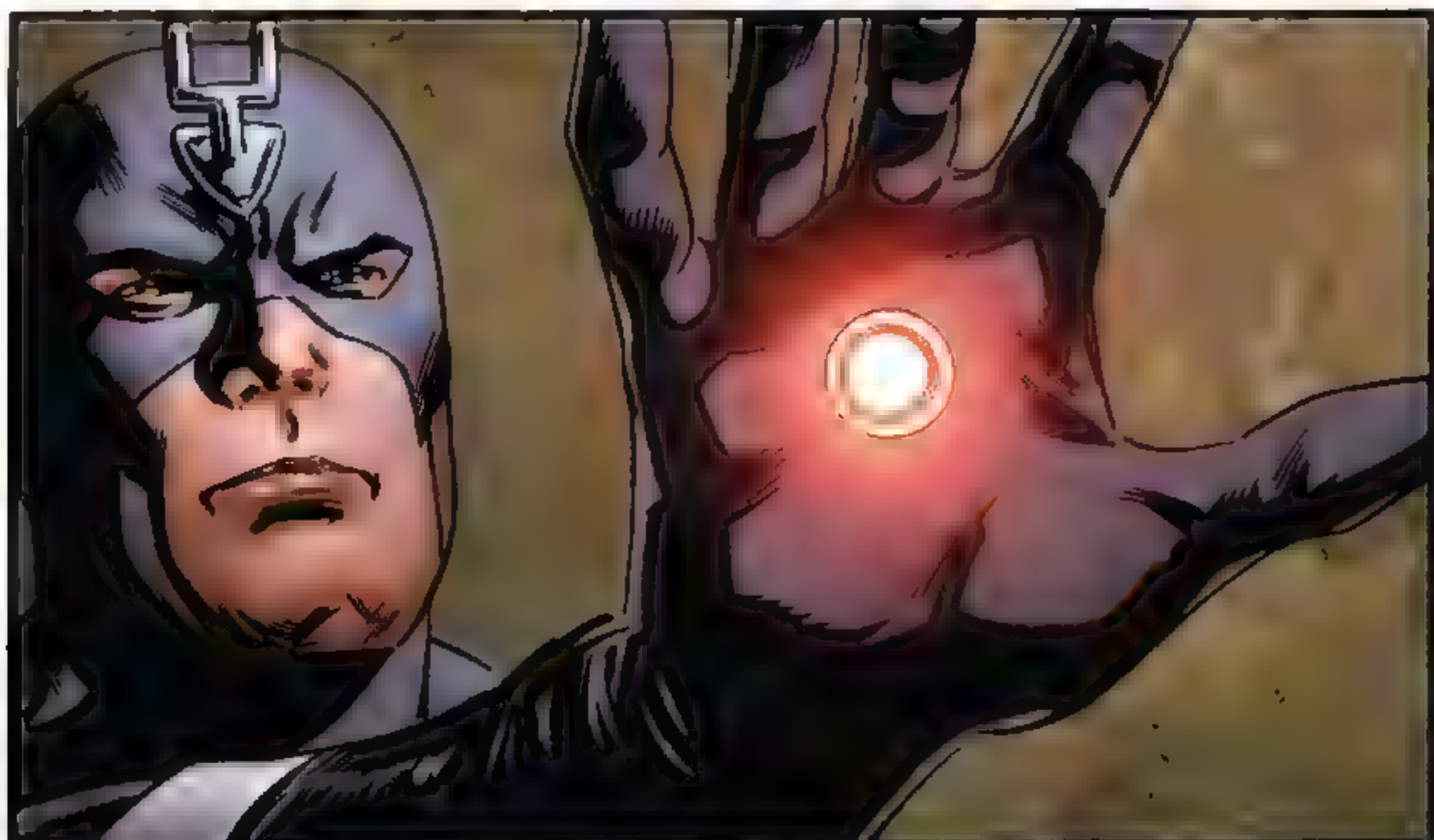
TWO DAYS
LATER.



THREE DAYS
LATER.



FOUR DAYS
LATER.



GILGIT-BALTISTAN, PAKISTAN. NOW.

FWASSH!

WE'RE HERE. SPREAD OUT AND...

WAIT... I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

DURING THE EVENT IN WAKANDA, I TRIED TO JUMP US CLEAR, BUT THE INCURSION WALL PREVENTED IT.

I BELIEVE THE SAME WOULD HOLD FOR JUMPING IN-- IT'S HERE SOMEWHERE.

YES, I'M REGISTERING THE CORRECT HARMONICS, BUT--



I WAS GETTING TO IT. AH...

TIGHTEN THE BEAM.

"THERE! FORTY YARDS UP THE FACE OF THE MOUNTAIN."

LESS THAN SEVEN HOURS UNTIL COLLAPSE. WE'LL HAVE TO GET FASTER AT THIS.

06:37:45

I'VE FOUND THE WALL EDGE.

"I'M
GOING
IN."



MY
GOD, IT'S
ALMOST TOO
MUCH...

AT THIS
RANGE THERE SHOULD
BE SOME ATMOSPHERIC
DISTURBANCE. AT THE VERY
LEAST MASSIVE WEATHER
DISTORTION...INSTEAD
IT'S...IT'S...

SERENE,
QUIET. ALMOST
LIKE THE WORLD
HAS ALREADY
SURRENDERED.

IT'S THE PHYSICS OF
IT THAT'S INTERESTING.
IF THE NORMAL LAWS
DON'T APPLY, IT COULD
BE HELPFUL. PRESENT
MORE POSSIBILITIES.

BUT THAT'S
FOR LATER...
NOW, WE GET
TO WORK.





FOCUS ON THE
GEMS. IMAGINE THE
SIX BECOMING
ONE...

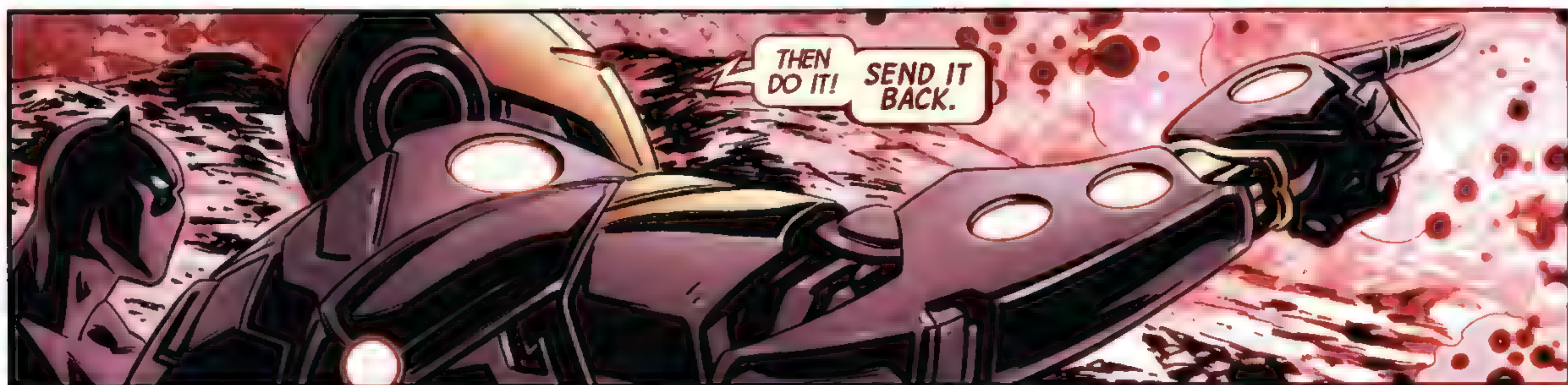
REMEMBER...THEY
WANT TO BE
TOGETHER.

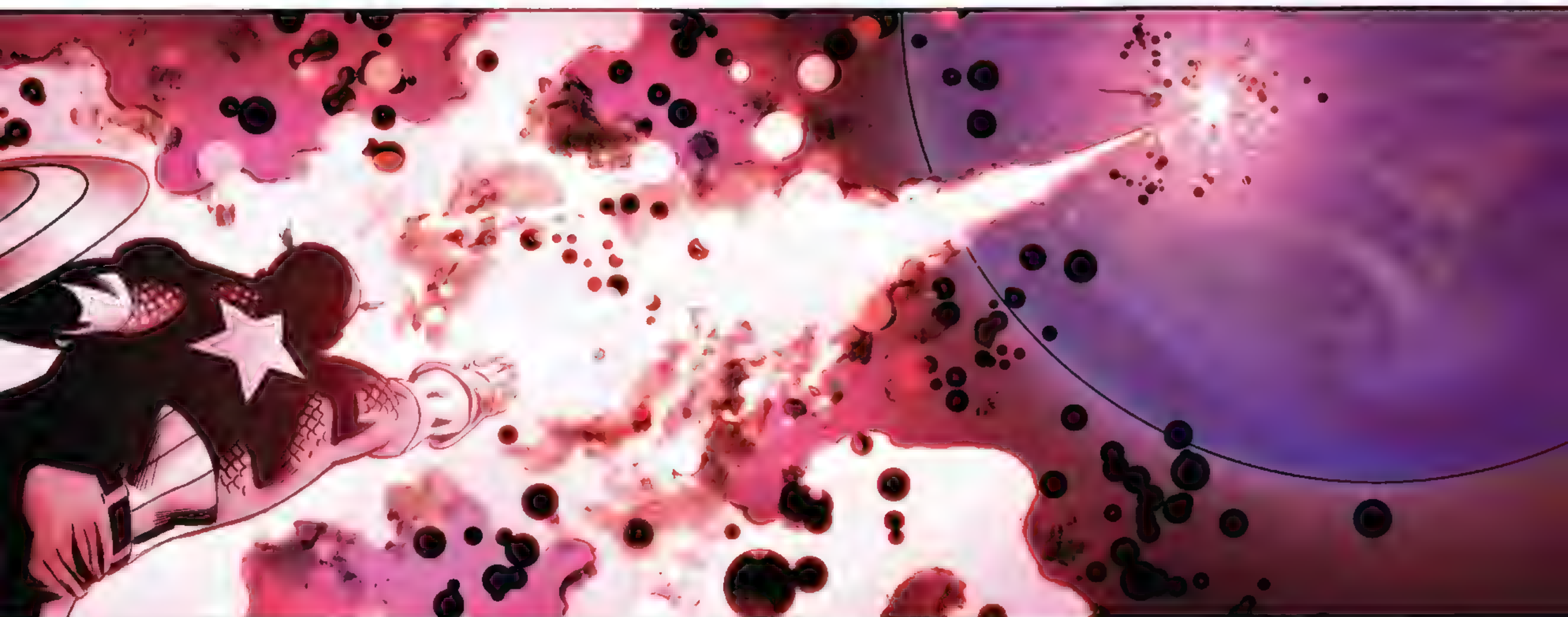
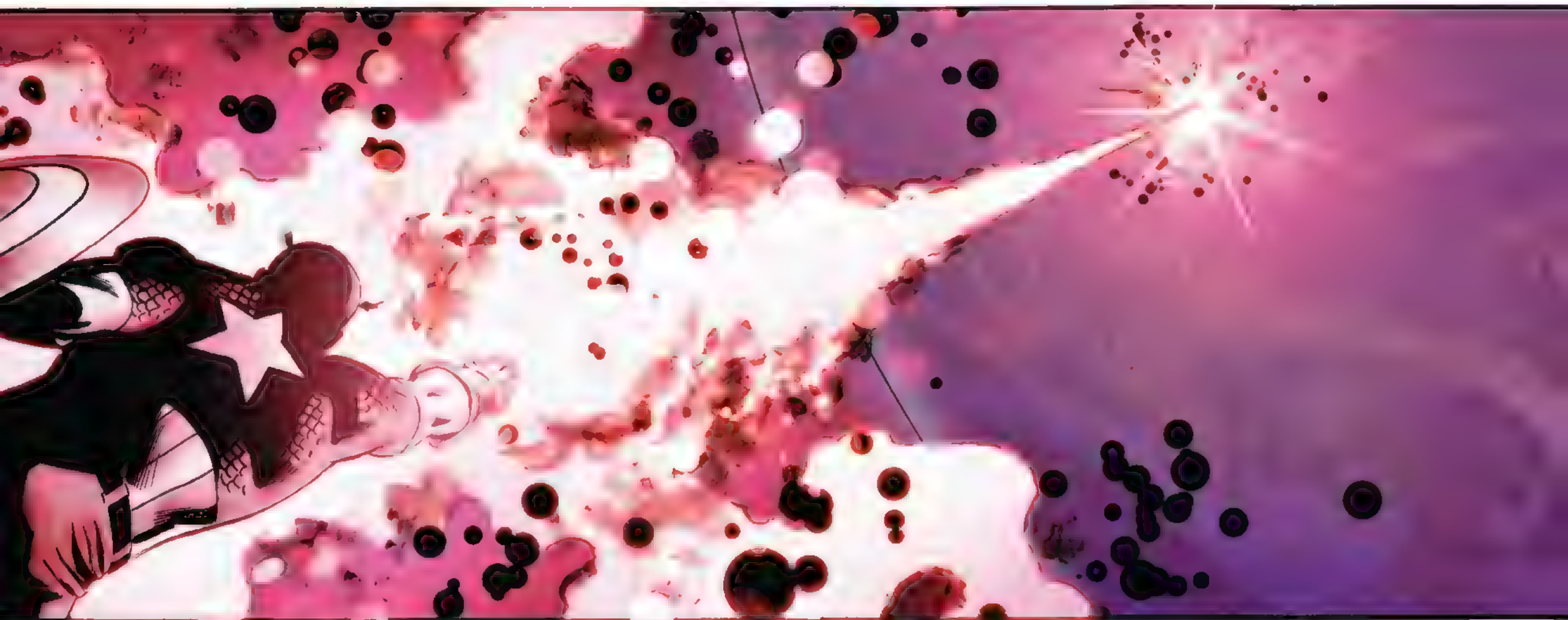


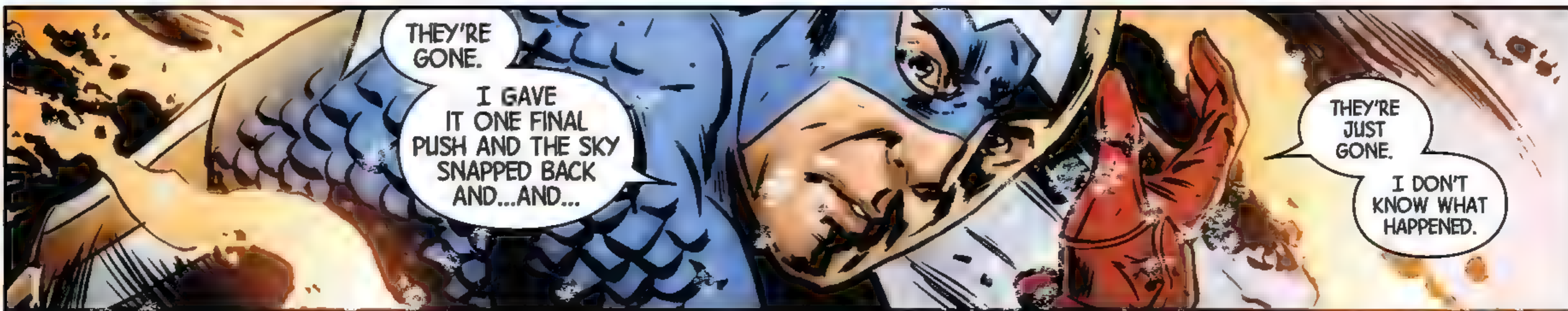
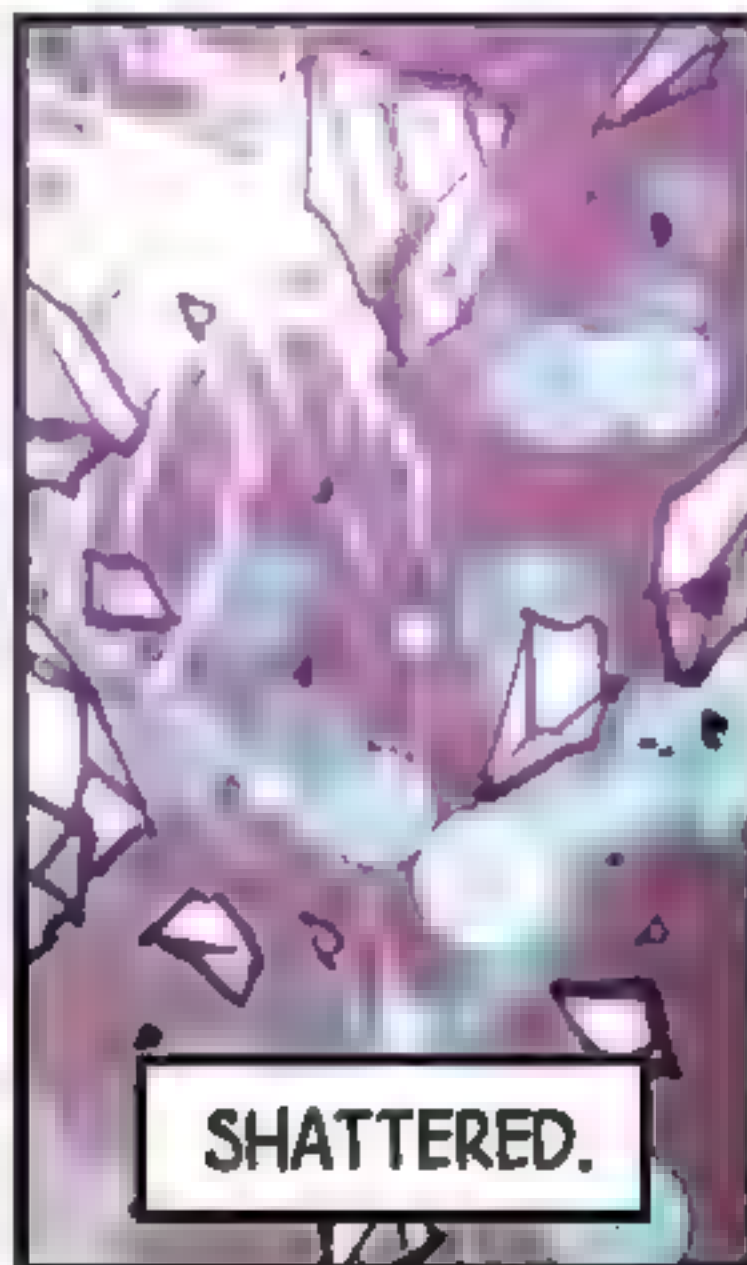
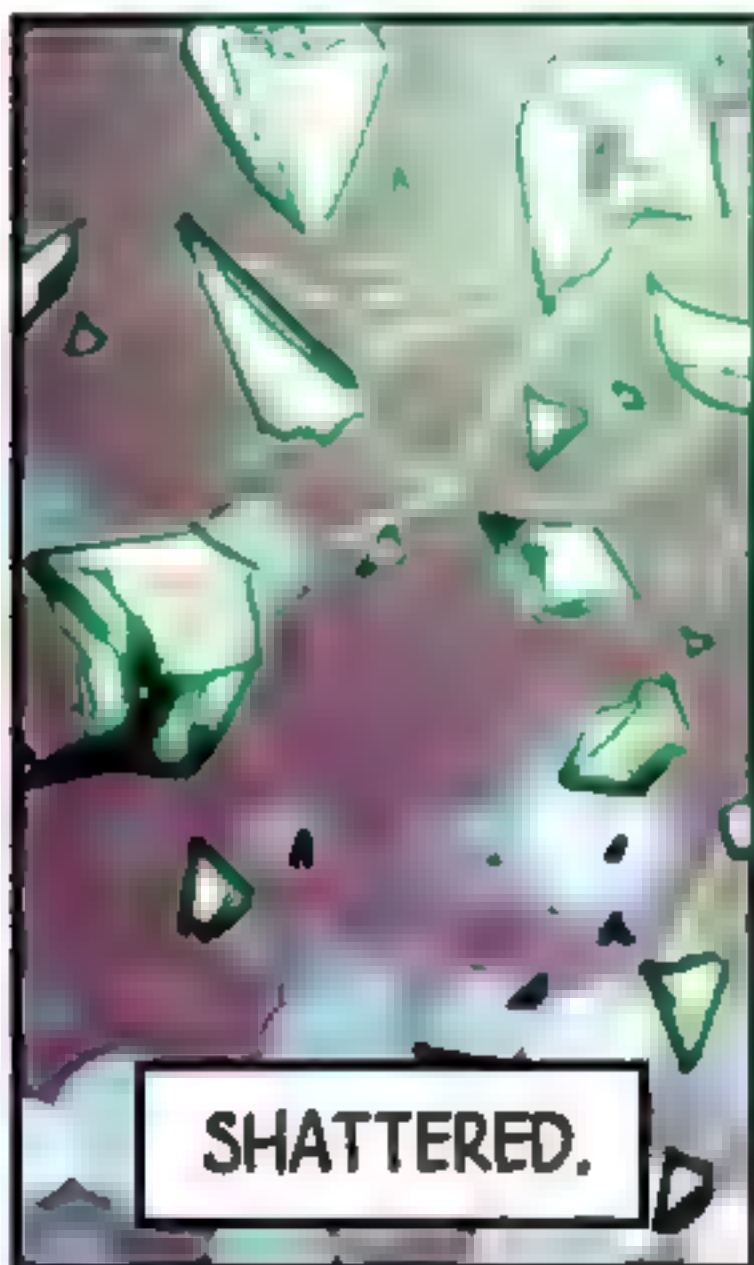
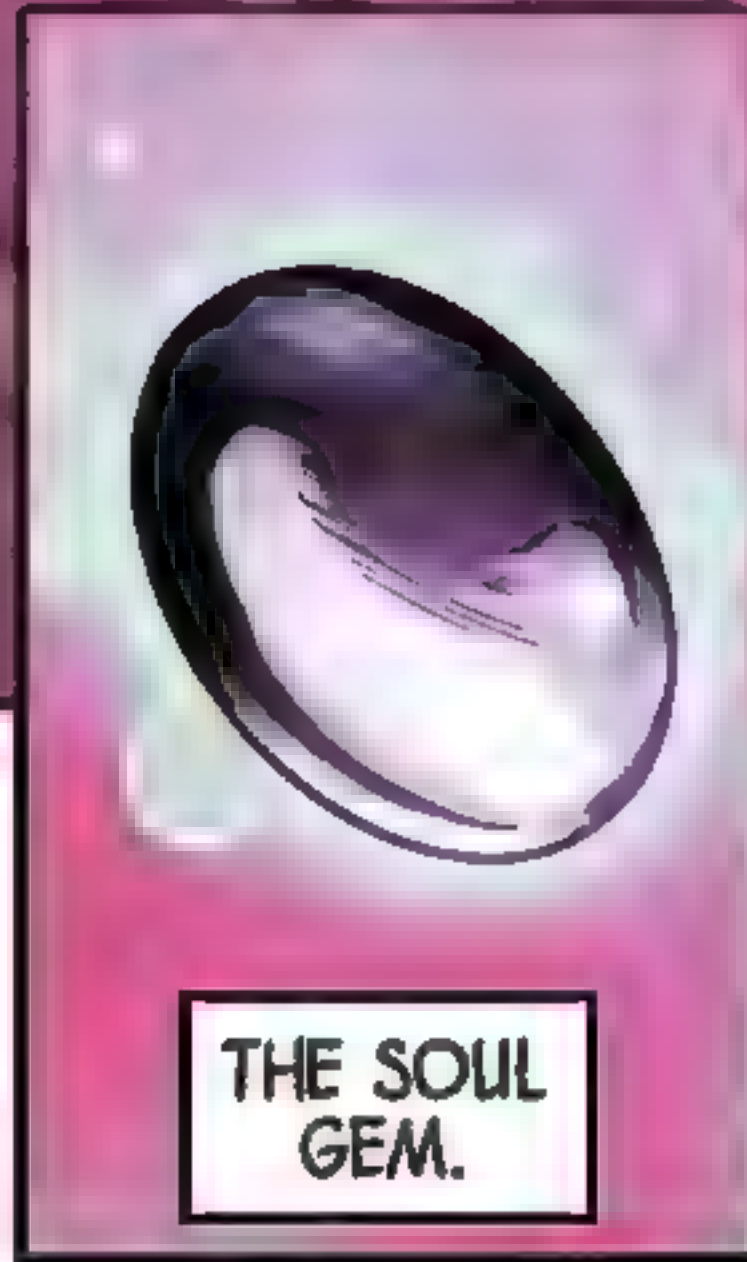
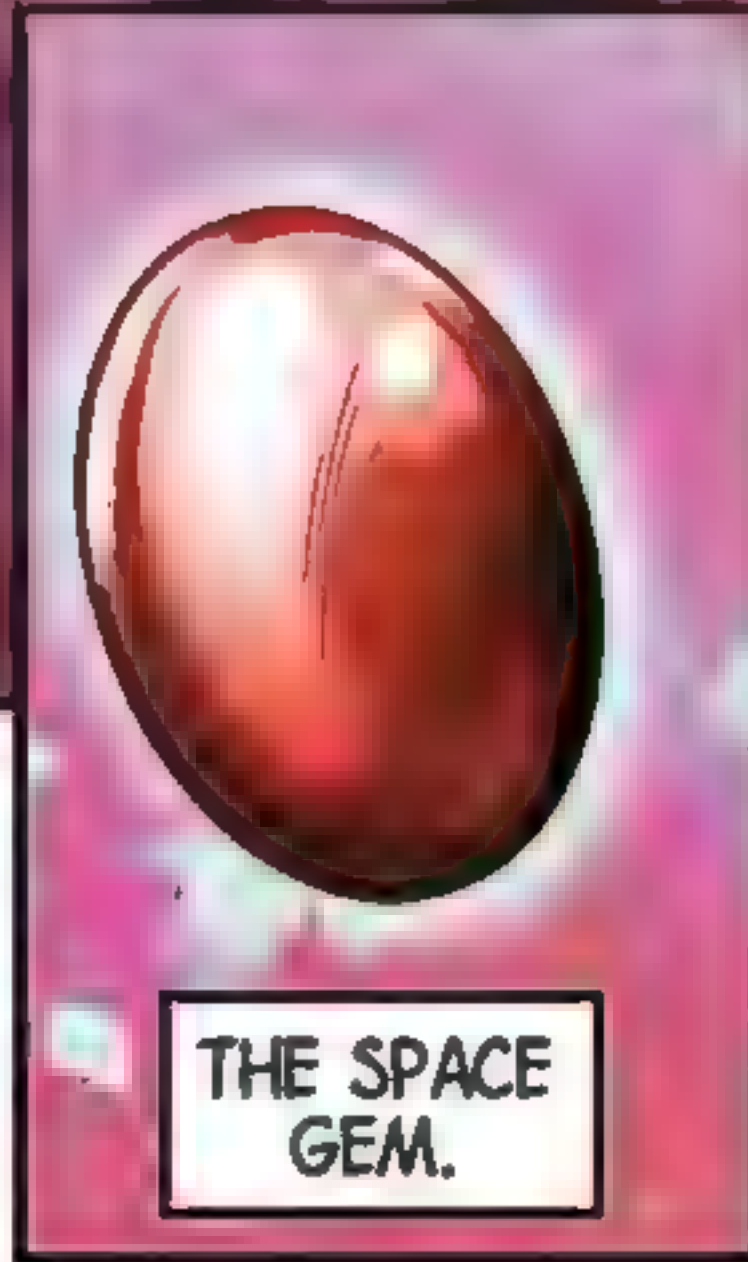
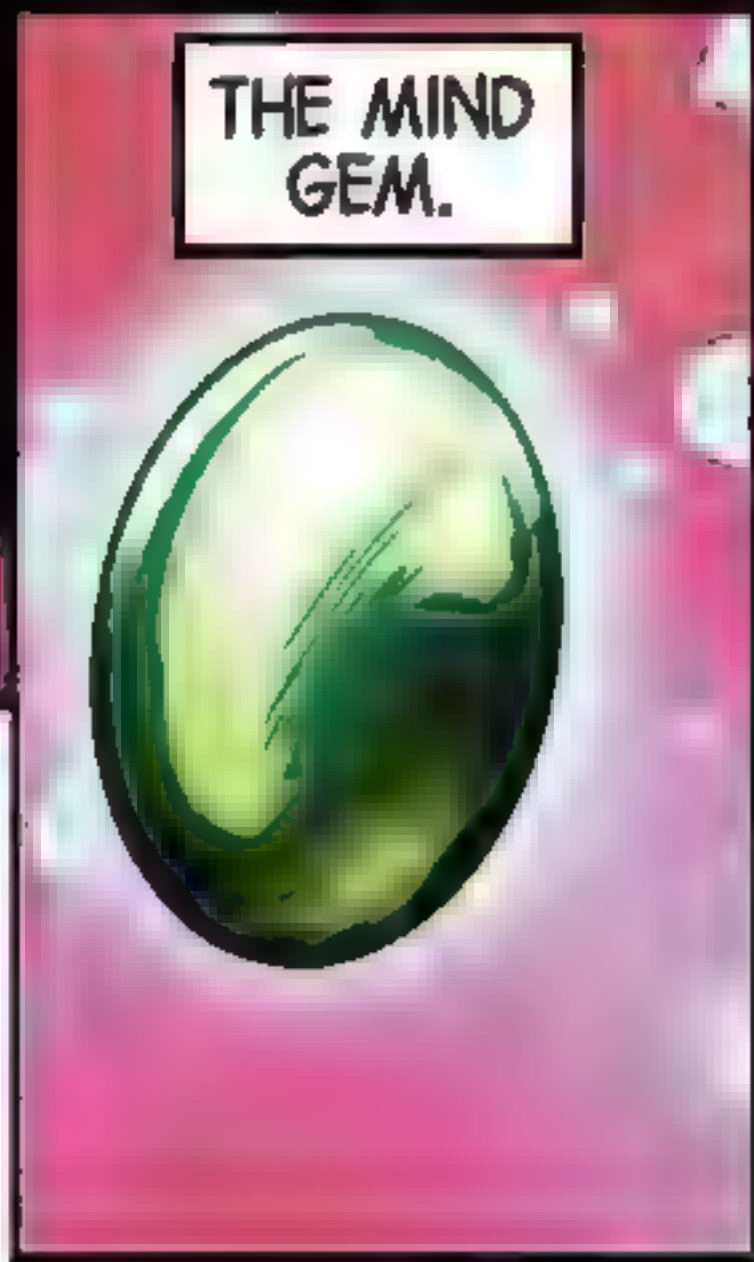
THEY
WANT TO BE
TOGETHER.

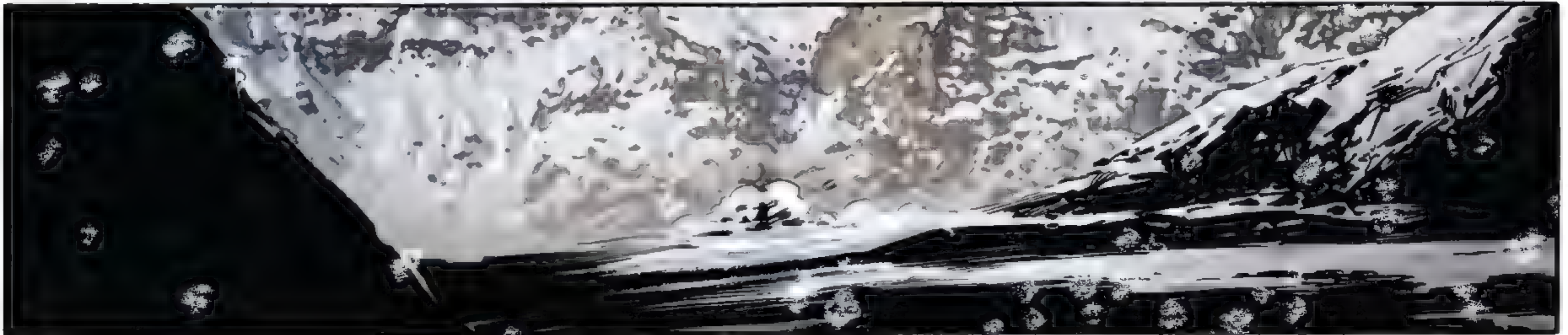
THE
INFINITY
GAUNTLET.











NECROPOLIS.
LATER.

EVERYONE'S
READY TO
RECONVENE.

WE'VE BEEN
SCREAMING AT
EACH OTHER FOR
HOURS, AND
I JUST...

WELL, IT'S
PEACEFUL
OUT HERE.

THIS
IS *SOME*
PLACE.

NECROPOLIS
IS A CITY
POPULATED BY THE
SPIRITS OF NOBLE
WARRIORS WHO
NEVER KNEW
DEFEAT.

IT'S
YOUR
KIND OF
PLACE.

WE
HAVE TO
GO.

IT'S
TIME.

HOLD
ON A
SECOND.

I KNOW
I'M LOCKED INTO
SEEING THINGS AS BLACK
AND WHITE, T'CHALLA--
THAT'S JUST WHO I AM.
BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE
GOING IN THERE...WHERE
THE DISCUSSION
IS HEADED...

EXPLORING
ALL AVENUES...
KEEPING OUR
OPTIONS
OPEN...

THEY'RE GOING
TO DO IT. THEY ARE
GOING TO TALK THEMSELVES
INTO COMPROMISING WHAT
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE
IN FOR EXPEDIENCY. JUST
BECAUSE WE'RE DESPERATE,
AND JUST BECAUSE
IT'S EASY.

IT'S
WRONG.

I'M NOT GOING TO JUST
SIT THERE AND WATCH IT
HAPPEN. I CAN'T.

SO BEFORE WE
GO BACK IN THERE
I NEED TO KNOW
SOMETHING...

ARE
YOU WITH
ME?

WHEN
HAVE YOU
EVER KNOWN ME
NOT TO DO THE
RIGHT THING?

10 MINUTES
LATER.

I'M
SORRY.

I WANTED
TO SAY THAT
BEFORE WE GET
STARTED.

I KNOW THAT TEMPERS ARE
HIGH, AND I KNOW THE REASON
FOR THIS MAY VERY WELL BE MY
INABILITY TO USE THE GAUNTLET
PROPERLY.

BUT...WELL, MAYBE I
COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING
DIFFERENTLY, BUT IT'S TOO
LATE AND WE ALL HAVE REGRETS.

BUT I ALSO WANT YOU TO
KNOW, IN SPITE OF ALL THE
STRONG FEELINGS, WHERE WE ARE
NOW IS THE SAME PLACE AS
THE LAST TIME WE HAD THIS
DISCUSSION.

THERE'S NO
DIFFERENCE EXCEPT
WE'VE HAD A SUCCESS--
WE STOPPED AN
INCURSION.

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN...
BUT I DISAGREE.

THERE IS A
DIFFERENCE. WE'VE LOST
THE INSTRUMENT THROUGH
WHICH WE FOUND SUCCESS.
THE GAUNTLET IS GONE,
AND NOW WE HAVE
NOTHING.

TELL ME, WHAT
HAPPENS IF THERE'S
ANOTHER INCURSION TEN
MINUTES FROM NOW?

I BELIEVE WE'LL
FIND A WAY TO
STOP IT.

AND WE'LL
DO IT WITHOUT
SACRIFICING WHO
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE.

THAT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY
OF SAYING, I *HOP*E, AND
TODAY--AFTER WHAT WE'VE SEEN--
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY
FIND COMFORT IN THAT.

WELL, I THINK THAT'S WHY
WE'RE HERE. TO TALK ABOUT
IT. FIGURE THINGS OUT.

I KNOW I'M
ASKING A LOT, BUT
I ALSO KNOW THAT
SOME OF YOU
AGREE WITH ME.

SOME OF US
STILL BELIEVE IN DOING
THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
T'CHALLA?

NO.

BUT YOU
SAID...

I TOLD YOU I WOULD DO
THE RIGHT THING. HOW I FEEL--
MY PERSONAL DESIRES--MEAN
NOTHING. MY PEOPLE ARE
EVERYTHING.

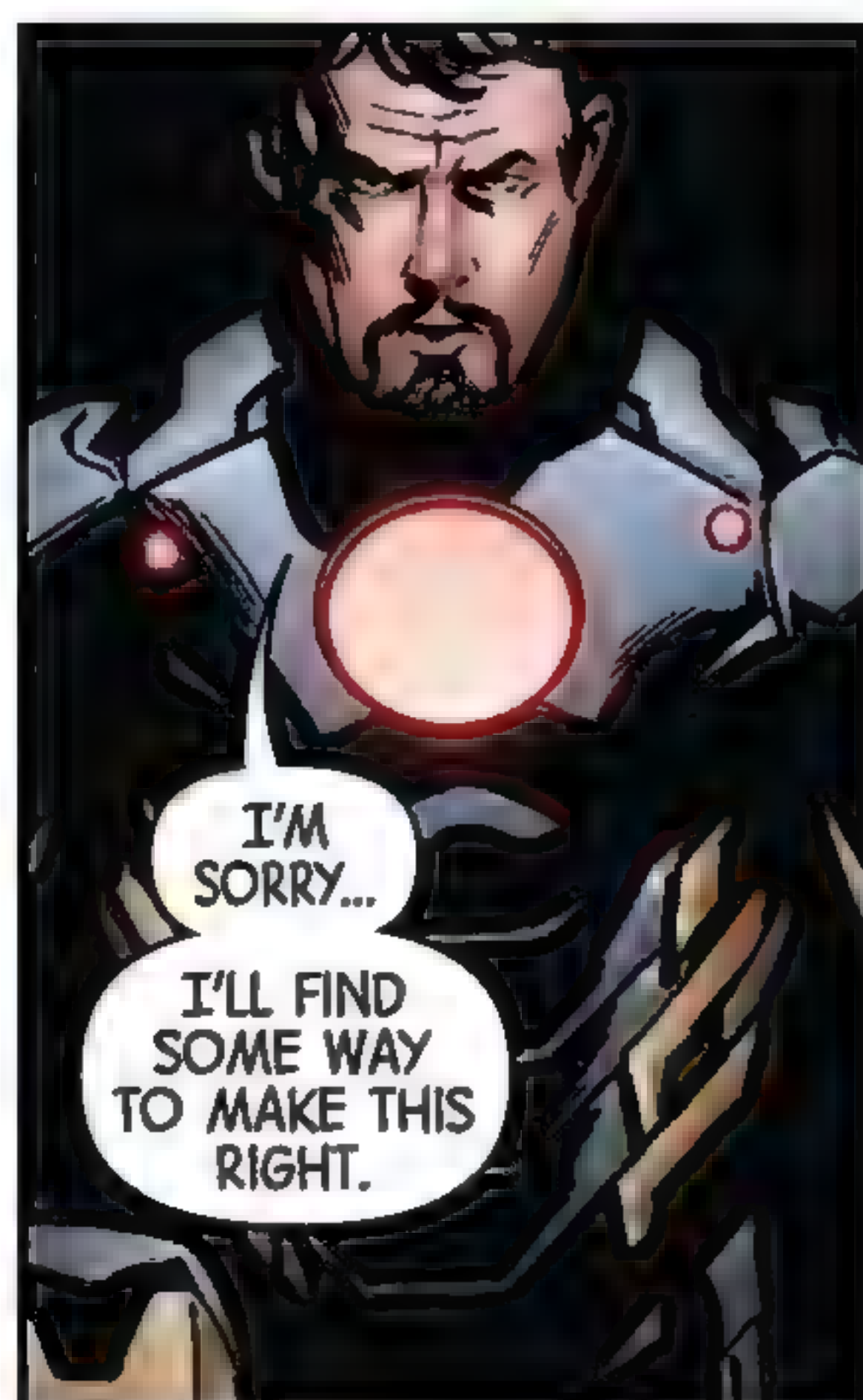
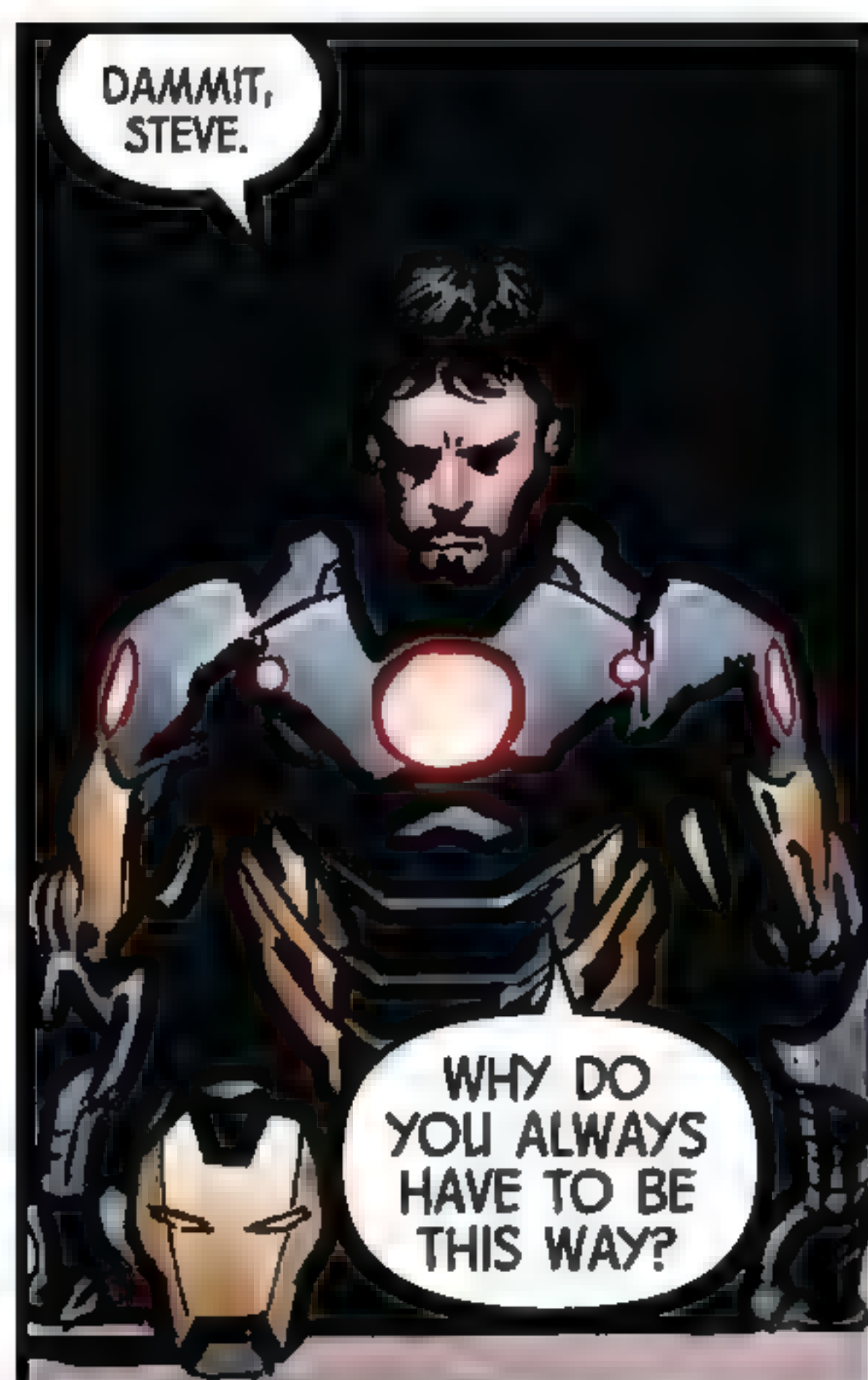
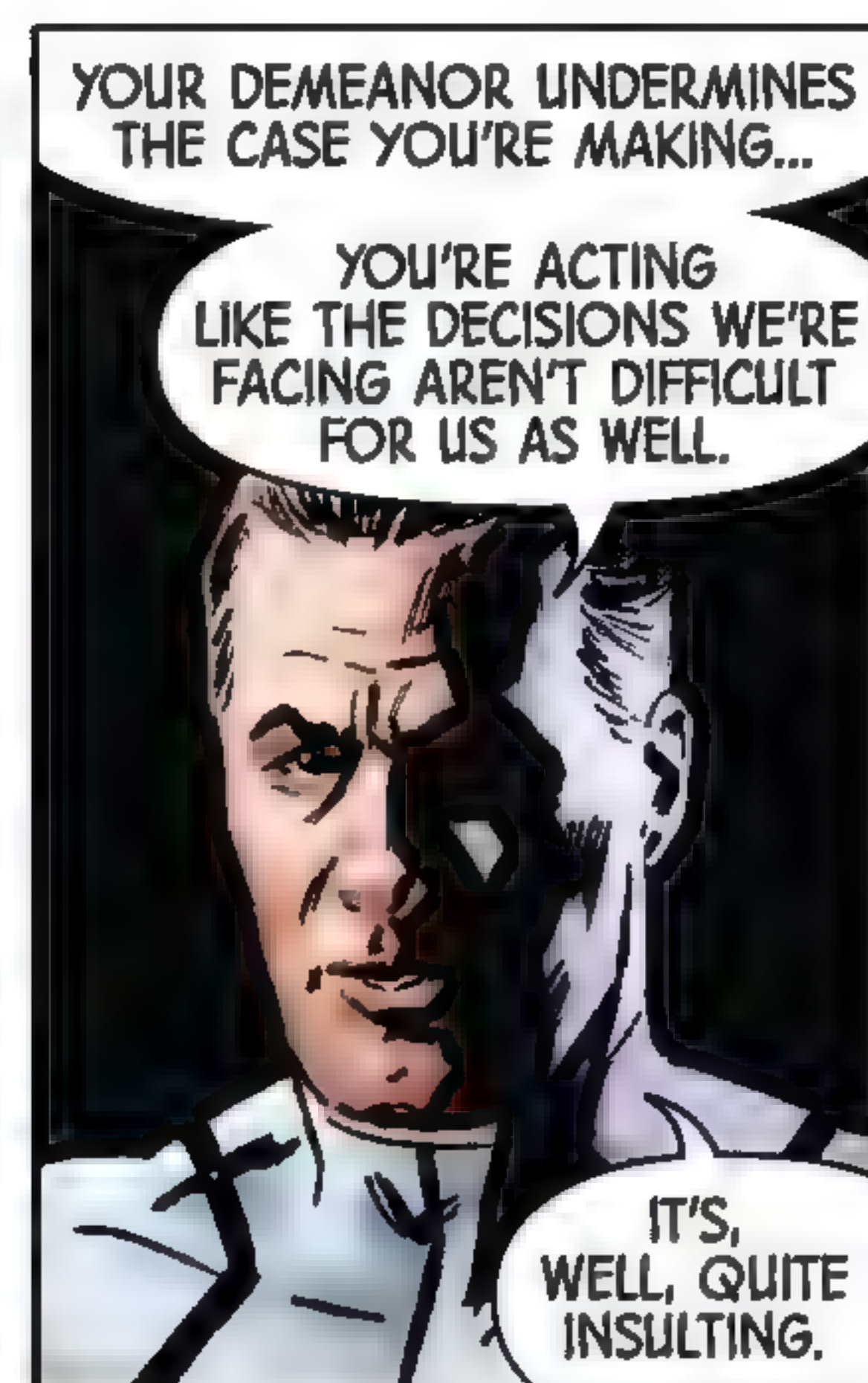
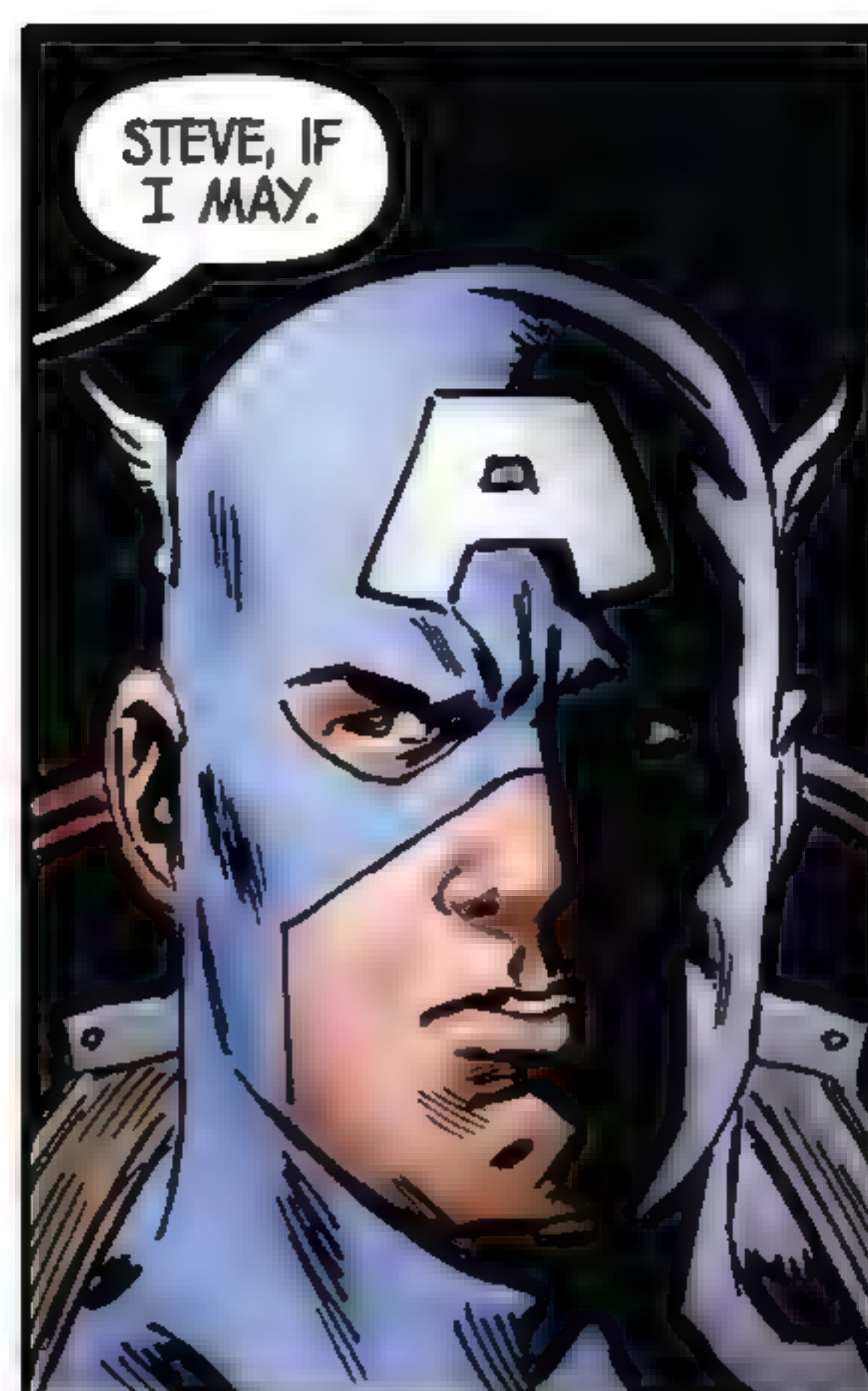
IN THIS,
I AM NOT A
MAN. I AM A
NATION.

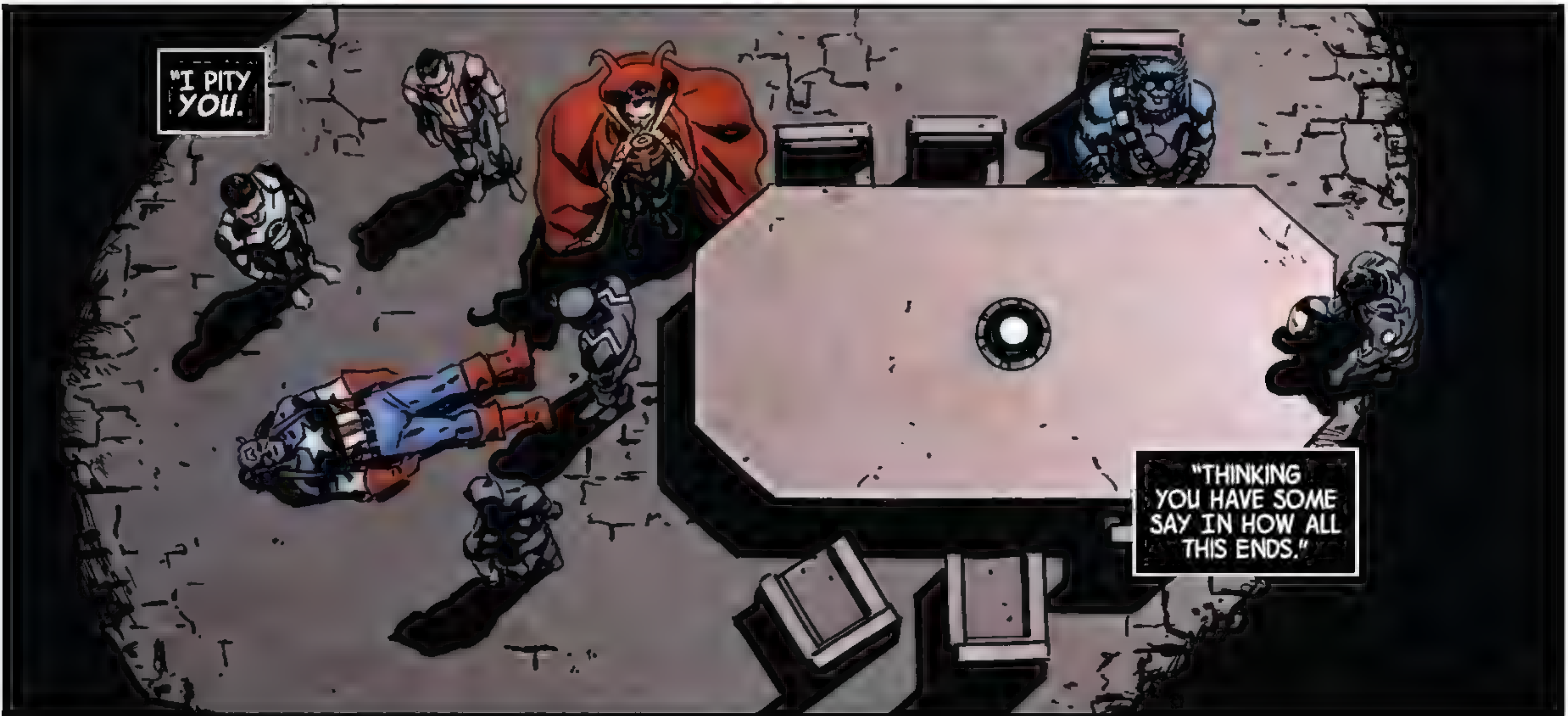
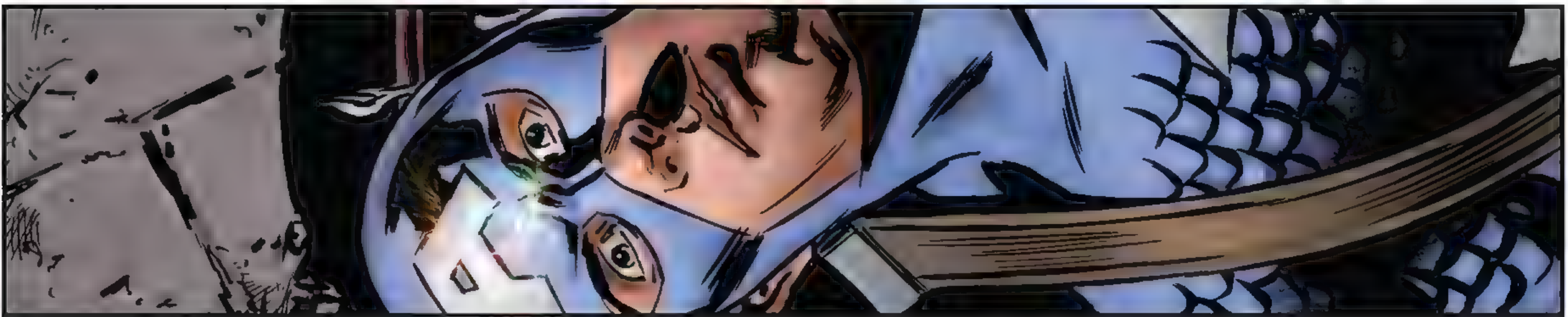
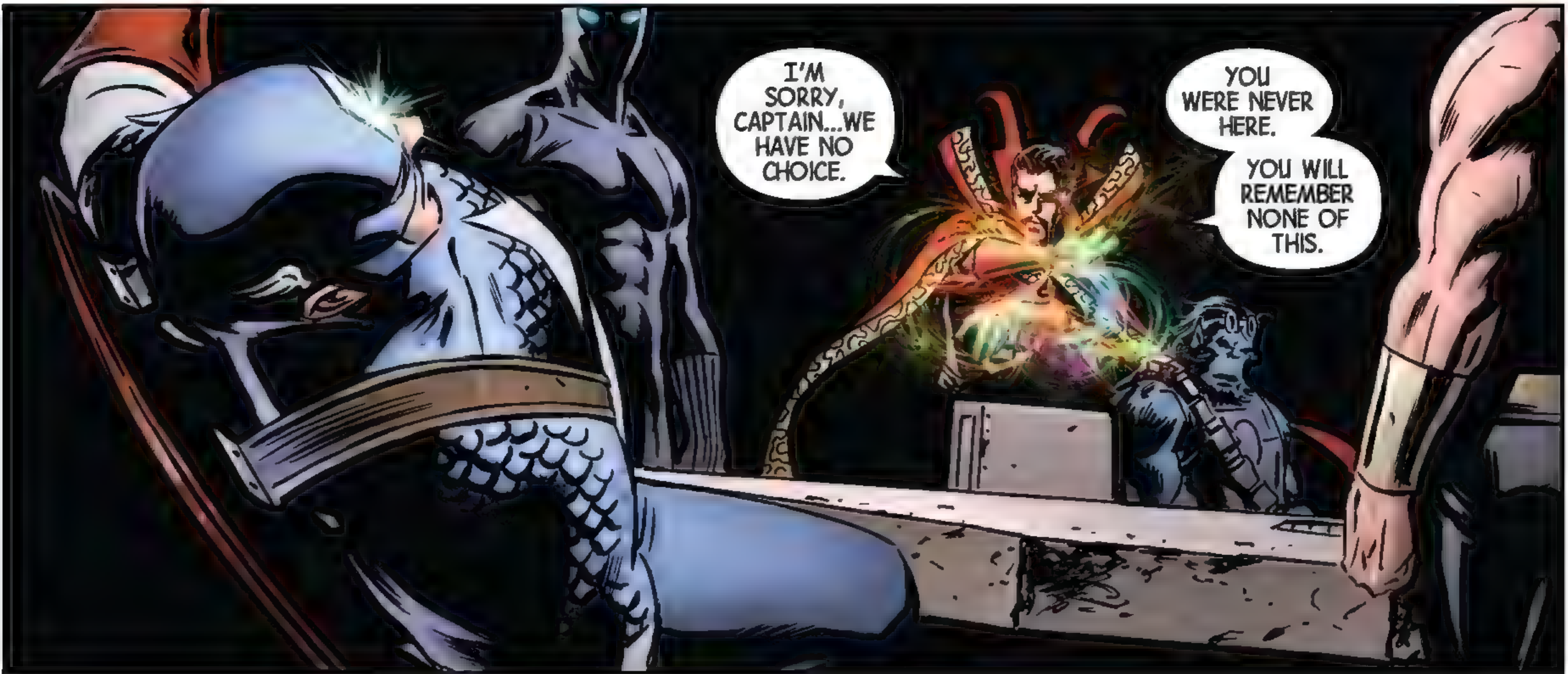
AND I WILL
DO WHATEVER
IT TAKES.

AND YOU, BLACK BOLT?
IS YOUR CROWN
HEAVY AS WELL?

WHAT DID
YOU EXPECT,
ROGERS?

THE
PRESERVATION OF
YOUR SOUL AT THE
EXPENSE OF *EVERYTHING*
WE HOLD DEAR?







“THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF MAJOR TITANS”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



KOBE, JAPAN.
SITE ONE: QUARANTINED.

"S.H.I.E.L.D. BIO-TEAMS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHED A CONTAINMENT BARRIER SEPARATING THE IMPACT ZONE FROM THE UNAFFECTED SURROUNDING AREAS."



THE REPORTS FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D. TEAMS IN *CROATIA* AND *INDIA* ALL SEEM TO INDICATE THE SAME THING.

A 10-MILE RADIUS OF FALLOUT FROM THE *GARDEN'S* BIO-WEAPONS. AND INSIDE...

WELL, THEY ARE VIRTUALLY DEAD ZONES, CAROL. ALMOST ZERO ACTIVITY.

ALMOST?



"AROUND TWELVE HOURS AGO THE HAND MANAGED TO BREAK THE LINE.

"A FULL *FIST* MADE IT THROUGH, BUT ORBITAL RECON LOST THEM ONE MILE INTO THE CITY.

"SINCE THEN... NOTHING."



TELL ME ABOUT THE OTHER LOCATIONS.

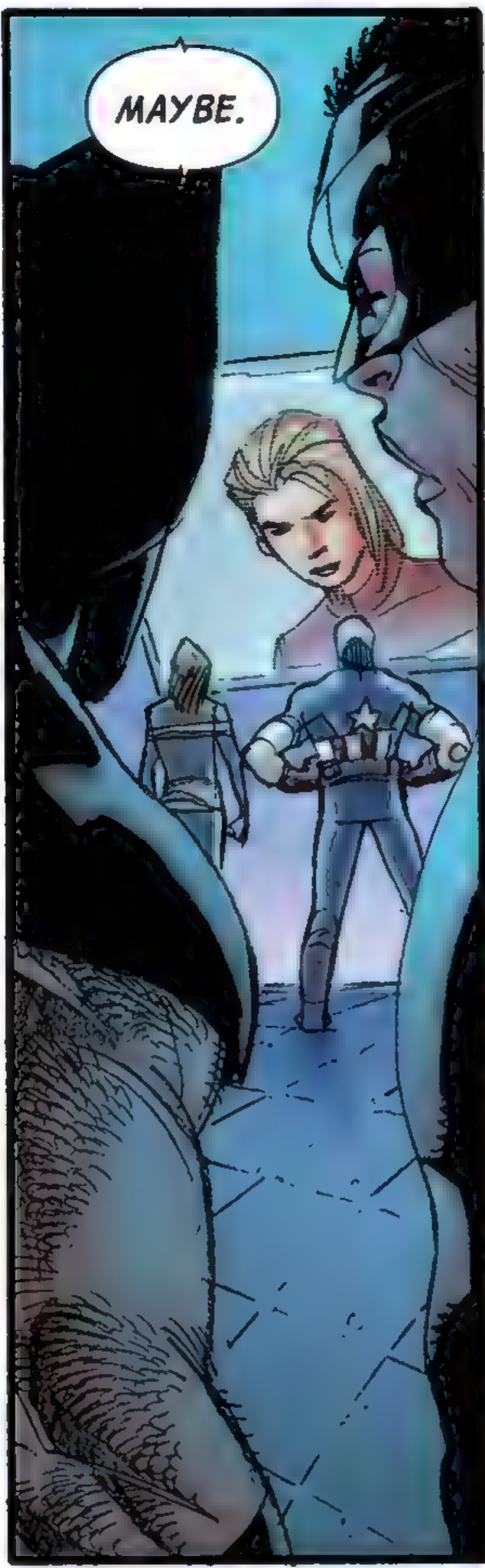
THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS INSISTING THAT AN *OMEGA FLIGHT* TEAM HANDLE THEIR SITE.

AND THE AUSTRALIANS ARE REFUSING ALL ACCESS TO *PERTH* ONCE THEY FOUND OUT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD A COVERT *PROJECT: PERSEUS* FACILITY THERE.

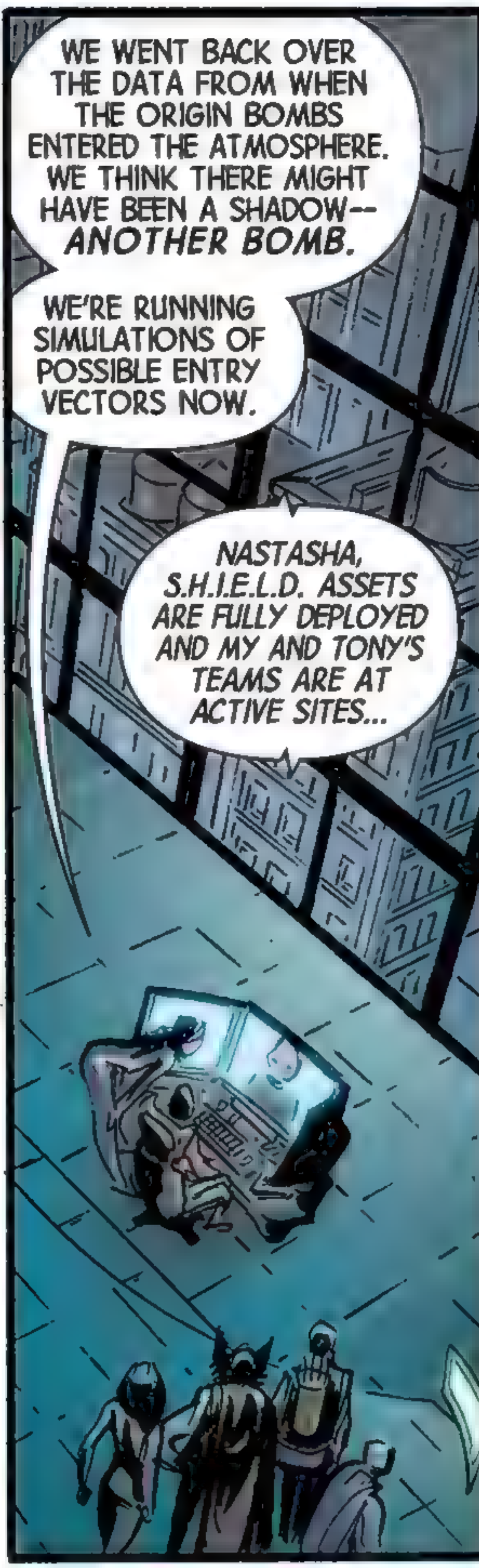


YEAH. I CAN SEE HOW THEY'D FEEL THAT WAY.

REGARDLESS... **FIVE SITES**, THEN. FULL CONTAINMENT.



MAYBE.



WE WENT BACK OVER THE DATA FROM WHEN THE ORIGIN BOMBS ENTERED THE ATMOSPHERE. WE THINK THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A SHADOW-- **ANOTHER BOMB.**

WE'RE RUNNING SIMULATIONS OF POSSIBLE ENTRY VECTORS NOW.

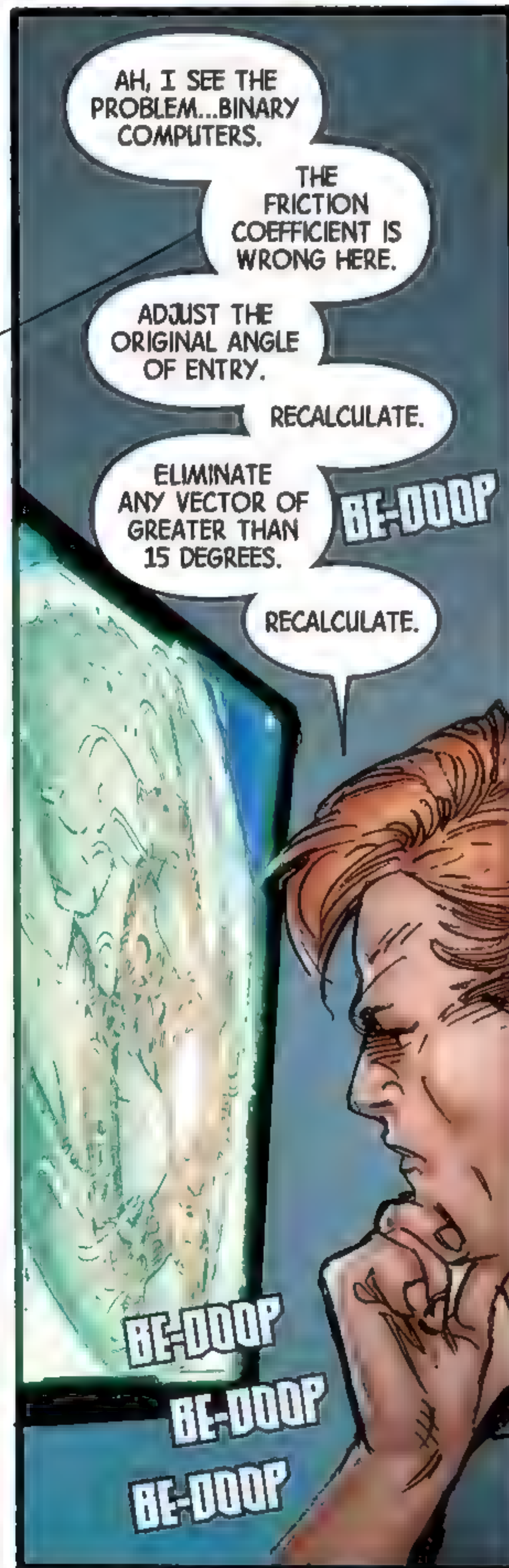
NASTASHA, S.H.I.E.L.D. ASSETS ARE FULLY DEPLOYED AND MY AND TONY'S TEAMS ARE AT ACTIVE SITES...



IF YOU FIND SOMETHING, YOU AND CAROL NEED TO BREAK CAMP AND TAKE YOUR TEAM TO INVESTIGATE.

UH-HUH. ALREADY PACKED, CAP.

WE'LL CALL IF WE GET A HIT.



AH, I SEE THE PROBLEM...BINARY COMPUTERS.

THE FRICTION COEFFICIENT IS WRONG HERE.

ADJUST THE ORIGINAL ANGLE OF ENTRY.

RECALCULATE.

ELIMINATE ANY VECTOR OF GREATER THAN 15 DEGREES.

RECALCULATE.

BE-DOOP

BE-DOOP

BE-DOOP

BE-DOOP



OKAY, YOU HEARD CAP... JUST IN CASE WE GET LUCKY--

UNLUCKY.

RIGHT. CLINT, I'D LIKE YOU TO PREP--

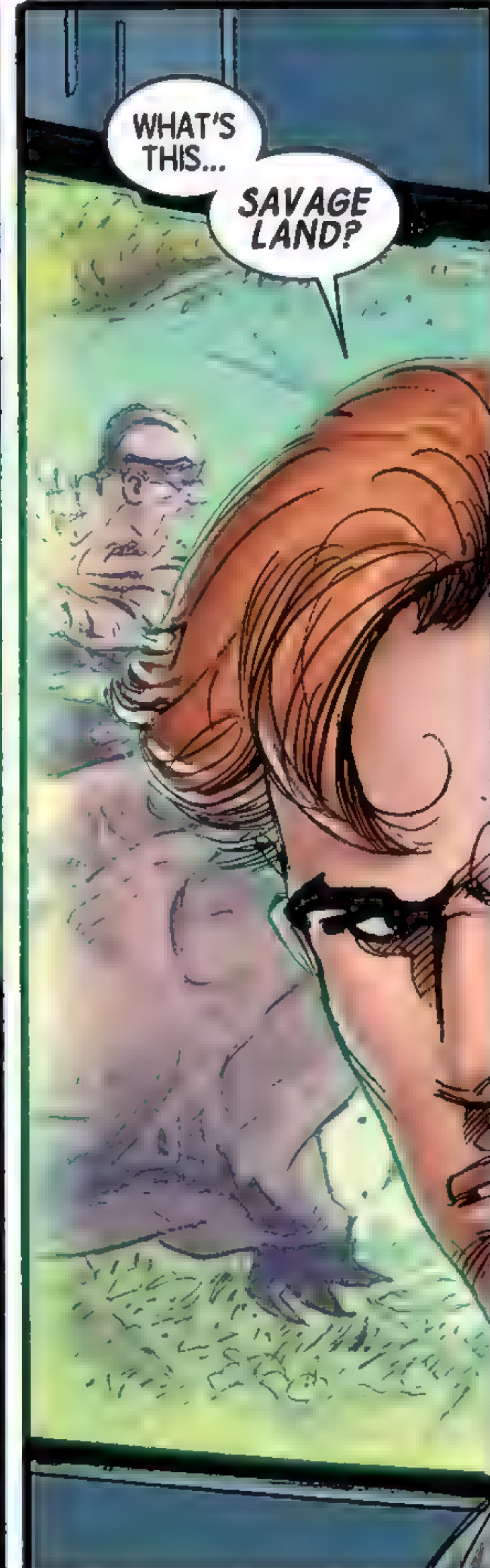
I FOUND IT.



FOUND WHAT?

THE IMPACT SITE.

IT LANDED HERE.



WHAT'S THIS...

SAVAGE LAND?

ON AN EARTH THAT WAS
NO MORE, THERE WERE TWO
TITANS CALLED *HYPERION*.

THE FIRST WAS LEGEND.
A STORY EVERYONE
KNEW.

THEY KNEW OF HIS
ESCAPE FROM A
DYING WORLD.

OF HIS JOURNEY
TO EARTH.

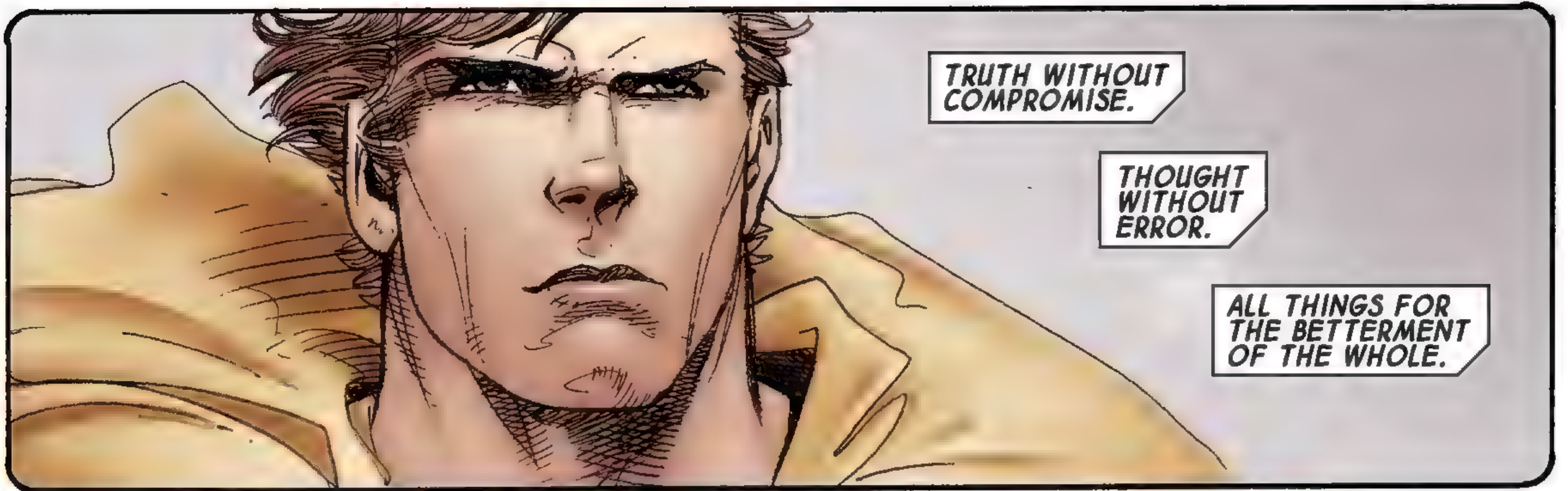
OF THE MAN CALLED *FATHER*,
WHO FOUND HIM AND
MOLDED HIM INTO A TOOL
TO SHAPE *SOCIETY*.

AND IN SHAPING THEM, TO
SHAPE *THE WORLD* AND
THE PEOPLE IN IT.

SEE, MARCUS, IT'S
A MISTAKE TO THINK OF
A COMMUNITY AS ANY
LESS AN ORGANISM THAN
THE CITIZENS IT IS
COMPOSED OF.

AND IF THAT'S
TRUE, THEN JUST LIKE WE
SPEAK DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUALS,
WE CAN SPEAK DIRECTLY TO
GROUPS. WHICH IS ACTUALLY A MORE
EFFICIENT WAY TO COMMUNICATE.
IT'S A BETTER WAY TO BRING
ABOUT *CHANGE*.

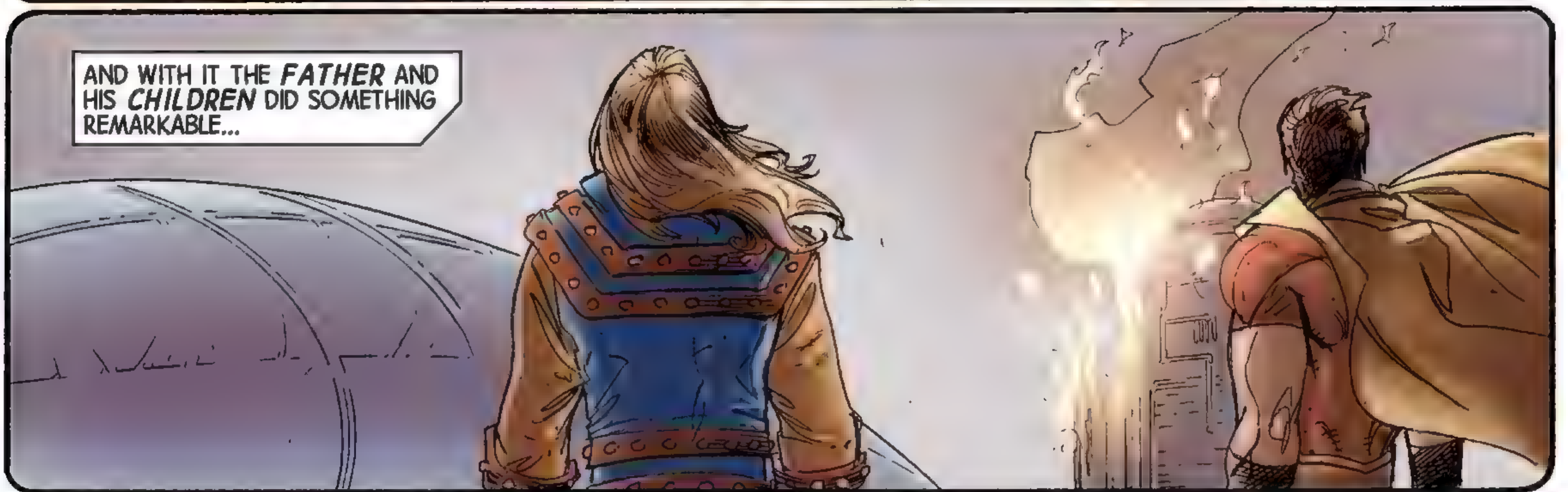
MARCUS GREW, AND
FATHER TAUGHT HIM
THE CODE:



TRUTH WITHOUT
COMPROMISE.

THOUGHT
WITHOUT
ERROR.

ALL THINGS FOR
THE BETTERMENT
OF THE WHOLE.



AND WITH IT THE *FATHER* AND
HIS *CHILDREN* DID SOMETHING
REMARKABLE...



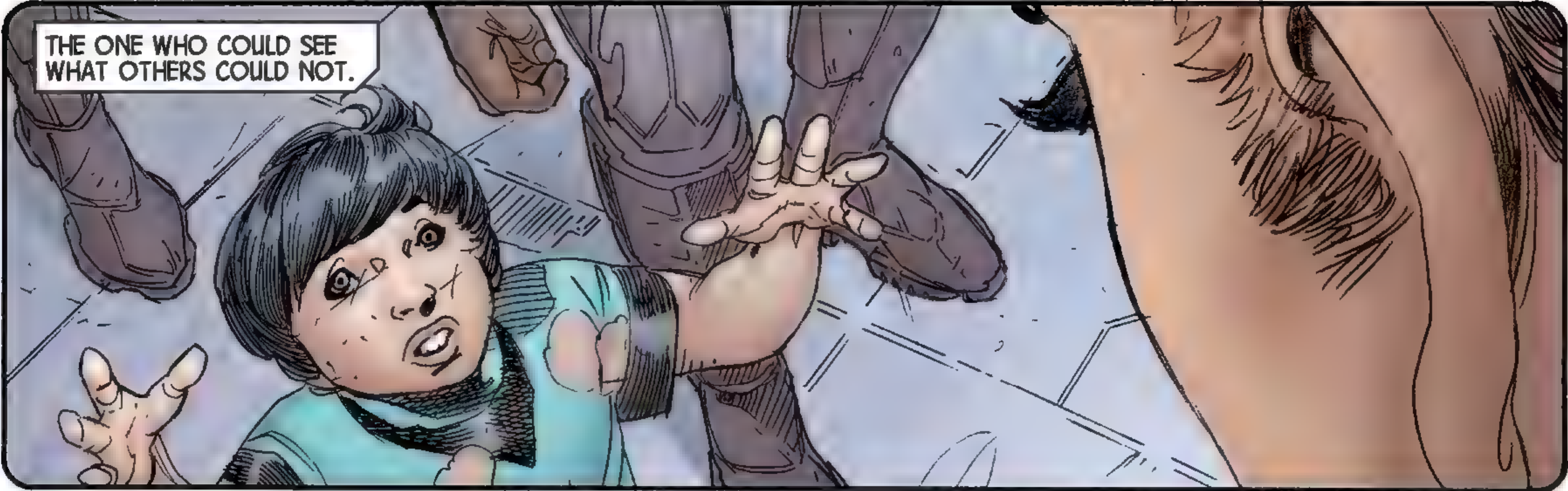
THEY REMADE
THEIR EARTH.



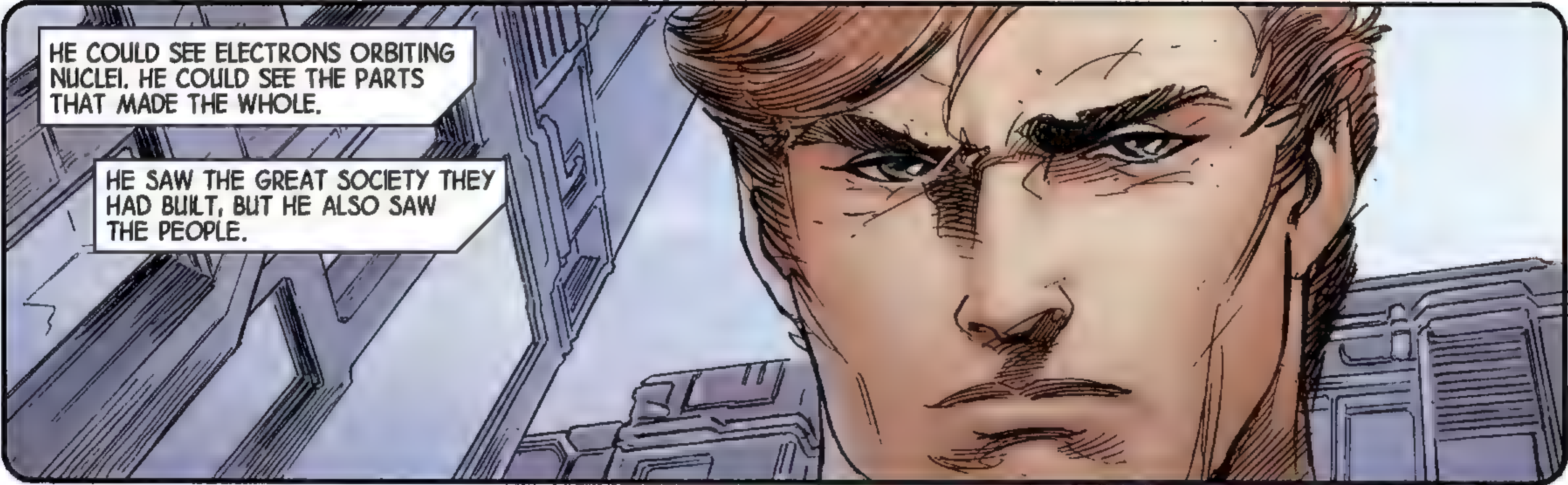
BUT THERE WERE
TWO HYPERIONS...



THE ONE THE WORLD
KNEW, AND THE ONE HE
HID DEEP INSIDE HIMSELF.

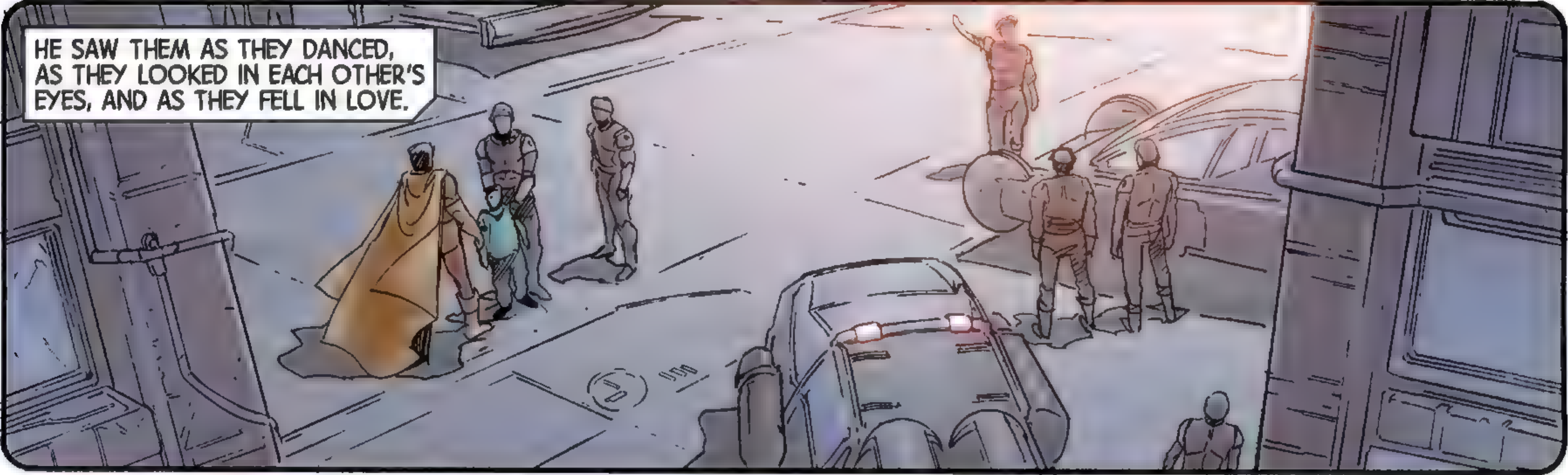


THE ONE WHO COULD SEE
WHAT OTHERS COULD NOT.



HE COULD SEE ELECTRONS ORBITING
NUCLEI. HE COULD SEE THE PARTS
THAT MADE THE WHOLE.

HE SAW THE GREAT SOCIETY THEY
HAD BUILT, BUT HE ALSO SAW
THE PEOPLE.

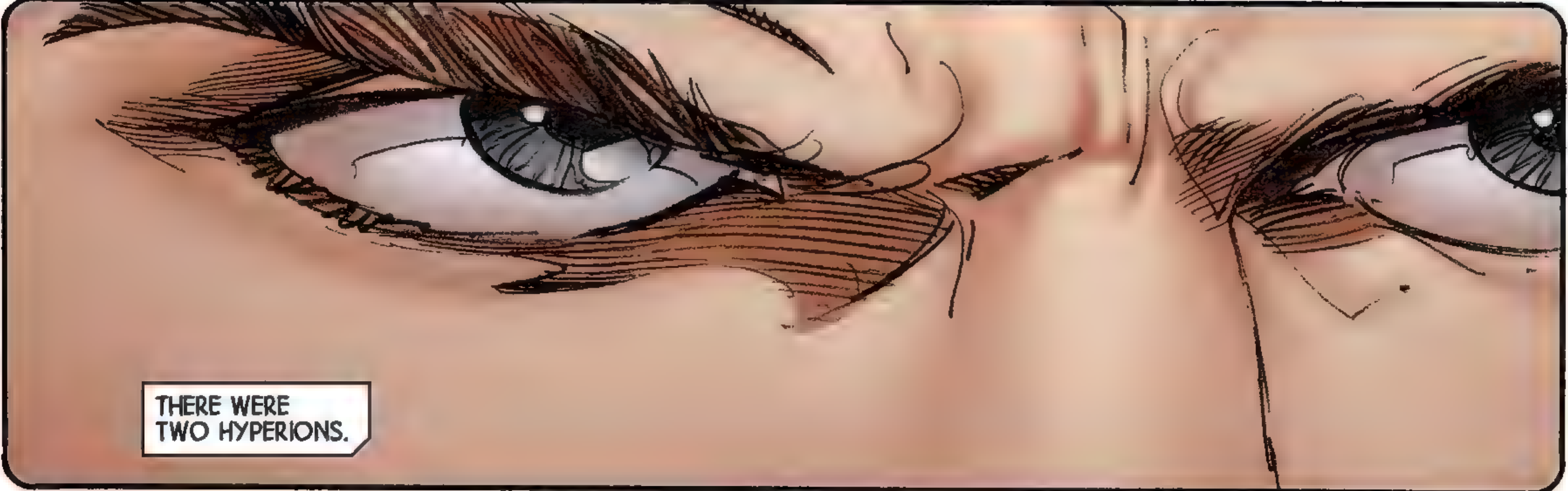


HE SAW THEM AS THEY DANCED,
AS THEY LOOKED IN EACH OTHER'S
EYES, AND AS THEY FELL IN LOVE.



HE SAW AS TOGETHER THEY
MADE SOMETHING NEW
FROM THEIR UNION.

HE SAW EVERYTHING, AND
HE HID WHAT IT MEANT
DEEP IN HIS HEART.



THERE WERE
TWO HYPERIONS.

LATER.
SITE SIX: FALLEN HEIGHTS,
THE SAVAGE LAND. INFECTED.

DON'T TOUCH
ANYTHING UNTIL
WE DO A SWEEP.

YEAH. THAT'S
NOT GOING TO BE
A PROBLEM.

STILL...IT'S
KIND OF BEAUTIFUL,
ISN'T IT?

YOU MEAN
LIKE IT'S STRANGE
AND EXOTIC? LIKE THREE
BOYS AND THREE GIRLS
ALONE IN AN ALIEN
JUNGLE...

WHAT
WONDERFUL
AND AMAZING
THINGS COULD
HAPPEN?

RIGHT.

THIS IS
PRETTY
MUCH HOW
EVERY HORROR
MOVIE STARTS,
JESSICA.

CHECKS OUT
LIKE ALL THE OTHER
SITES. THE INFECTED
AREA JUST STOPS,
ABRUPTLY.

ANY
MOTION?

LIMITED
RANGE ON THIS
THING, BUT SO FAR
I'VE GOT NOTHING
"MOVING"...PLENTY
OF HEARTBEATS,
HOWEVER.

EXPECTED. THAT'S
THE COCOONS. ANY
LIVING THING THAT WAS
IN THE IMPACT ZONE
IS BEING BIOLOGICALLY
BROKEN DOWN OR
CHANGED OR
SOMETHING.

KEEP
LOOKING.



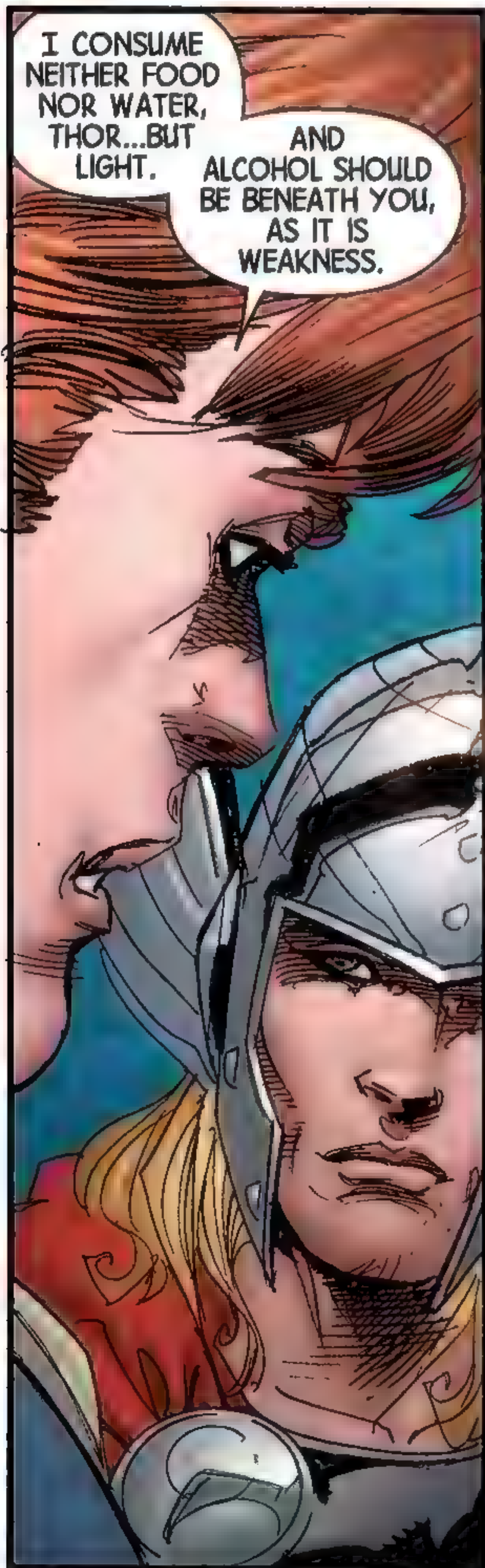
SURTUR'S SWEATY ORBS, IT'S HOT.

THE TROPOSPHERE ON THIS EARTH IS THINNER AT THE POLES. THE SUN...LESS FILTERED.

THIS IS GOOD.

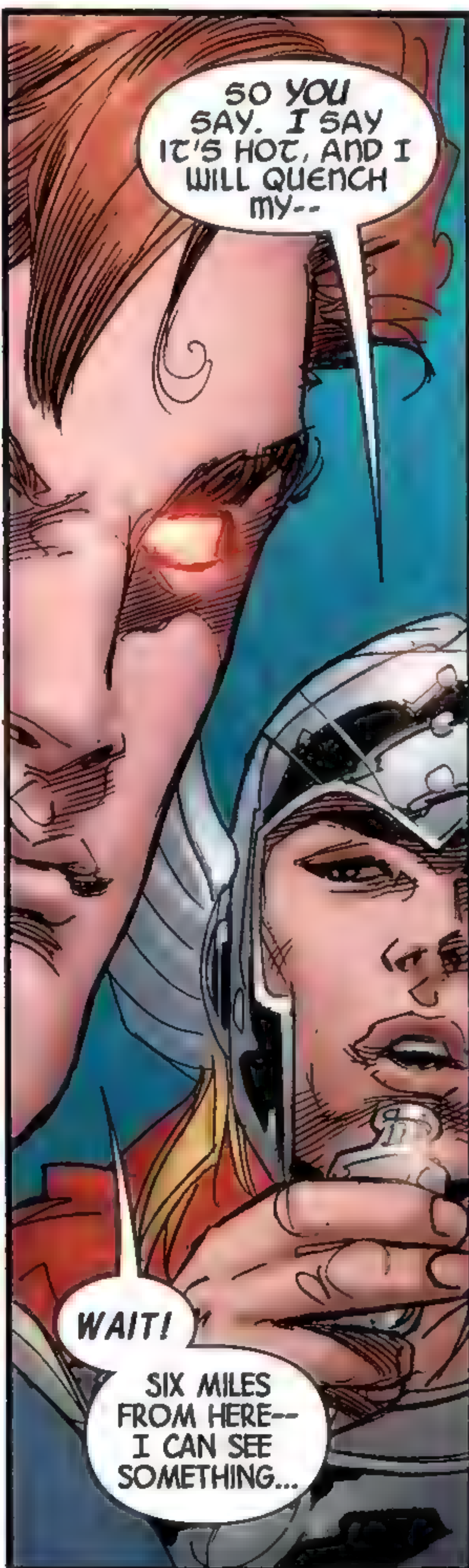
NO. *THIS* IS WHAT'S GOOD-- CENTURY-OLD FIMBULVINTER. MY BROTHER AND I STOLE A BARREL FROM THE FROST GIANTS WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.

HERE, HYPERION. DRINK. IT'S LIKE VODKA, BUT FOR MEN.



I CONSUME NEITHER FOOD NOR WATER, THOR...BUT LIGHT.

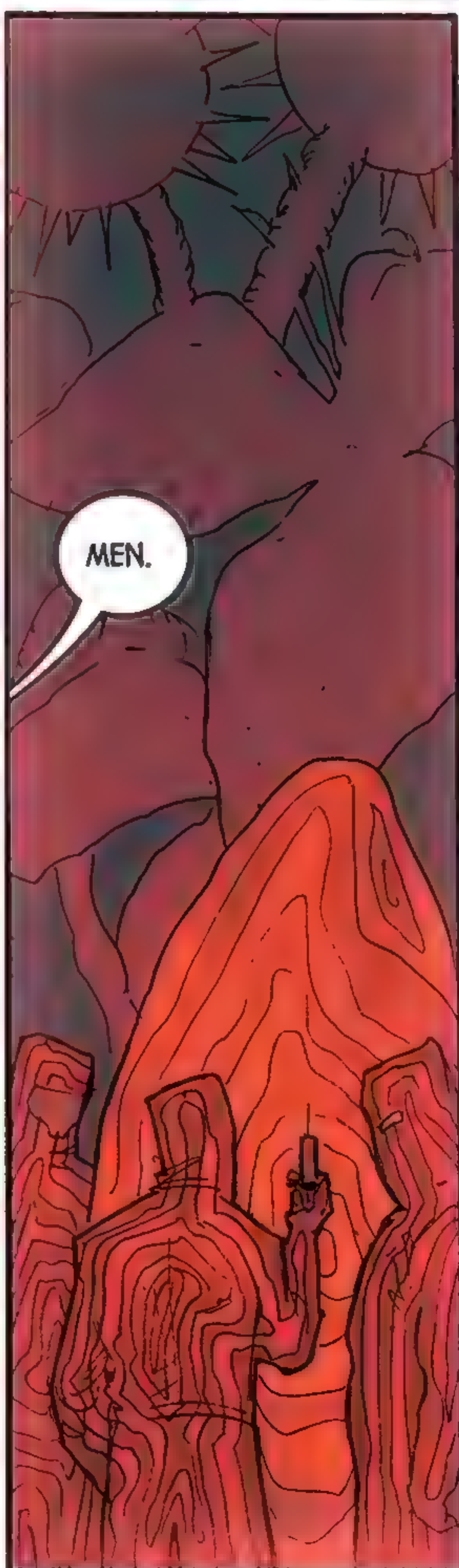
AND ALCOHOL SHOULD BE BENEATH YOU, AS IT IS WEAKNESS.



SO YOU SAY. I SAY IT'S HOT, AND I WILL QUENCH MY--

WAIT!

SIX MILES FROM HERE-- I CAN SEE SOMETHING...



MEN.



TWOOP!



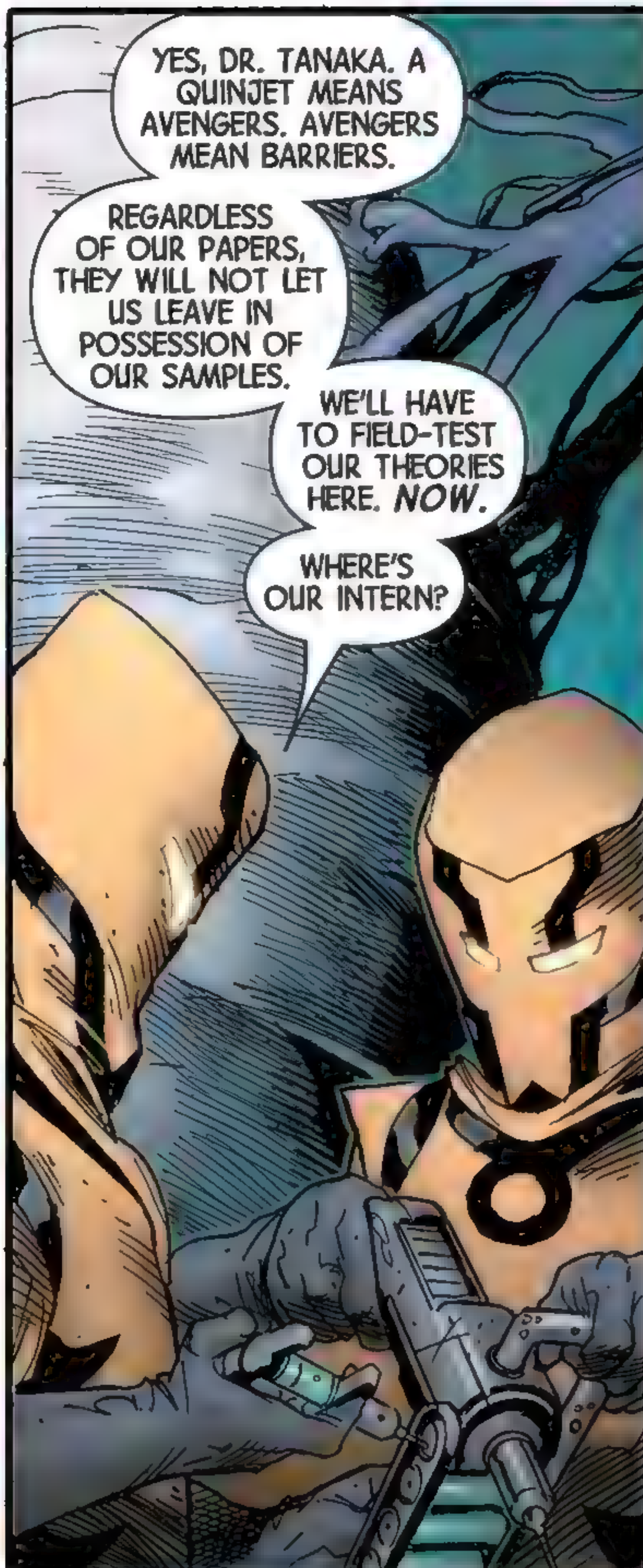
I'VE PENETRATED THE EXTERNAL SHELL, DR. JEMA. PREPARING TO EXTRACT SAMPLE.

GUH-GUH-GOOD.

CAREFULLY, BUH-BUH-BUT QUICKLY, DR. DUH-DEEDS. WUH-WE'RE EXPECTING COMPANY SHORTLY.

YES. THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE UNIQUE SOUND OF STARK REPULSORS FIRING THROUGH WAKANDAN TURBINES.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WAS A QUINJET WE HEARD LANDING.

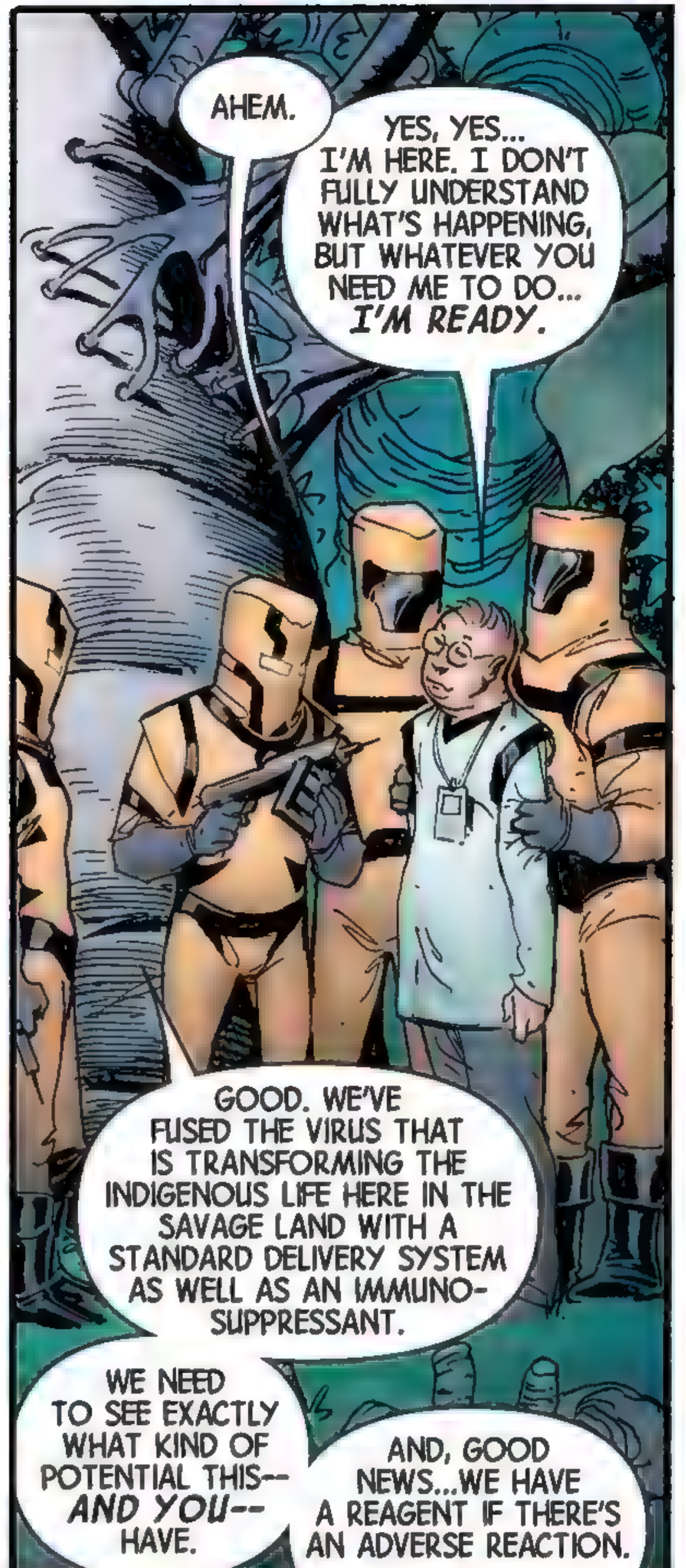


YES, DR. TANAKA. A QUINJET MEANS AVENGERS. AVENGERS MEAN BARRIERS.

REGARDLESS OF OUR PAPERS, THEY WILL NOT LET US LEAVE IN POSSESSION OF OUR SAMPLES.

WE'LL HAVE TO FIELD-TEST OUR THEORIES HERE. NOW.

WHERE'S OUR INTERN?



AHEM.

YES, YES... I'M HERE. I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING, BUT WHATEVER YOU NEED ME TO DO... I'M READY.

GOOD. WE'VE FUSED THE VIRUS THAT IS TRANSFORMING THE INDIGENOUS LIFE HERE IN THE SAVAGE LAND WITH A STANDARD DELIVERY SYSTEM AS WELL AS AN IMMUNO-SUPPRESSANT.

WE NEED TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF POTENTIAL THIS-- AND YOU-- HAVE.

AND, GOOD NEWS...WE HAVE A REAGENT IF THERE'S AN ADVERSE REACTION.



YES. DUH-DUH-DON'T WORRY, SON. WE'RE ALL DUH-DUH-DOCTORS HERE.

PSHH!



ANYTHING?

URK!

HMMMM.



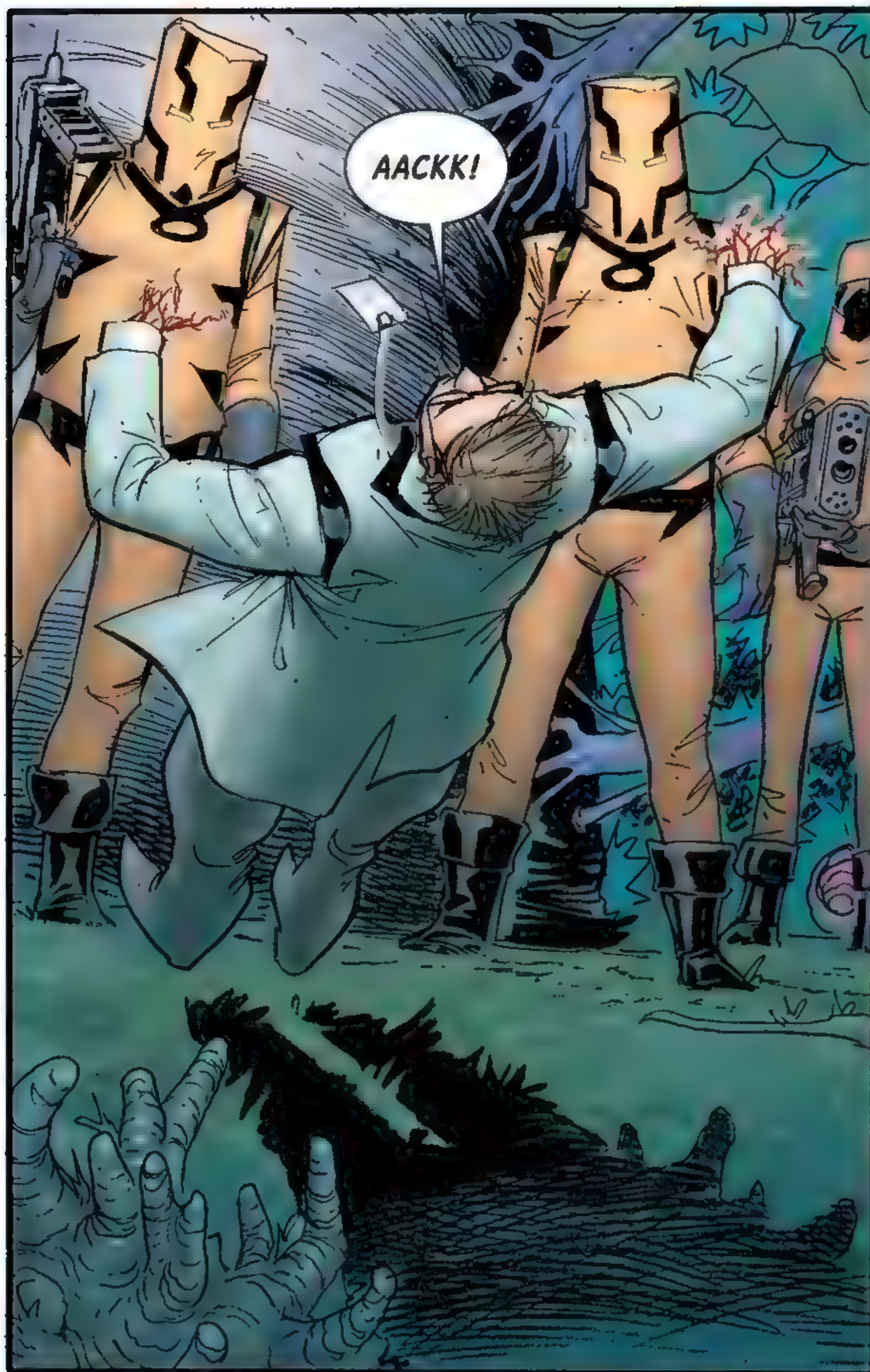
IT FEELS LIKE I'M ON FIRE.

MY HEARTBEAT HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY.

MY SKIN!

MY GOD, MY SKIN IT'S...

IT'S...



AACKK!



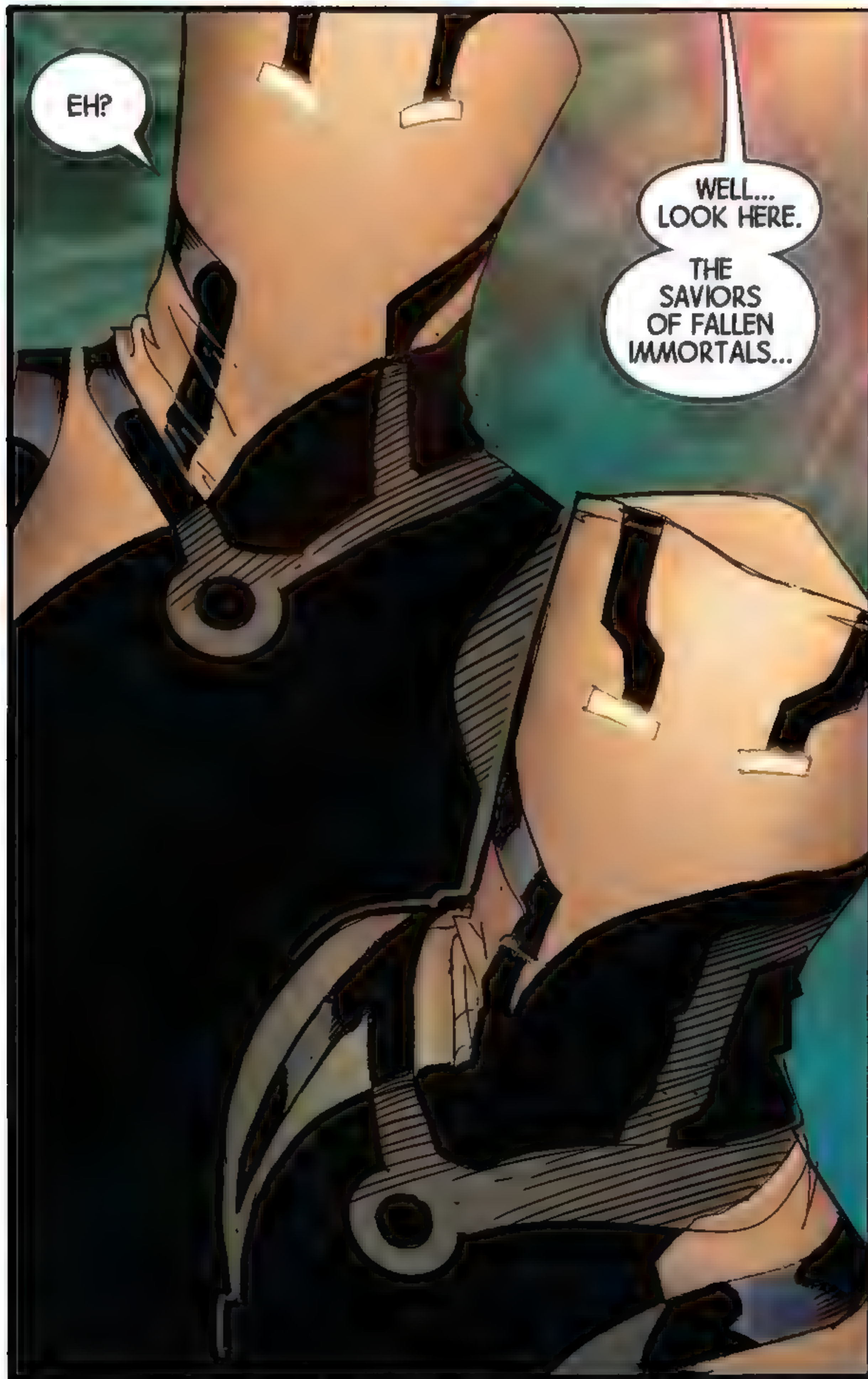
IT APPEARS
OUR THEORIES
WERE FLAWED.

THIS INTERN...
WHERE DID HE GO
TO SCHOOL?

DOCTORATE
PROGRAM
AT CAL TECH.
MICROBIOLOGY.

POOR GUY
HAD OVER TWO
HUNDRED THOUSAND
IN STUDENT
LOANS.

BUH-BUH-
BETTER OFF
DUH-DEAD
THEN.



EH?

WELL...
LOOK HERE.

THE
SAVIORS
OF FALLEN
IMMORTALS...

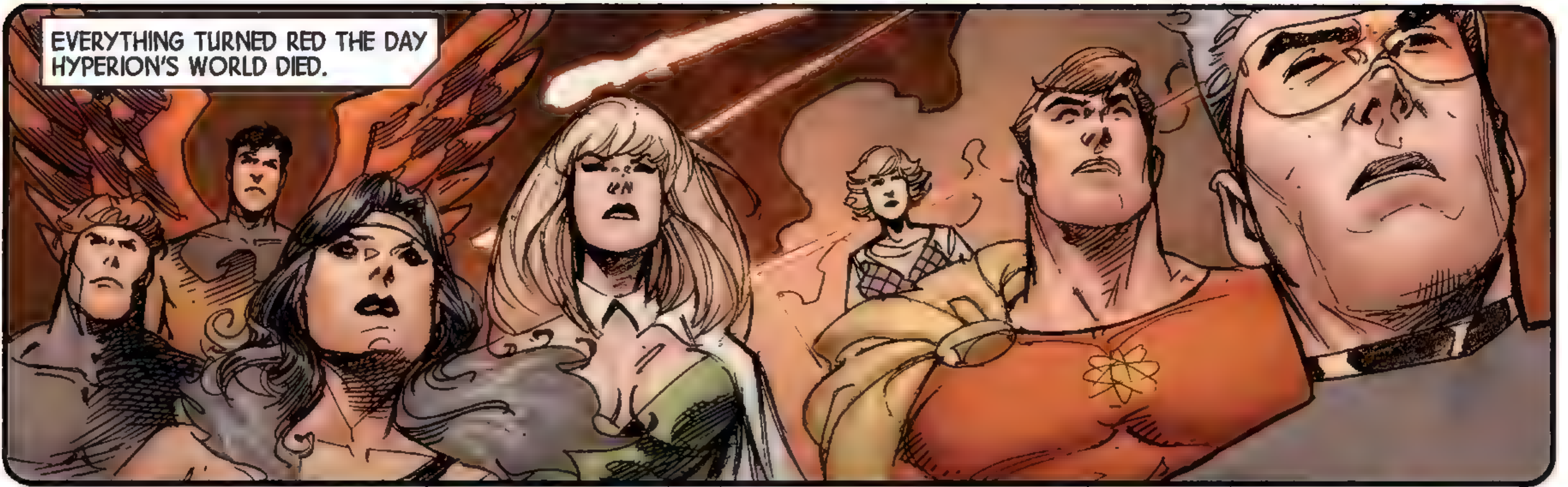


MY
RESCUERS.

MY
WOULD-BE
MASTERS.

A.I.M.

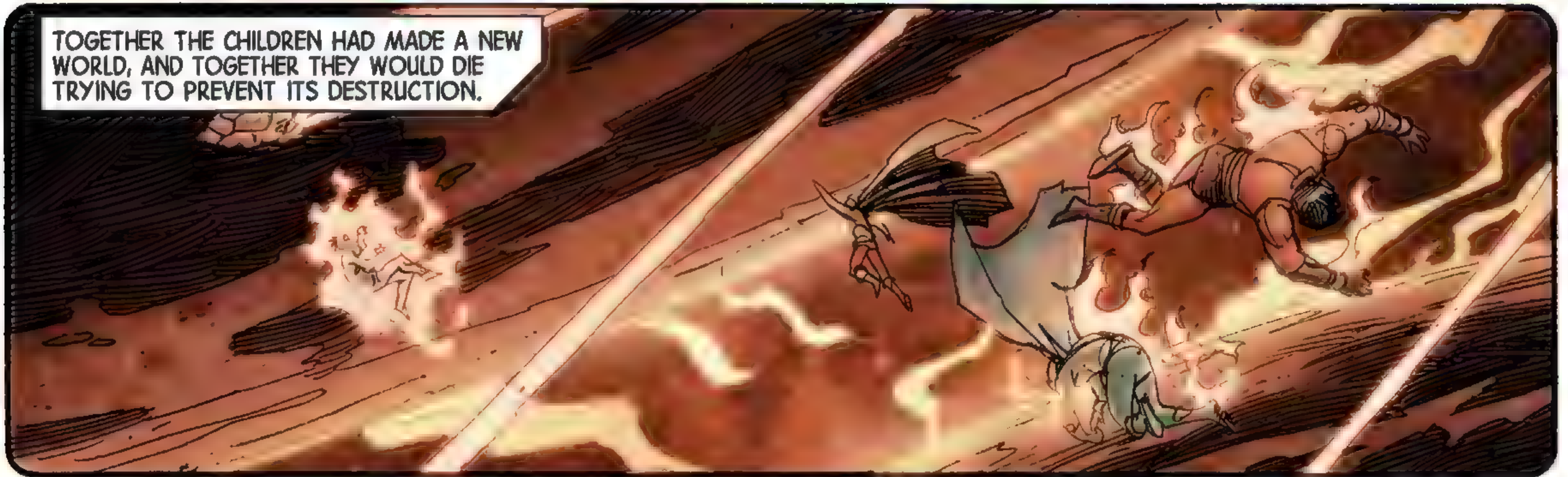
EVERYTHING TURNED RED THE DAY
HYPERION'S WORLD DIED.



A SECOND EARTH HUNG
LOW IN THE SKY.



TOGETHER THE CHILDREN HAD MADE A NEW
WORLD, AND TOGETHER THEY WOULD DIE
TRYING TO PREVENT ITS DESTRUCTION.

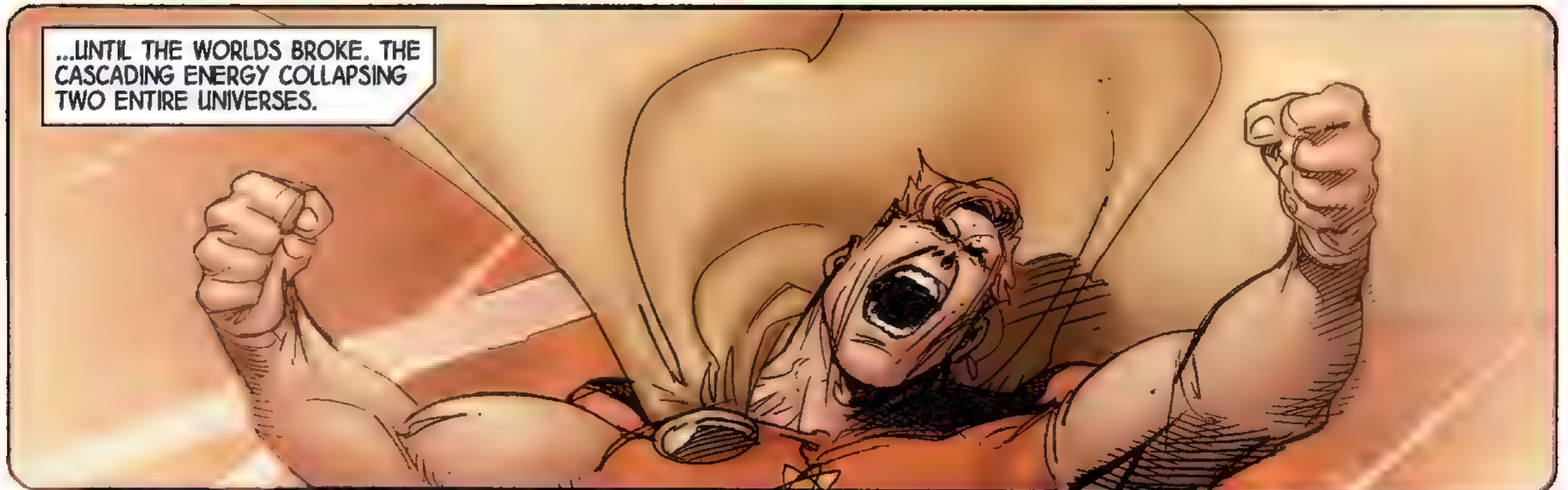


BY THE TIME THE WORLDS WERE
ABOUT TO TOUCH, HE WAS ALL
THAT REMAINED OF THEM.

HYPERION HELD
THEM APART...



...UNTIL THE WORLDS BROKE. THE
CASCADING ENERGY COLLAPSING
TWO ENTIRE UNIVERSES.



AND EVERYTHING
DIED.

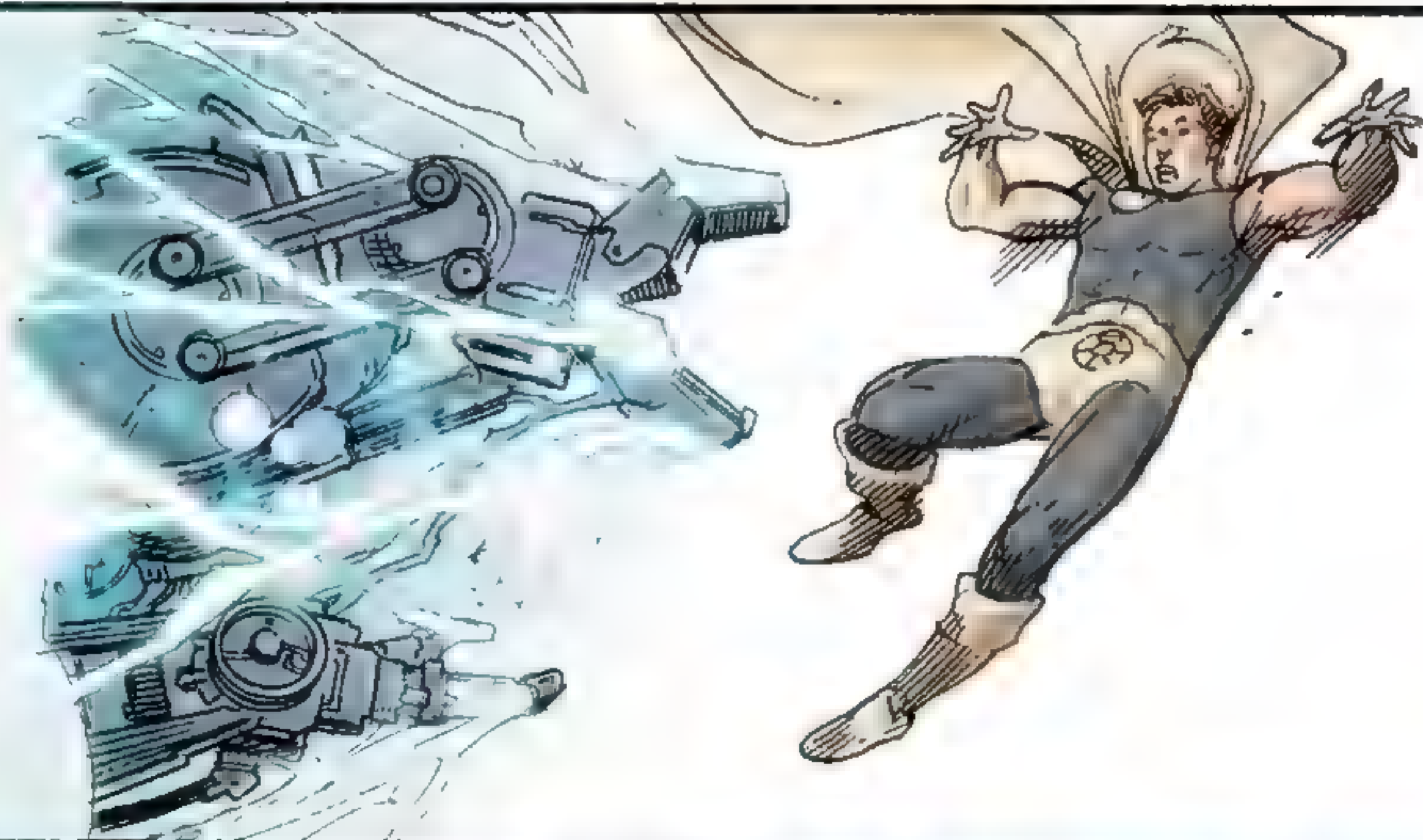
EVERYTHING...
EXCEPT HIM.



HE FLOATED IN
NOTHINGNESS.

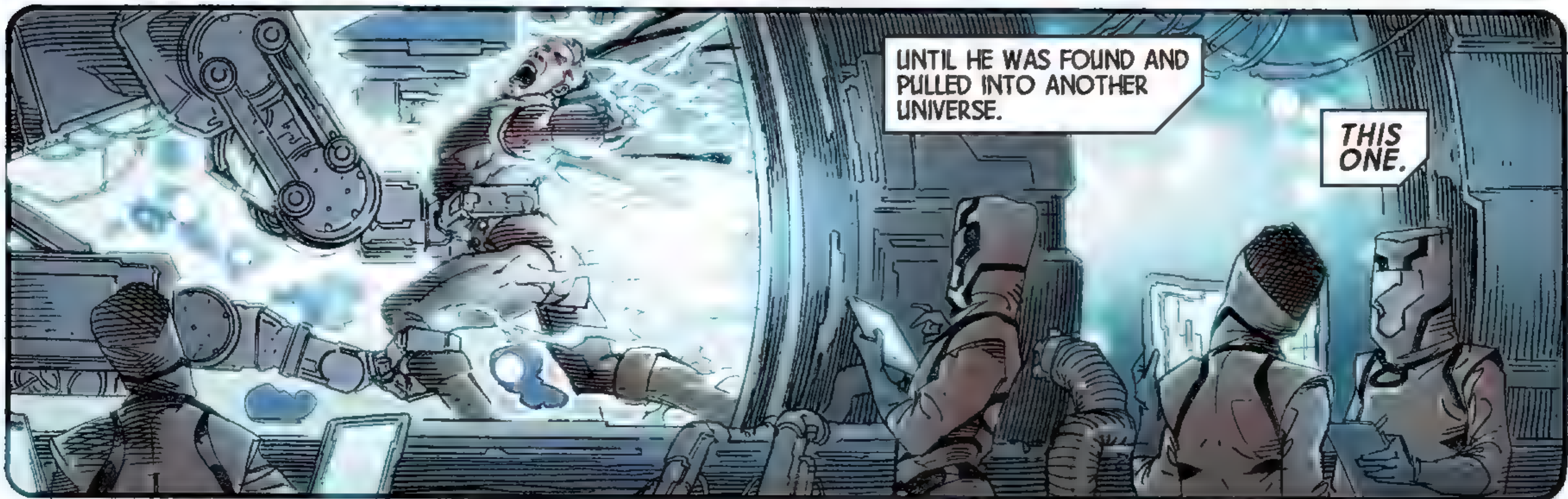


LOST AND SICK
WITH LOSS.



UNTIL HE WAS FOUND AND
PULLED INTO ANOTHER
UNIVERSE.

THIS
ONE.





SO, GENTLEMEN,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO
EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'RE
DOING HERE?

WE ARE
HERE FROM OUR
CONSULATE IN CHILE...
EXPLORATORY
WORK. STANDARD
STUFF.

YOU KNOW,
RESEARCH. AND,
NOT FOR NOTHING,
EVEN IF WE'RE NOT
ALLOWED TO BE HERE,
OR IF WE WERE
DOING ANYTHING
ILLEGAL...

THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
ABOUT IT.



IS THAT
SO?

IT IS.

A.I.M.
ISLAND IS NOW
A U.N. RECOGNIZED
NATION-STATE.

WE HAVE
DIPLOMATIC
IMMUNITY.

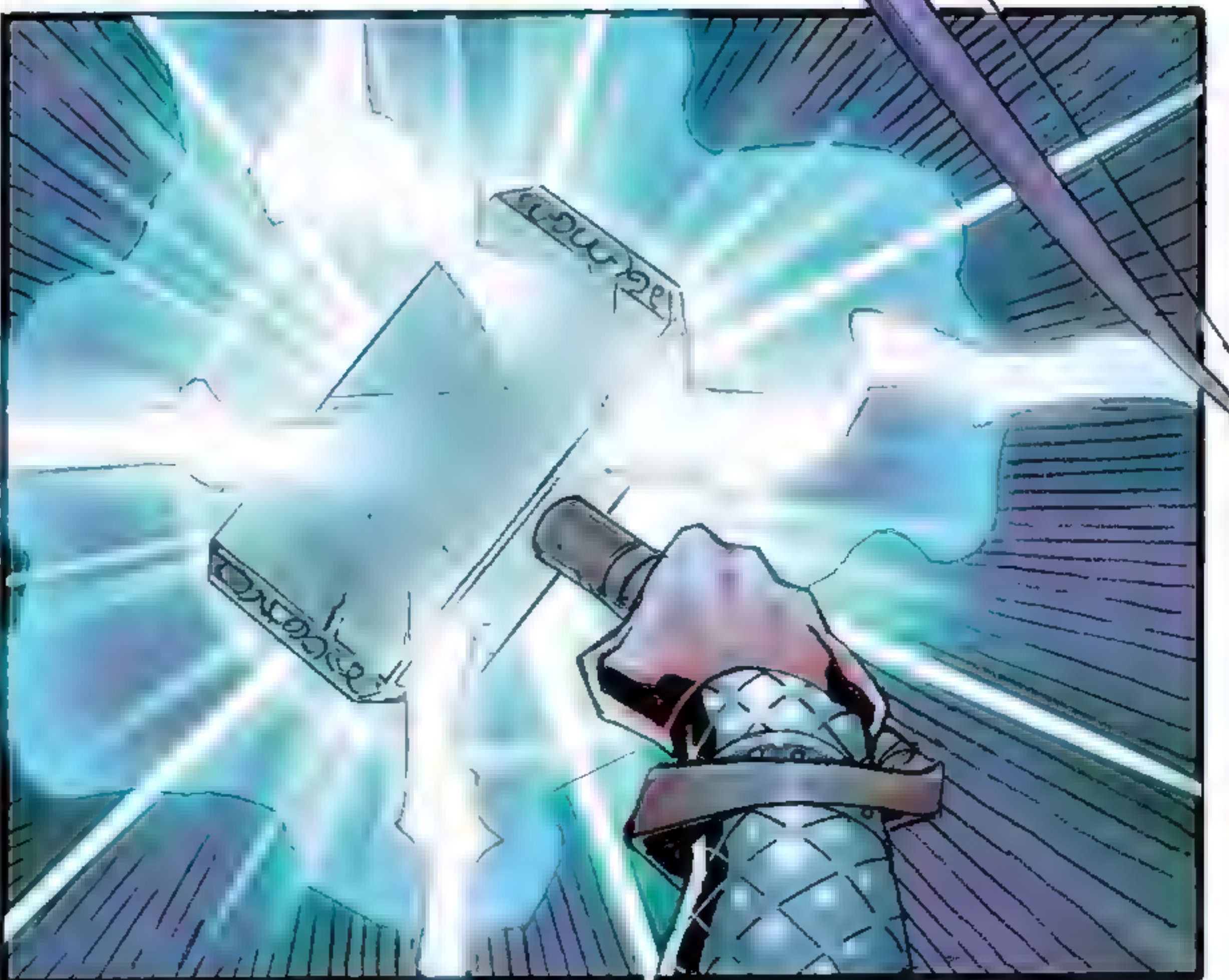
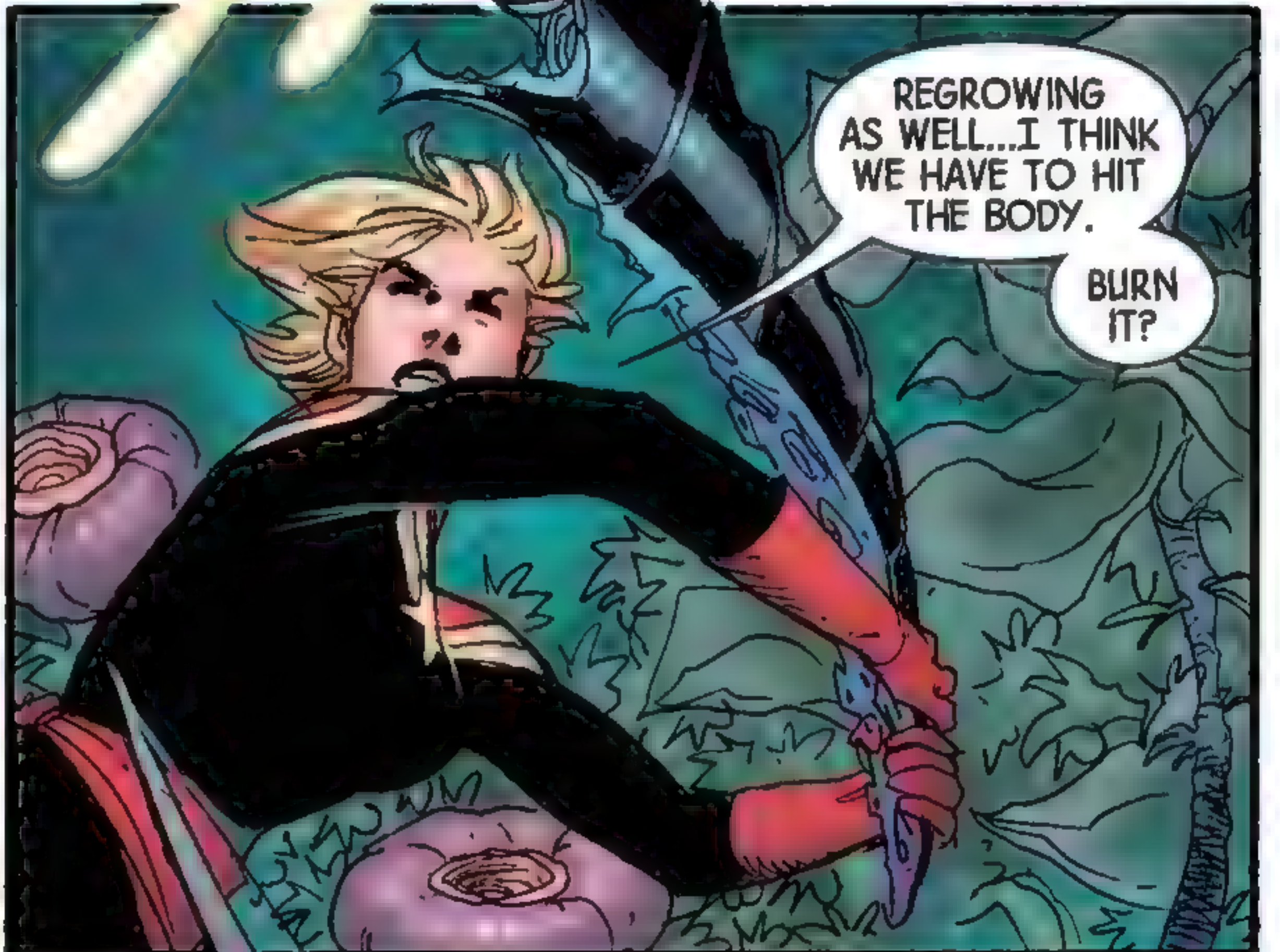
NOT FROM
A GOD YOU
DON'T.



NUH-HU-NOW THERE'S
NO NUH-NEED FOR
THIS TO ESCALATE
TO VIOLENCE.

BESIDES,
FRANKLY, I DON'T
THINK THAT THERE'S
ANYTHING HERE
WORTH--

AHAHHHHHH!



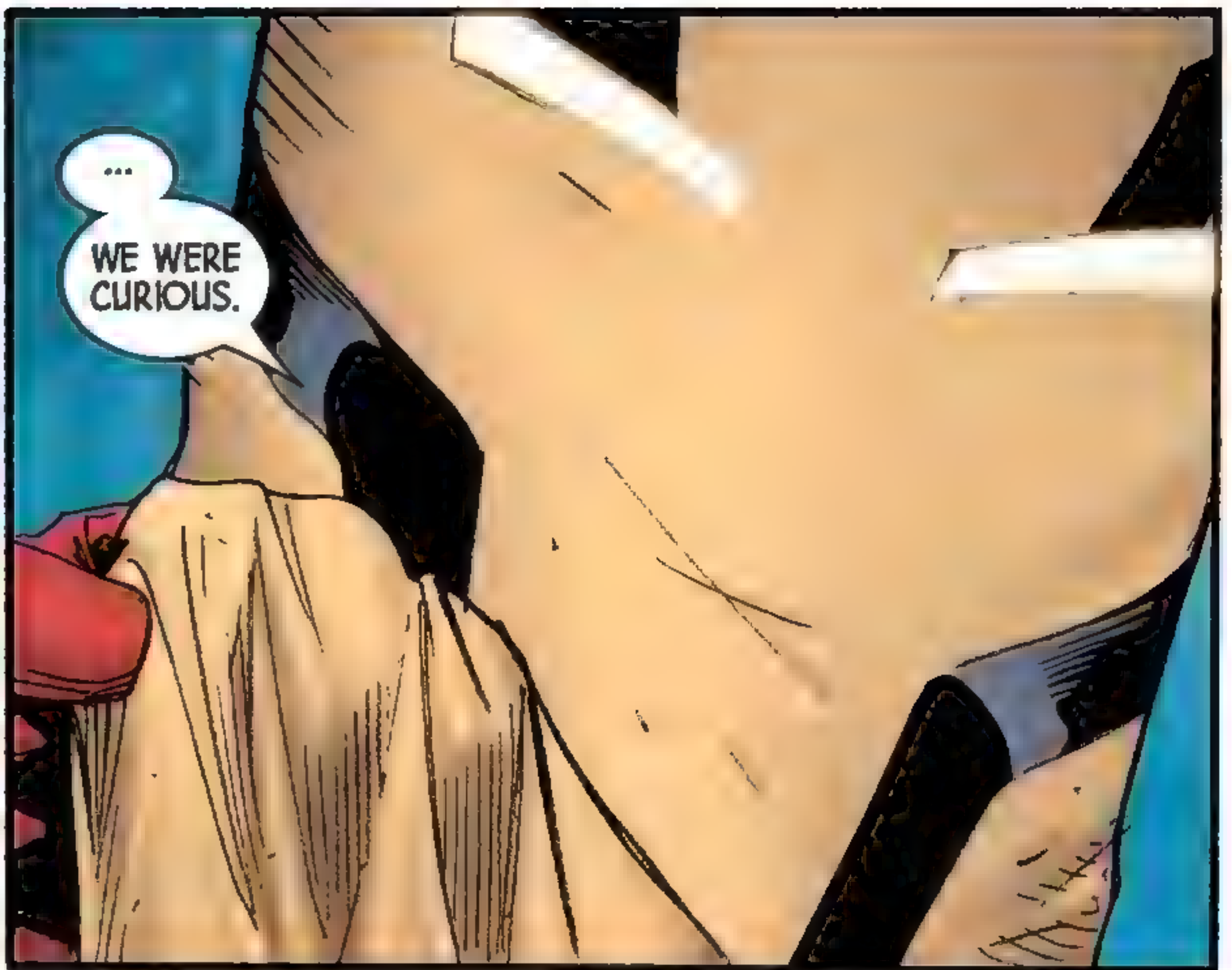




YOU WANT
TO EXPLAIN WHAT
JUST HAPPENED?

WE EXTRACTED
BASE SEQUENCING
FROM THE ALIEN MATTER
AND INTRODUCED IT
INTO A HOST.

WHY WOULD
YOU DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?



...
WE WERE
CURIOUS.



WE'RE GOING TO NEED
A FULL CONTAINMENT
TEAM HERE AS WELL.

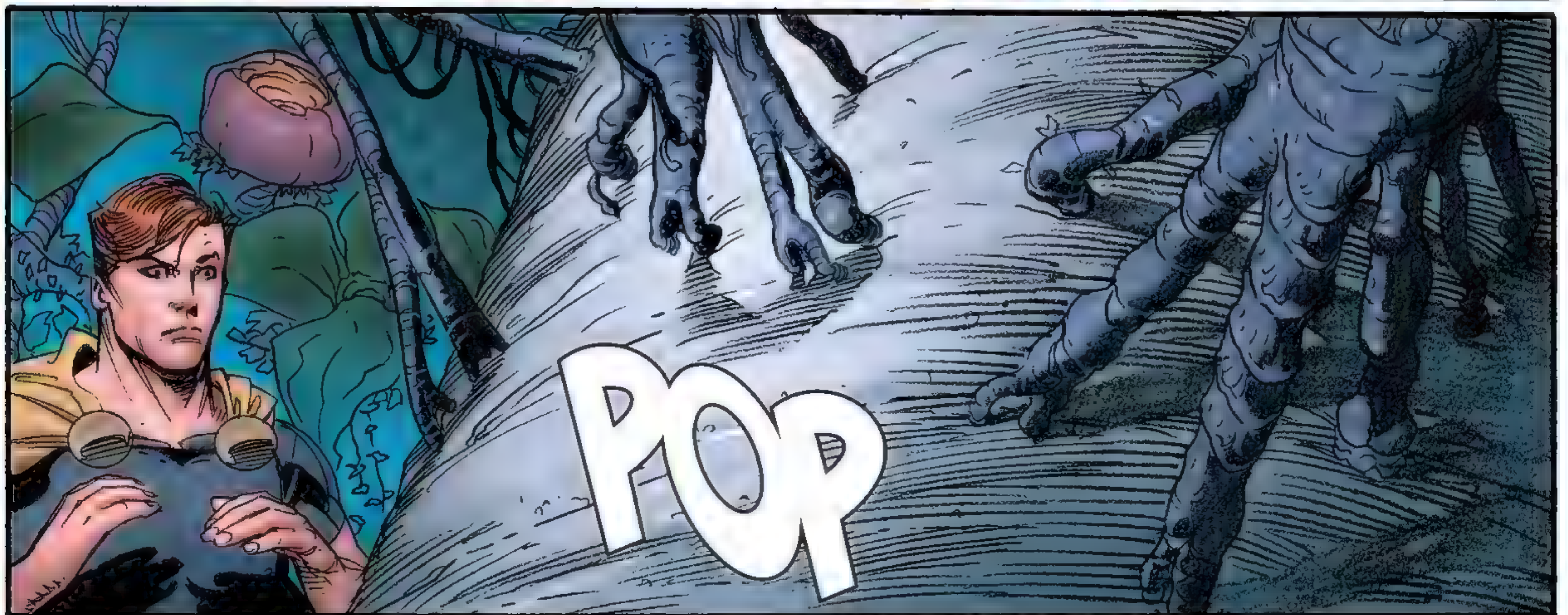
I'LL PUT A
CALL IN TO CAP AND
TONY. YOU GET ON THE
PHONE WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.--
RUN IT ALL THE WAY TO
THE TOP IF YOU
HAVE TO.

THIS COULD
HAVE GONE
VERY BAD...

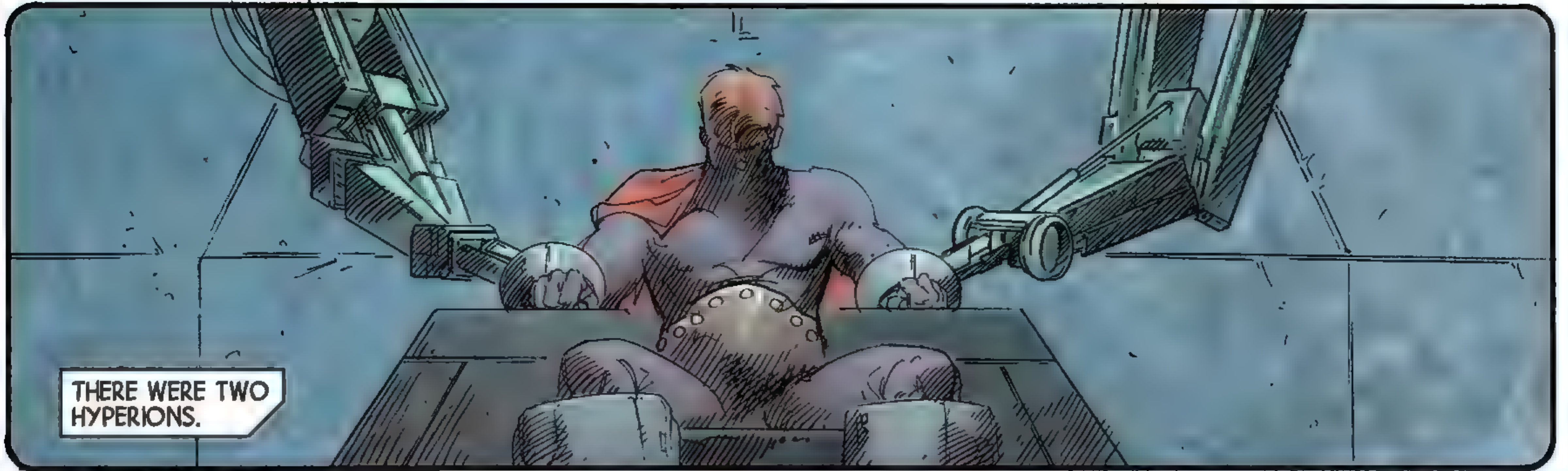


WE HAVE
TO MAKE SURE
ALL THESE SITES
ARE LOCKED
DOWN.

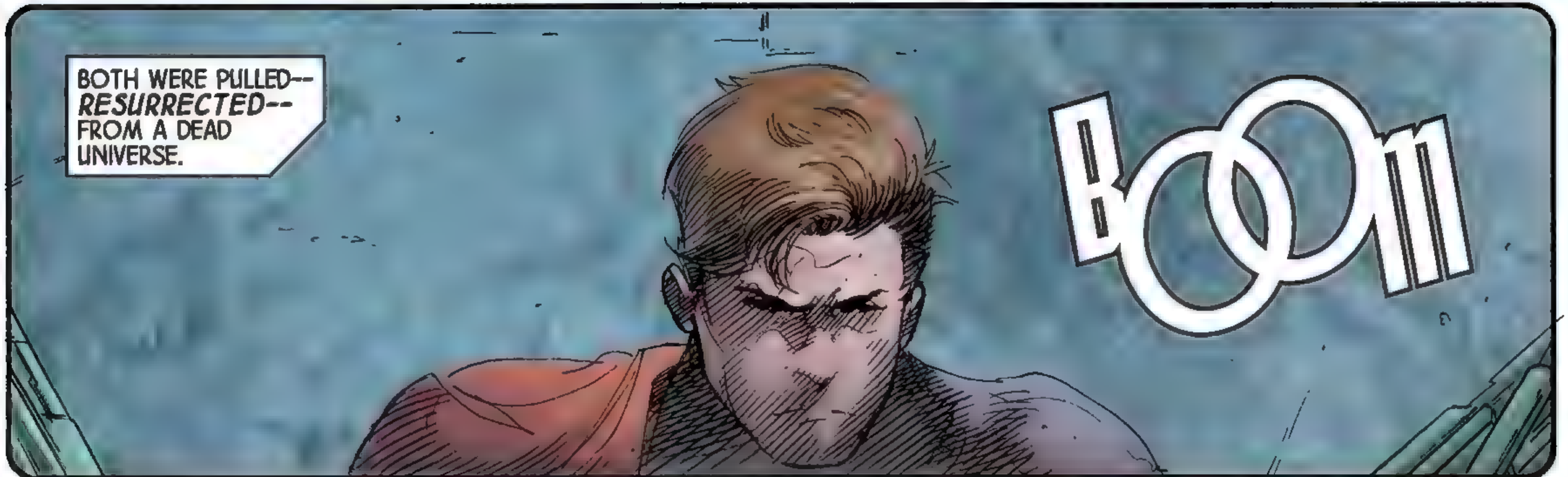
THERE'S NO
TELLING WHAT
ELSE IS GOING
TO COME OF
THIS.



POP

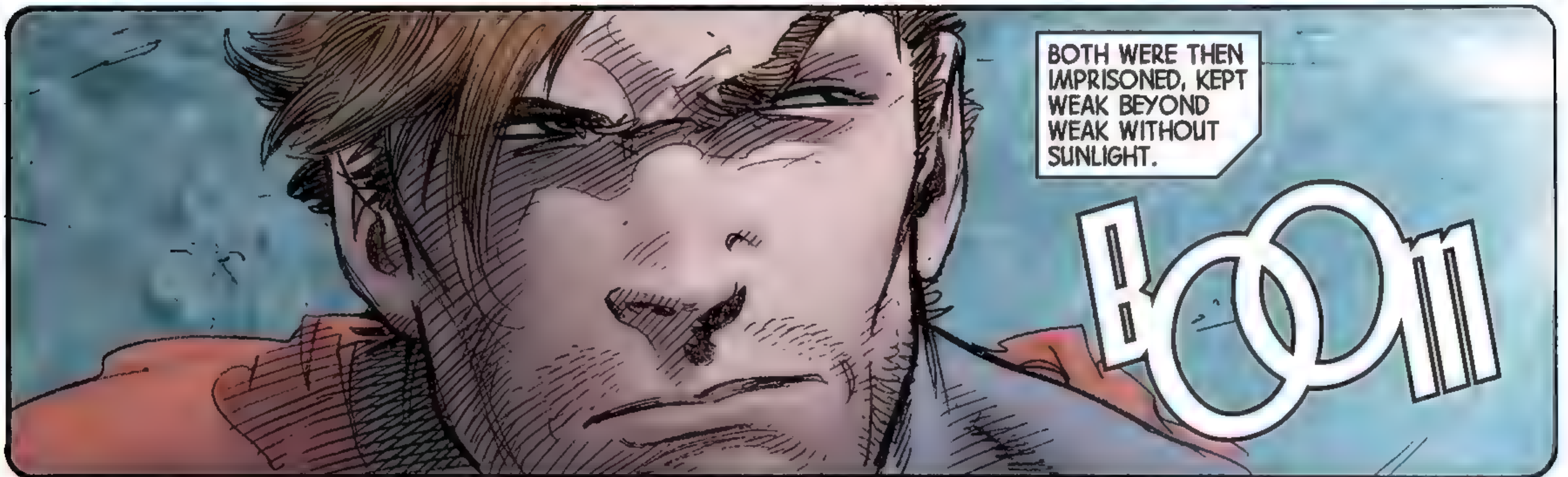


THERE WERE TWO
HYPERIONS.



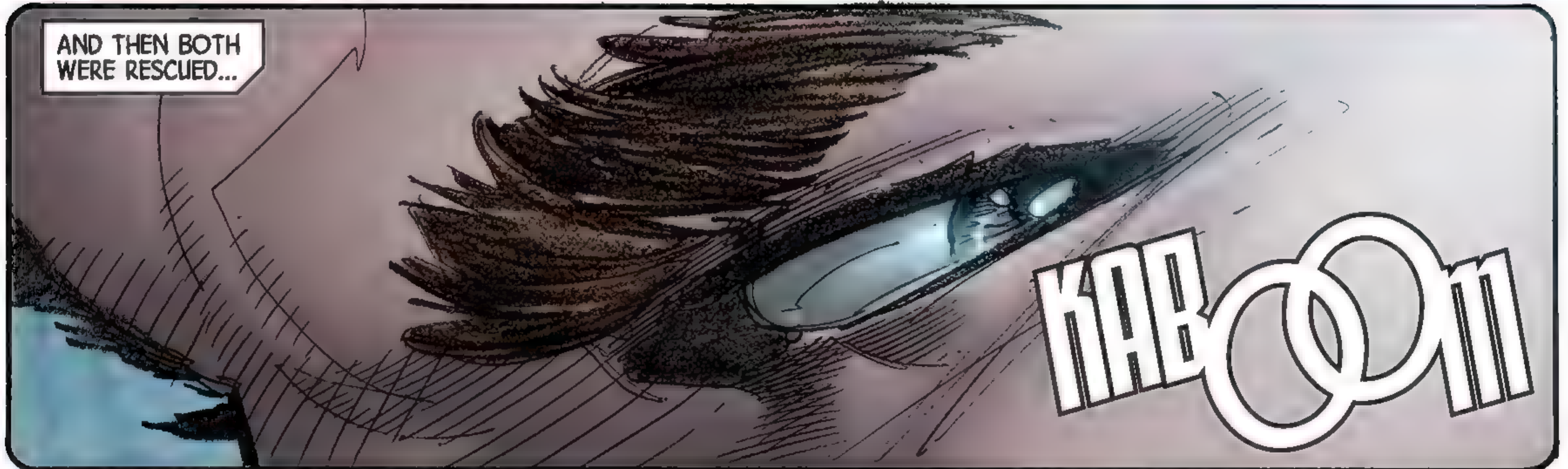
BOTH WERE PULLED--
RESURRECTED--
FROM A DEAD
UNIVERSE.

BOTH WERE THEN
IMPRISONED, KEPT
WEAK BEYOND
WEAK WITHOUT
SUNLIGHT.

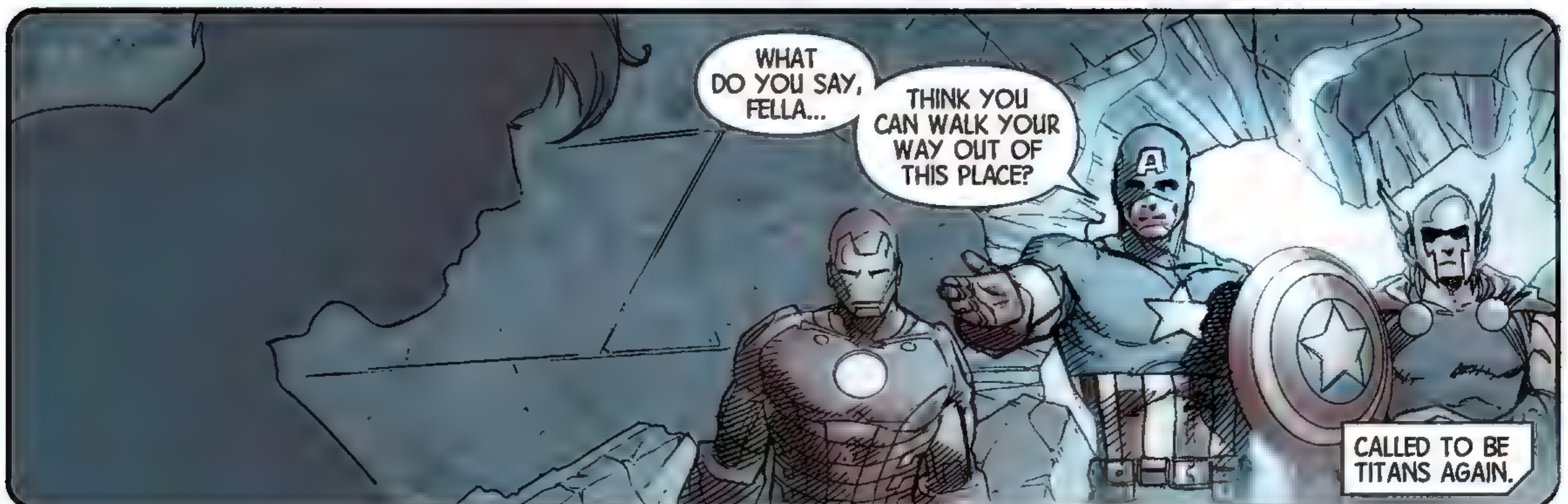


BOOM

AND THEN BOTH
WERE RESCUED...



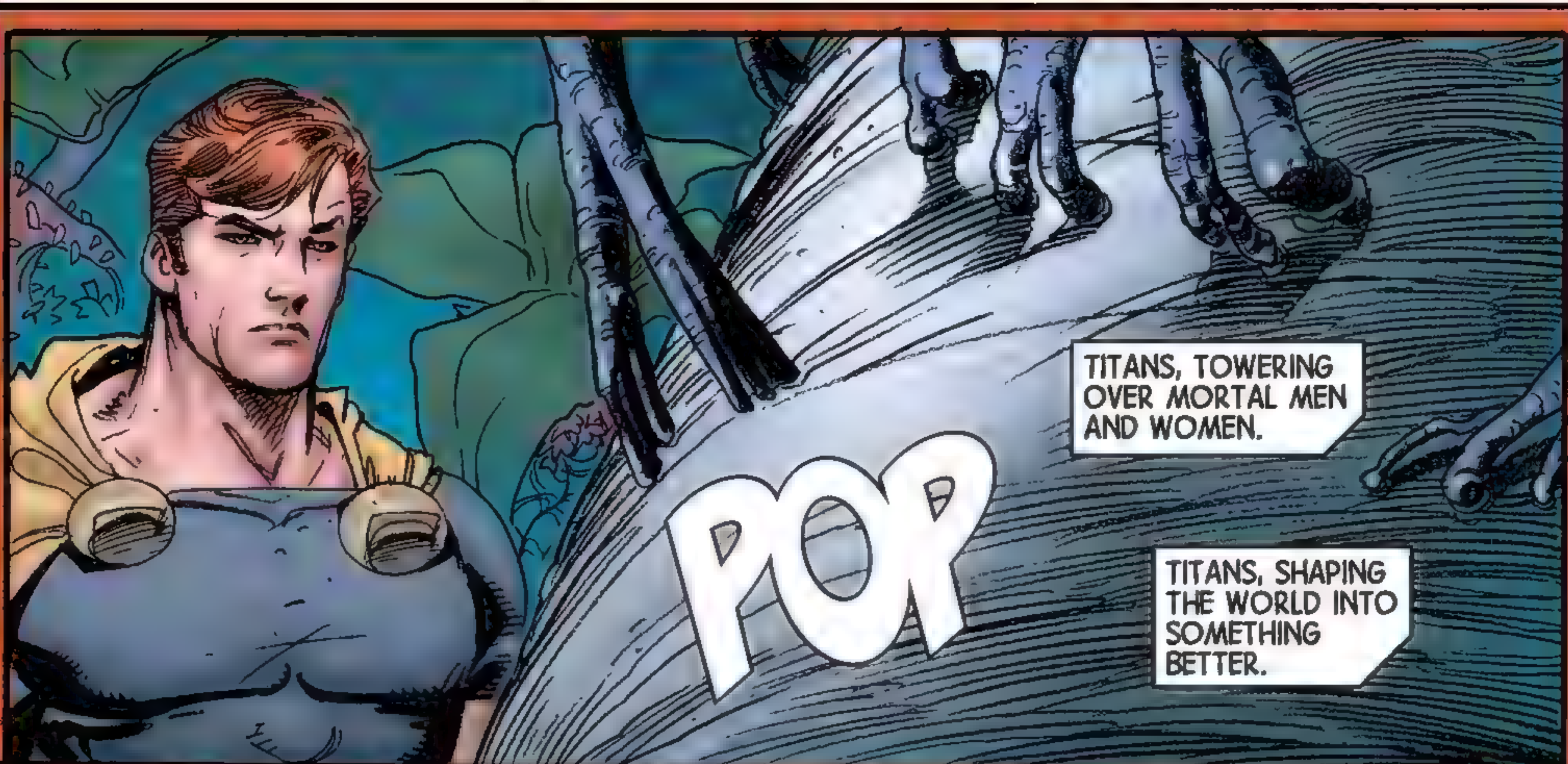
KABOOM



WHAT
DO YOU SAY,
FELLA...

THINK YOU
CAN WALK YOUR
WAY OUT OF
THIS PLACE?

CALLED TO BE
TITANS AGAIN.



TITANS, TOWERING
OVER MORTAL MEN
AND WOMEN.

TITANS, SHAPING
THE WORLD INTO
SOMETHING
BETTER.

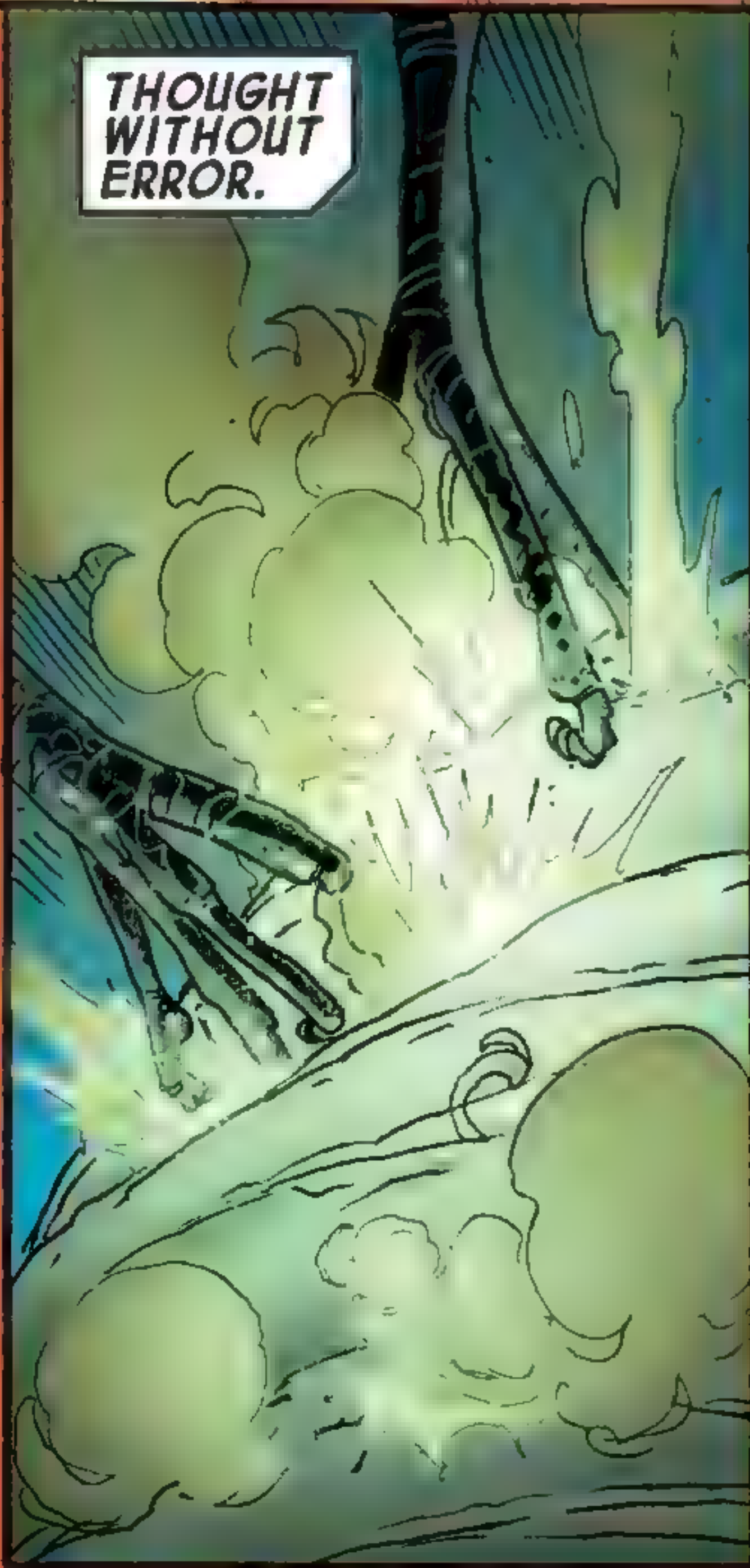
HE REMEMBERED HIS
FATHER'S WORDS:



TRUTH WITHOUT
COMPROMISE.



THOUGHT
WITHOUT
ERROR.



ALL THINGS
FOR THE
BETTERMENT
OF THE
WHOLE.



AND FOUND FAULT
WITH THEM.

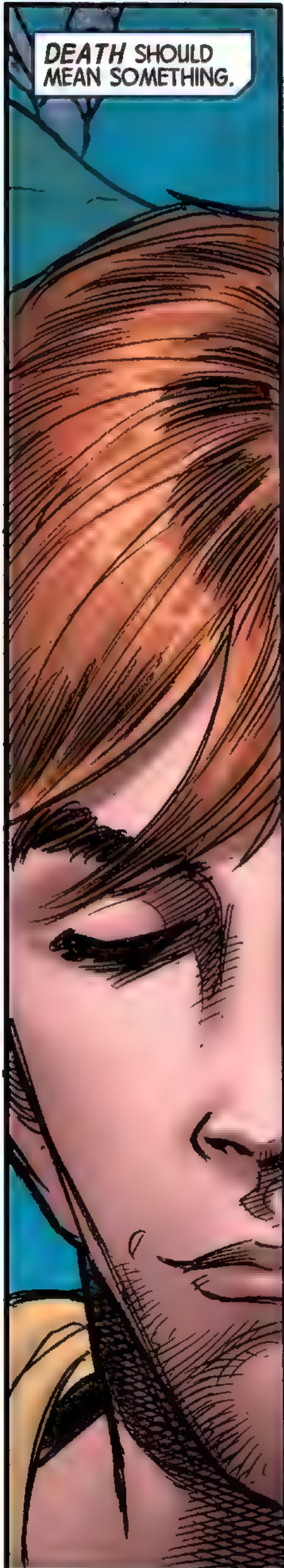




THERE WERE TWO
HYPERIONS.

ONE THAT LOST EVERYTHING,
AND ONE THAT HAD
EVERYTHING TO GAIN.

᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊



DEATH SHOULD
MEAN SOMETHING.



᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊

᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊᠊

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AND SO SHOULD
BEING BORN
AGAIN.

OKAY...
WE CAN
TRY.



HE WAS THE SUN...
AND THESE WERE
THE FIRST OF
HIS CHILDREN.

LATER.

DETAINING
THE A.I.M.
SCIENTISTS IS
GOING TO BE
A PROBLEM,
CAROL.

LET THEM
TELL IT TO
THE HAGUE.

WE COULDN'T
AFFORD ANYTHING
BREAKING
CONTAINMENT.

SOMETHING
HAS HAPPENED HERE
AND, FRANKLY, WE WERE
LUCKY **HYPERION**
FOUND THE SIXTH AND
FINAL SITE AS QUICKLY
AS HE DID OR...

HOLD
ON A SECOND,
CAP.

WHAT ARE
YOU SMIRKING
AT?

WHI-WH-WHY
SHOULDN'T I BE
HAPPY? YUH-YUH-YOU
SUH-SAVED US FROM
THOSE MONSTERS.

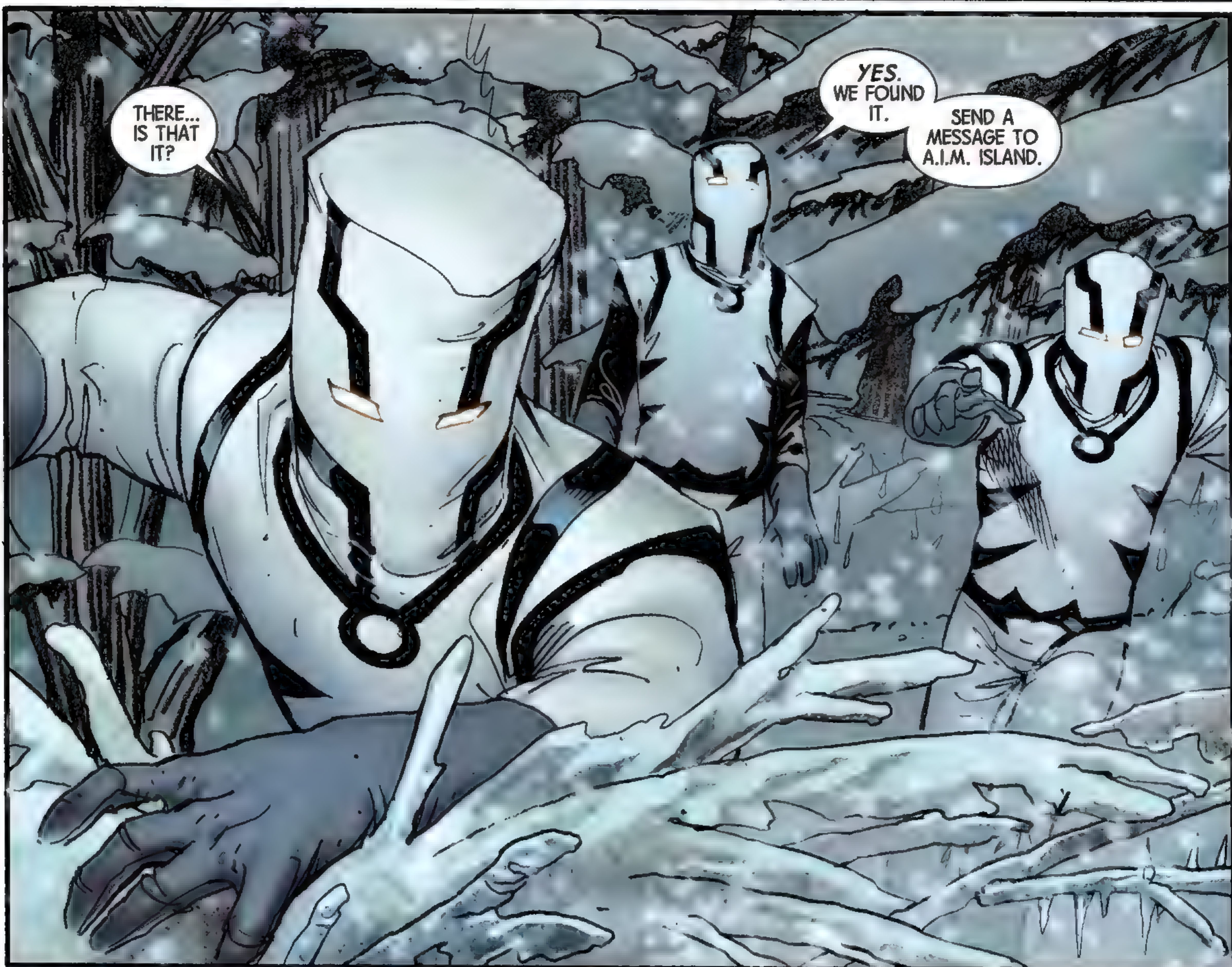
YUH-YOU
GOT ALL SIX
SITES.

GUH-GUH-
GOOD JOB,
CUH-CAPTAIN.

GUH-GOOD
JOB.

NORWAY.

THE TARGET
SHOULD BE RIGHT
UP AHEAD.





“SUPERGUARDIAN”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

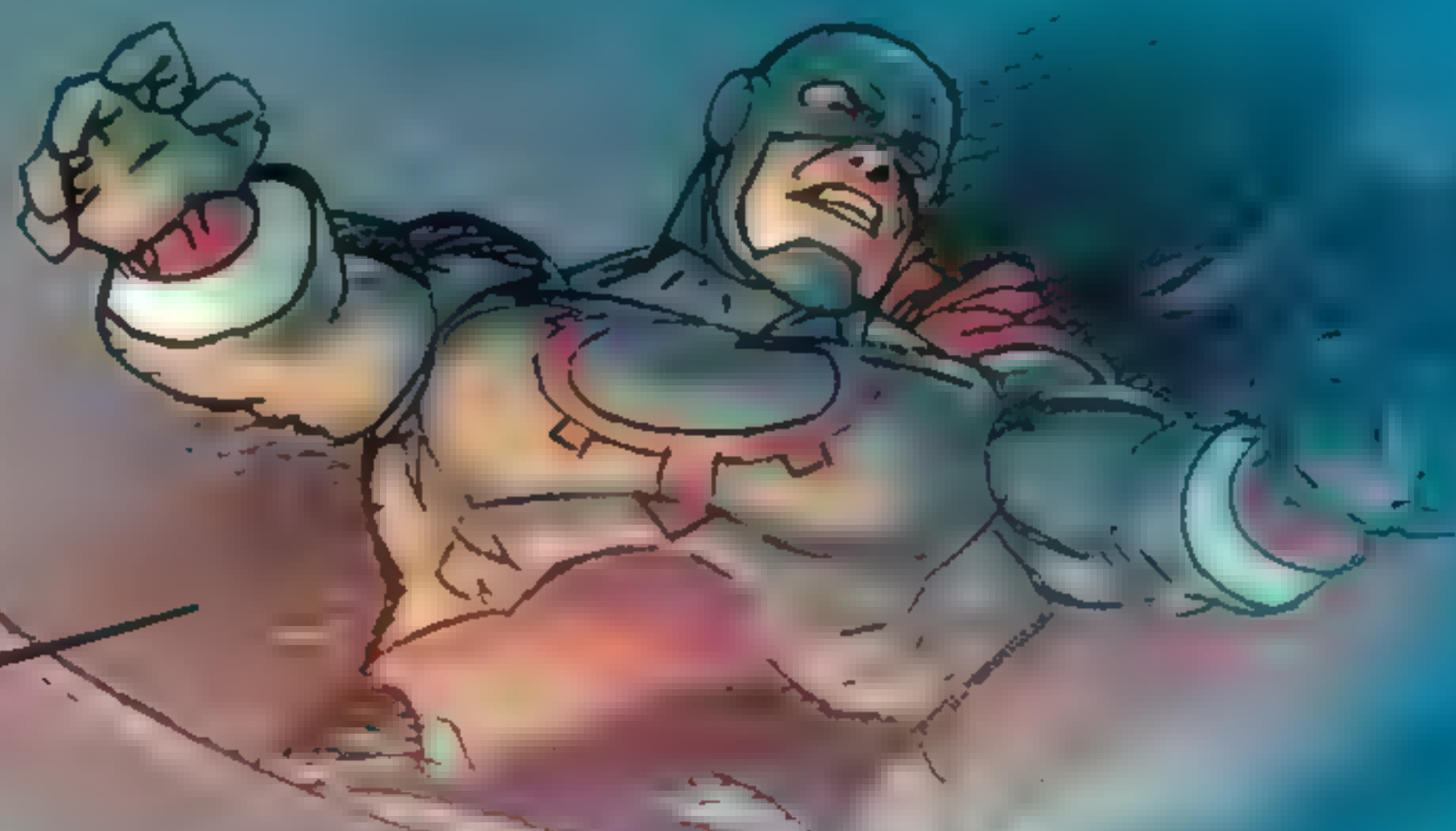
CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SONSPOT • CANNIBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION

OUTER SPACE.
THEN.

EMPRESS!
MY EMPRESS!

THE
WHEEL IS
BROKEN!

THE WORLD
IS LOST!



IMMUNDRA
HAS FALLEN!

GO,
SMASHER!
WARN THE
EARTH!

YOU
HAVE MY
VOW.

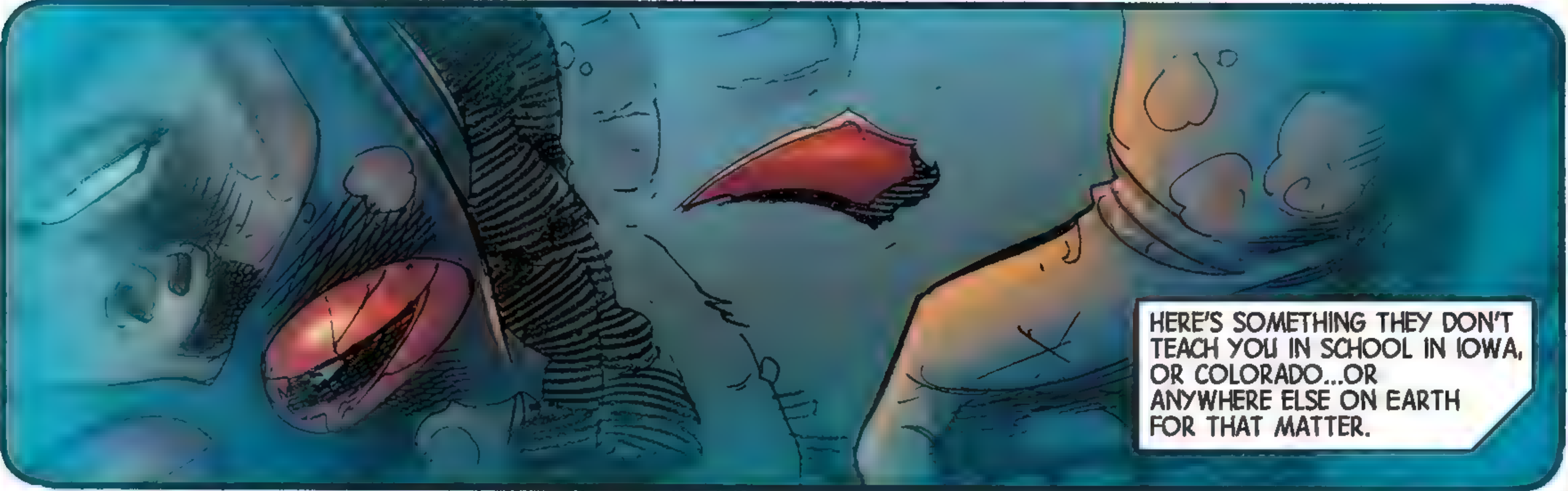
I WILL
NOT FAIL.

"I WILL
NOT."



BOOM!

HERE'S SOMETHING THEY DON'T
TEACH YOU IN SCHOOL IN IOWA,
OR COLORADO...OR
ANYWHERE ELSE ON EARTH
FOR THAT MATTER.



SYNTHETIC TRI-PLATED
SPECTRA-FORMS ARE
ACTUALLY **ORGANIC**
CONSTRUCTS.

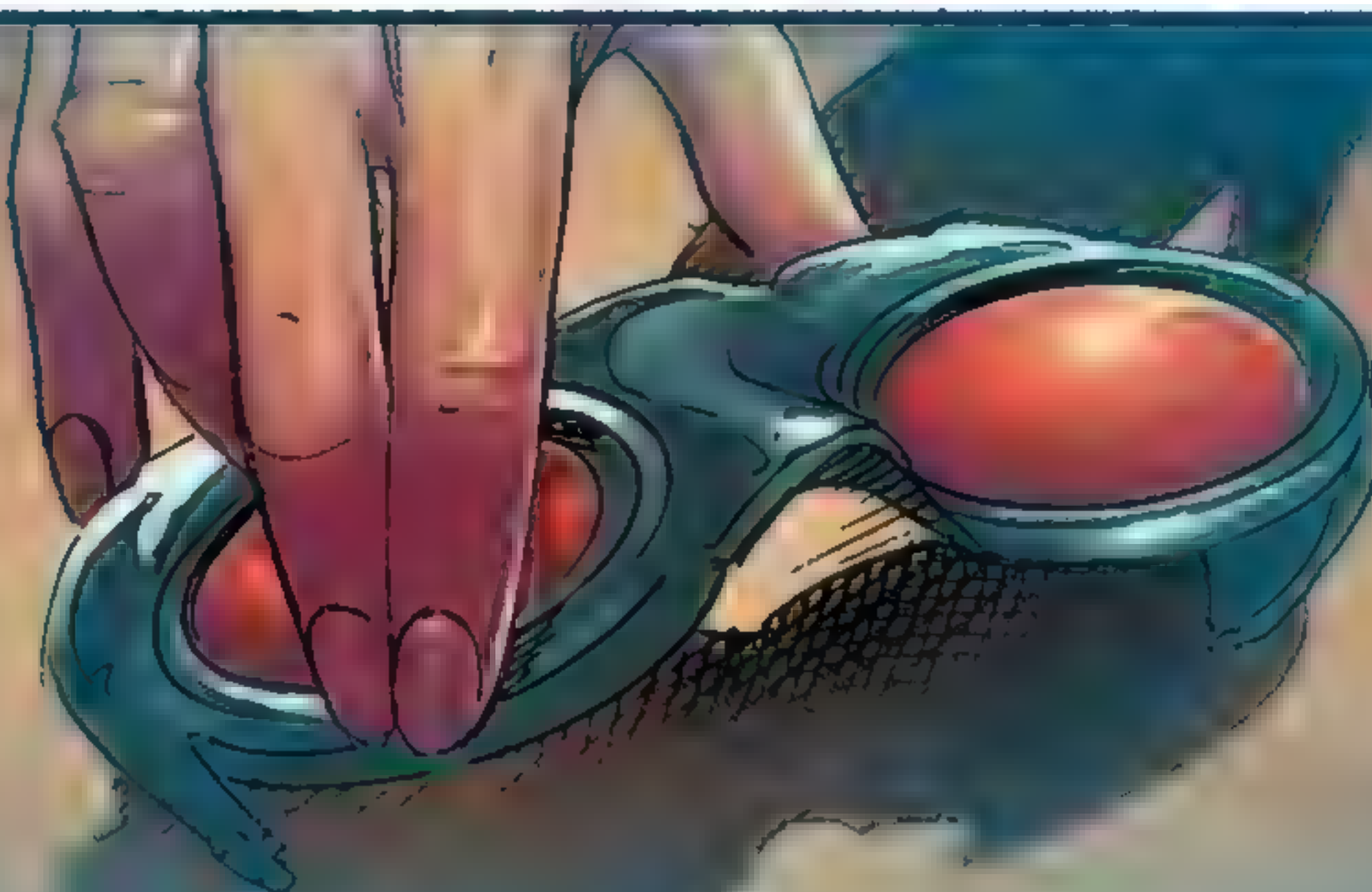


ORGANIC.

MEANING THEY
ARE ALIVE.

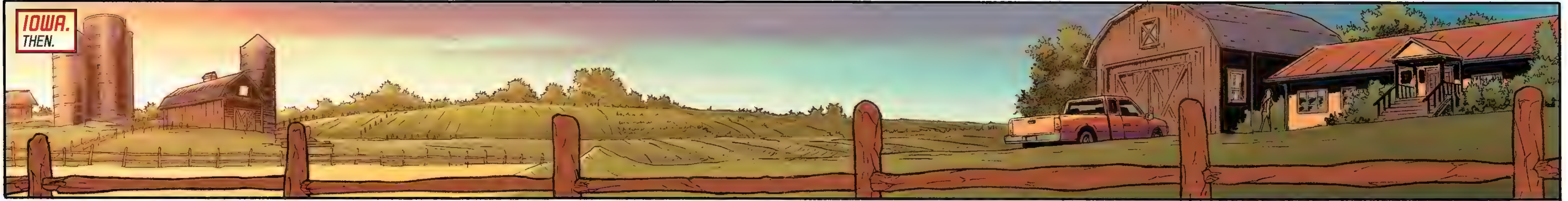


ISN'T THAT
SOMETHING?



HUH.





IOWA.
THEN.



HEY, IZZY. HOW'D IT LOOK OUT THERE?

WEIRD. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT I FOUND IN THE NORTH FIELD.

THERE WAS THIS--



IT'S GONNA HAVE TO WAIT, KID.

YOUR GRANDFATHER DECIDED TO SABOTAGE THE PEN.

AGAIN.

SO YOU HAVE TO GO PLAY COWBOY?



GIDDY-UP, AND IT'S GETTIN' OLD. SEE IF YOU CAN TALK TO HIM.

I'LL BE BACK LATER.



SO...THE FARMER'S LIBERATION ARMY STRIKES AGAIN, HUH?



KAFFI! NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



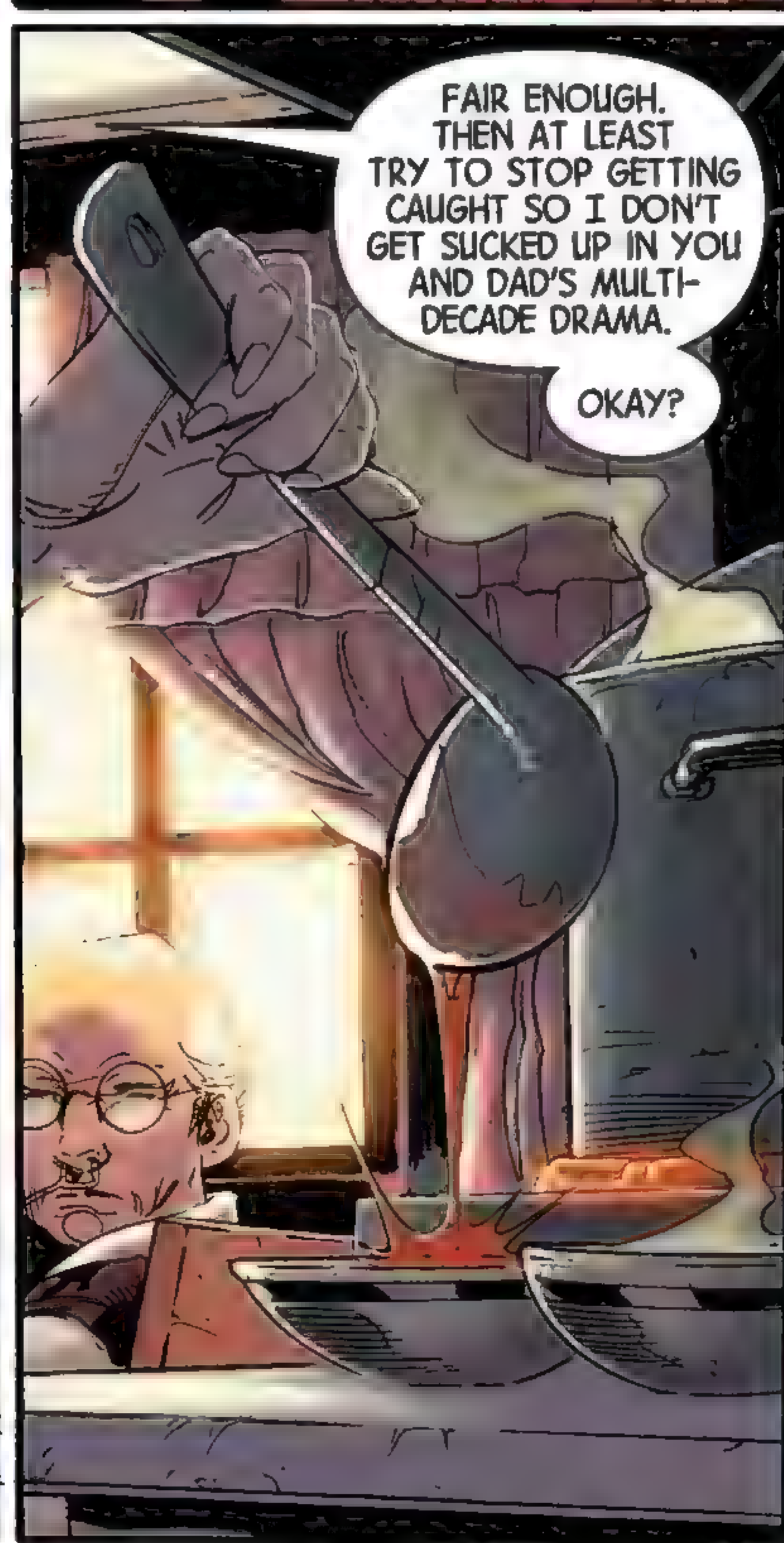
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP DOING THAT, GRANDPA...

EMPHYSEMA ISN'T ALZHEIMER'S... AND YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYONE.

I'M DYING EITHER WAY, KIDDO.

KAFFI!

I JUST DON'T LIKE THINGS IN CAGES.

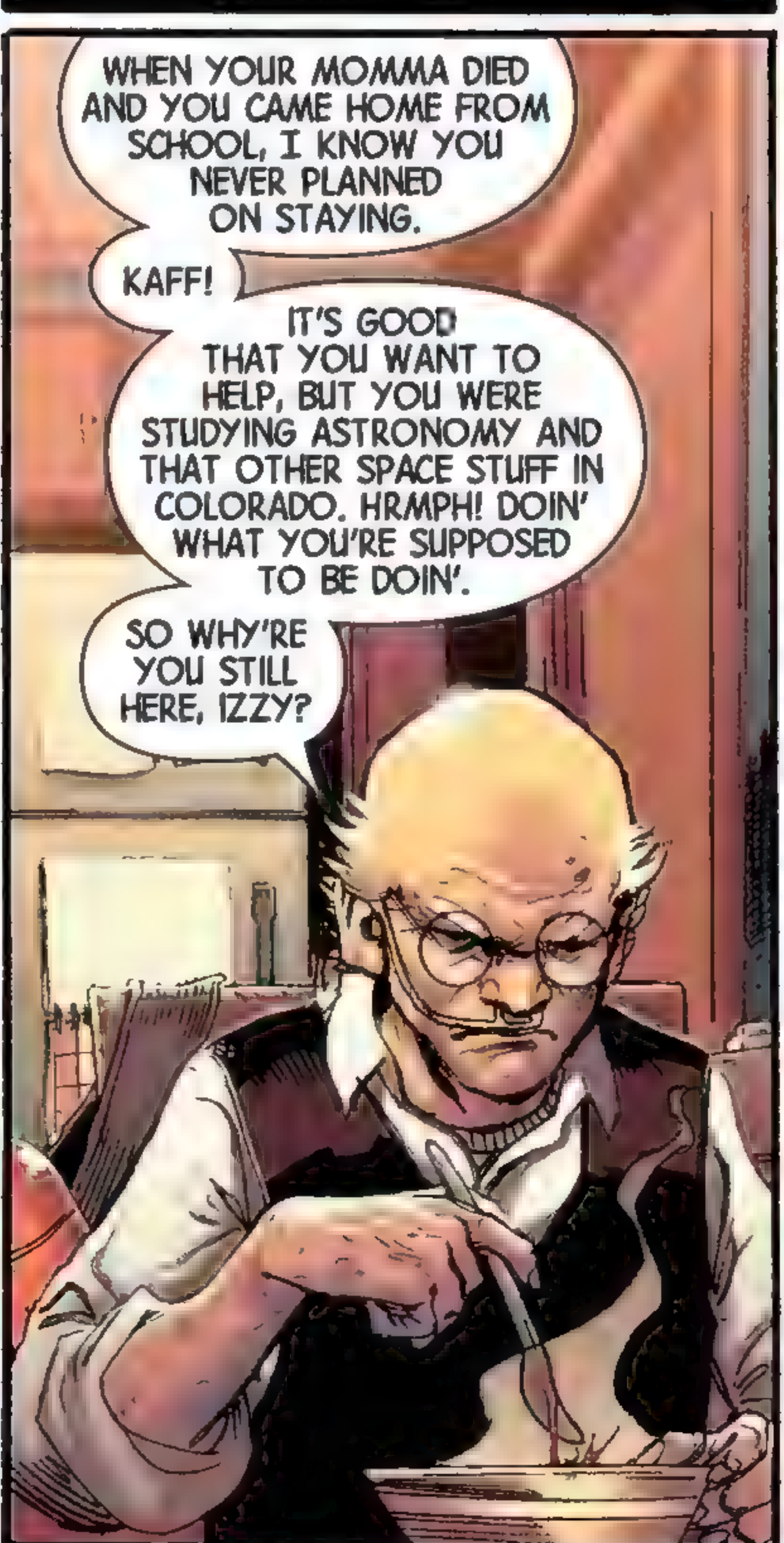


FAIR ENOUGH. THEN AT LEAST TRY TO STOP GETTING CAUGHT SO I DON'T GET SUCKED UP IN YOU AND DAD'S MULTI-DECADE DRAMA.

OKAY?



HERE.



WHEN YOUR MOMMA DIED AND YOU CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL, I KNOW YOU NEVER PLANNED ON STAYING.

KAFFI!

IT'S GOOD THAT YOU WANT TO HELP, BUT YOU WERE STUDYING ASTRONOMY AND THAT OTHER SPACE STUFF IN COLORADO. HRMPH! DOIN' WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOIN'.

SO WHY'RE YOU STILL HERE, IZZY?



SKY'S CLEAR--I CAN SEE THE HEAVENS. IT'S NOT SO BAD.

I DON'T REGRET DOING THE RIGHT THING.

SURE. I GOT SOME OF THAT.

THEN YOU UNDERSTAND JUST FINE, SO WHY DO YOU KEEP GIVING ME A HARD TIME ABOUT IT?

WHY DO YOU CARE?



I DON'T LIKE THINGS IN CAGES.

LATER.

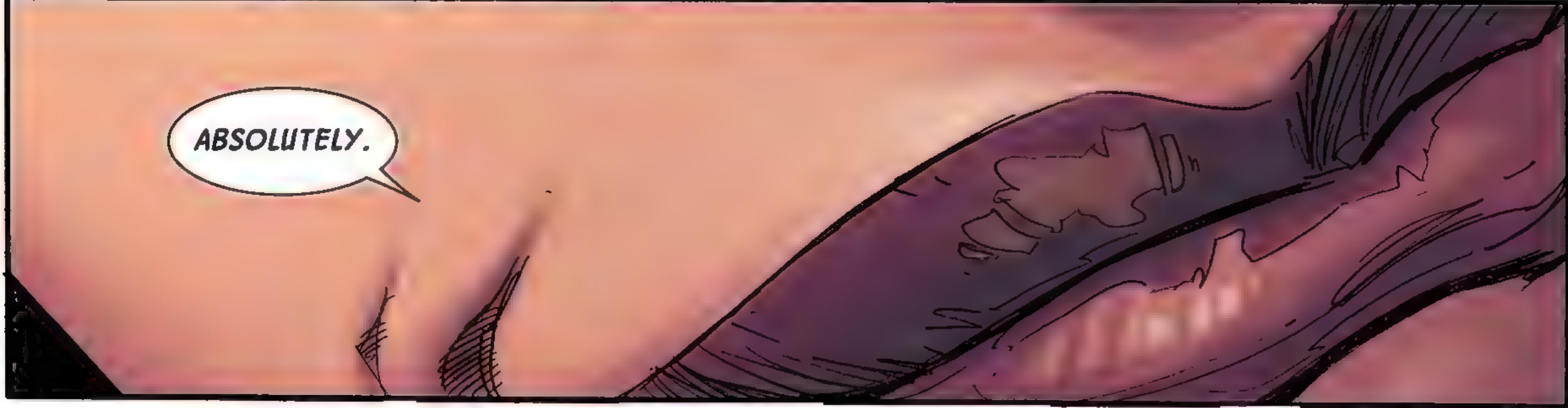
HELLO,
BEAUTIFUL.

WHAT
THE--

WHOA.

OKAAAAAYYY.

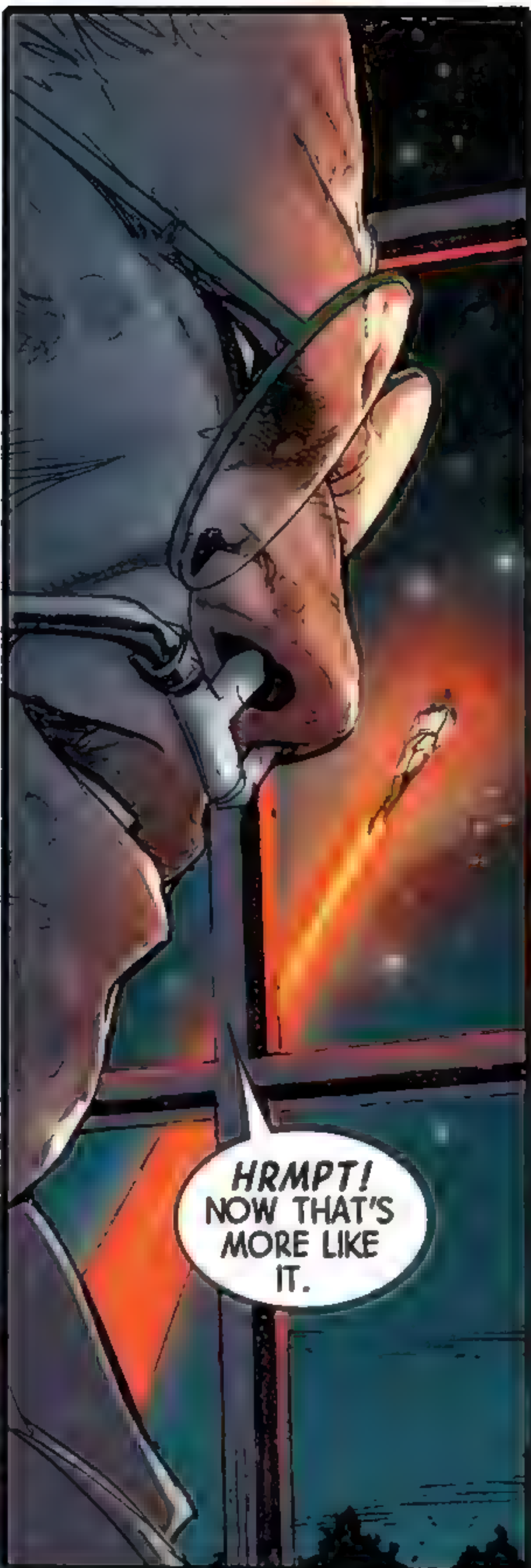




ABSOLUTELY.



WWHOOAAAAA!



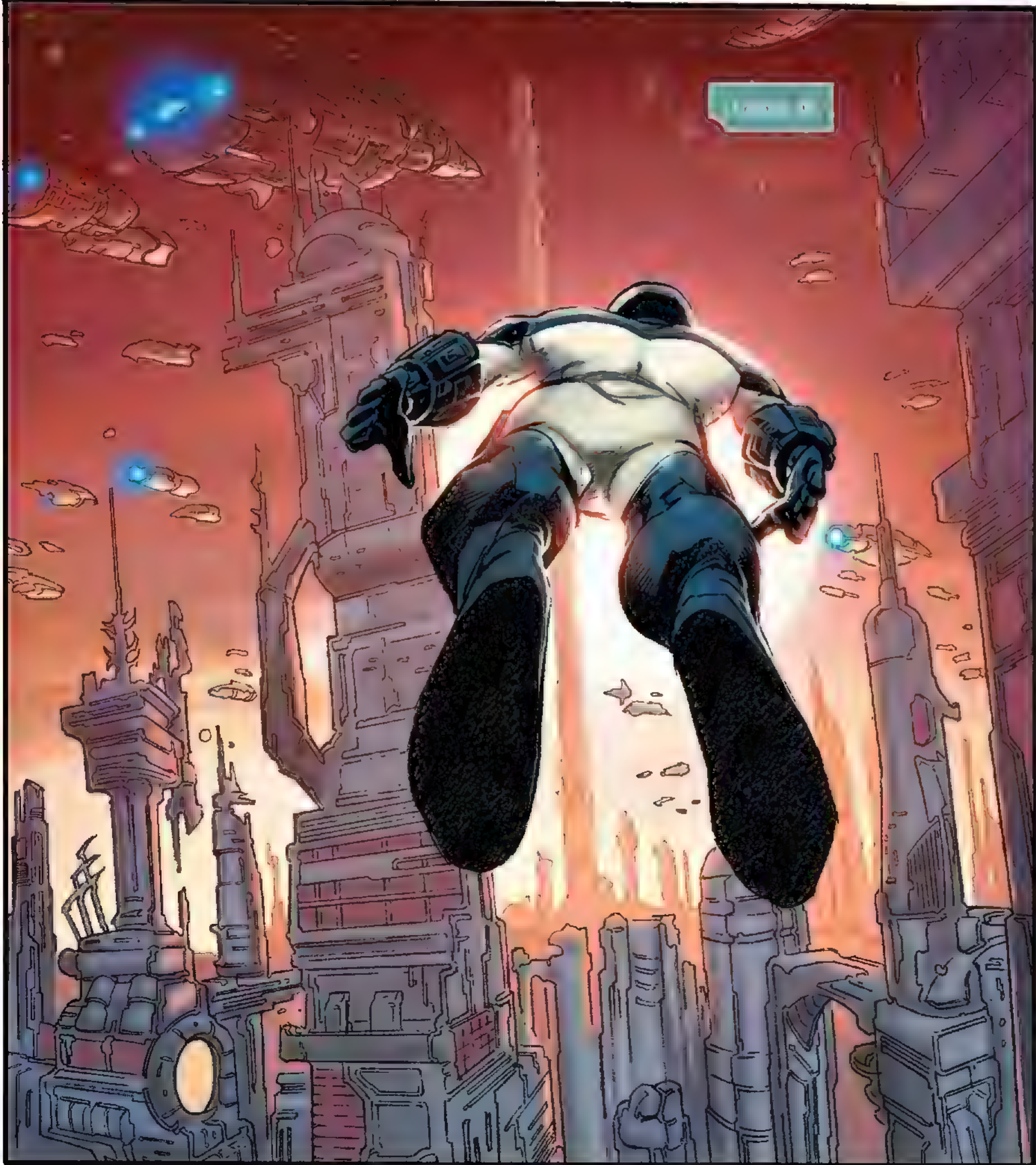
HRMPT!
NOW THAT'S
MORE LIKE
IT.



WHAT IS
THAT?

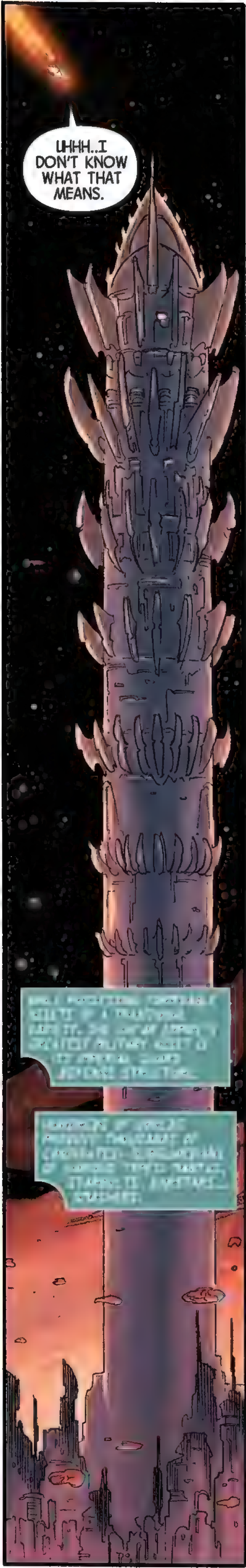


STARGATE?



THIS IS...
ANOTHER
PLANET...

THAT'S...A
FREAKING ALIEN PLANET.
HOLY FERD...I'M GOING
TO BE THE FIRST HUMAN
BEING TO SET FOOT
ON A--



UHHH..I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT THAT
MEANS.

THE TOWER IS A
MAJOR DEFENSE
STRUCTURE THAT
IS USED TO
PROTECT THE
CITY FROM
INTRUSION.

THE TOWER IS
A MAJOR DEFENSE
STRUCTURE THAT
IS USED TO
PROTECT THE
CITY FROM
INTRUSION.

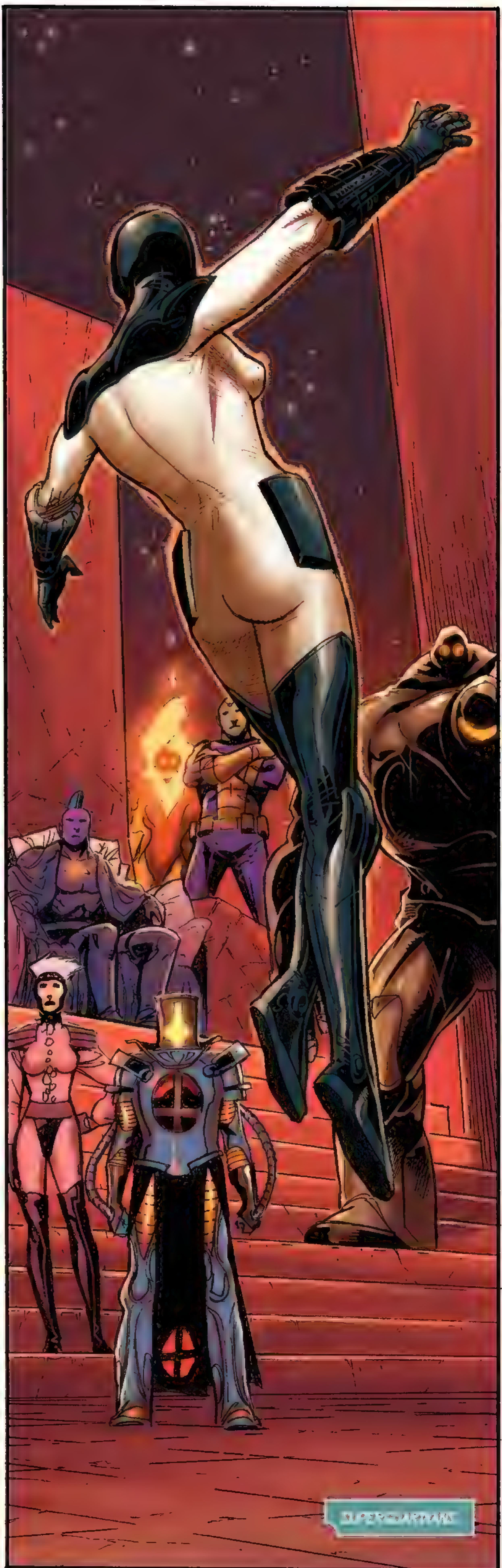


WAIT,
SMASHER--
YOU MEAN
LIKE ME?

THE TOWER IS
A MAJOR DEFENSE
STRUCTURE THAT
IS USED TO
PROTECT THE
CITY FROM
INTRUSION.

THE TOWER IS
A MAJOR DEFENSE
STRUCTURE THAT
IS USED TO
PROTECT THE
CITY FROM
INTRUSION.

OKAY...
AND IF I'M A
SUBGUARDIAN,
WHAT ARE THEY
CALLED?



THE TOWER IS
A MAJOR DEFENSE
STRUCTURE THAT
IS USED TO
PROTECT THE
CITY FROM
INTRUSION.

AVENGERS TOWER.
NOW.

BLACKVEIL?

EXCUSE ME,
MISTER STARK, WE
DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT
WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE
DOIN', BUT--

**SAM!
BOBBY! GET
IN HERE! LOOK
AT THIS.**

BLACKVEIL

ADAM AND I
WERE ABLE TO FORMALIZE
THE CHARACTERS IN HIS ALPHABET
AND FROM THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE
TO CREATE A CONVERSION SYSTEM
THAT SYNC'S UP WITH HIS SPEECH--
WE'VE JUST HAD OUR FIRST
BREAKTHROUGH...

IT'S
HIS NAME...
BLACKVEIL.

ବିଦ୍ୟାବିହାରୀ

BLACKVEIL.

ବିଦ୍ୟାବିହାରୀ

BLACKVEIL,
OKAY. IT'S NOT
THE STEAM ENGINE...
BUT IT IS WHAT WE
CIVILIZED MEN CALL
PROGRESS.

တရားရုံးချုပ်

THAT'S
REALLY
IMPRESSIVE,
SIR.

**RIGHT. YOU
WANTED
SOMETHING
ELSE...?**

WE'RE LOOKING FOR IZZY AND EDEN, AND WHEN WE COULDN'T FIND THEM WE TRIED USING THE "WHERE IS" FUNCTION ON THE AVENGERS MACHINE, BUT--

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE TWO OF YOU MISSED ALL THE COMMOTION THIS MORNING--IMPERIAL ALERTS, THREAT TO THE EMPIRE, GENERAL HYSTERIA...

ANYWAY,
OF COURSE THEY
DIDN'T SHOW UP ON
THE *FINDER*.

WHY IS THAT?

**SAM...THEY'RE IN
ANOTHER GALAXY.**

THE SHI'AR GALATIC RIM.
NOW.



BOOM

WARSTAR
IS DOWN,
ORACLE.

IS
SMASHER..?

GALIN'S
GONE,
MANTA.

WE HAVE
TO--

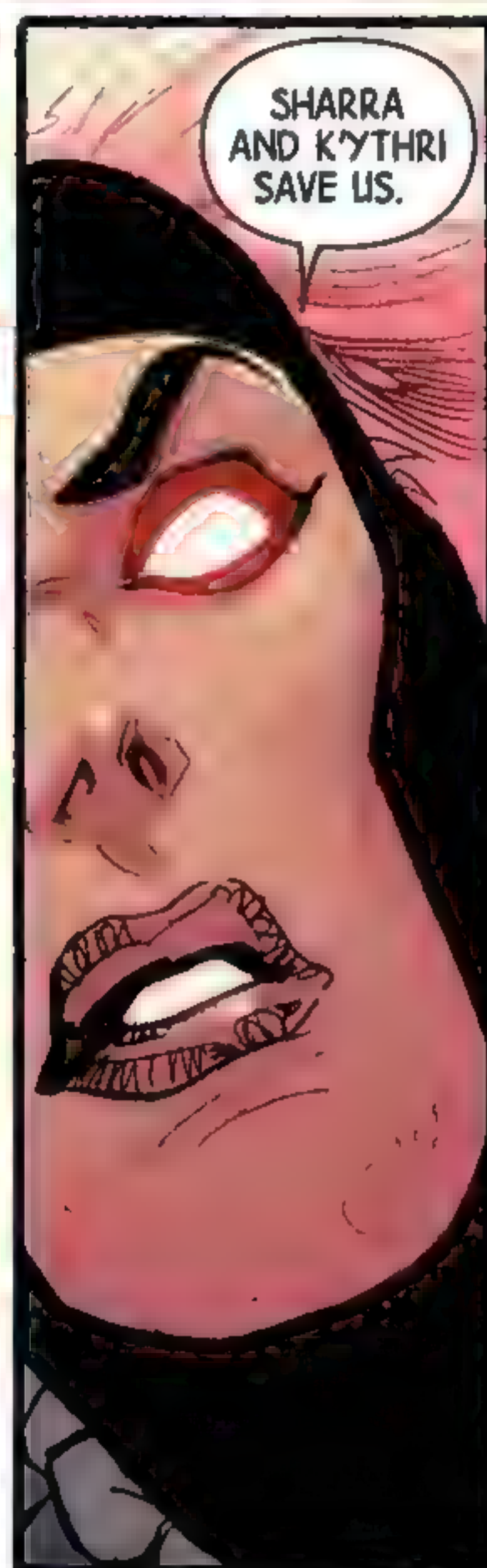


AAIIIEEEE!

ZZAKK!



SHARRA
AND K'YTHRI
SAVE US.



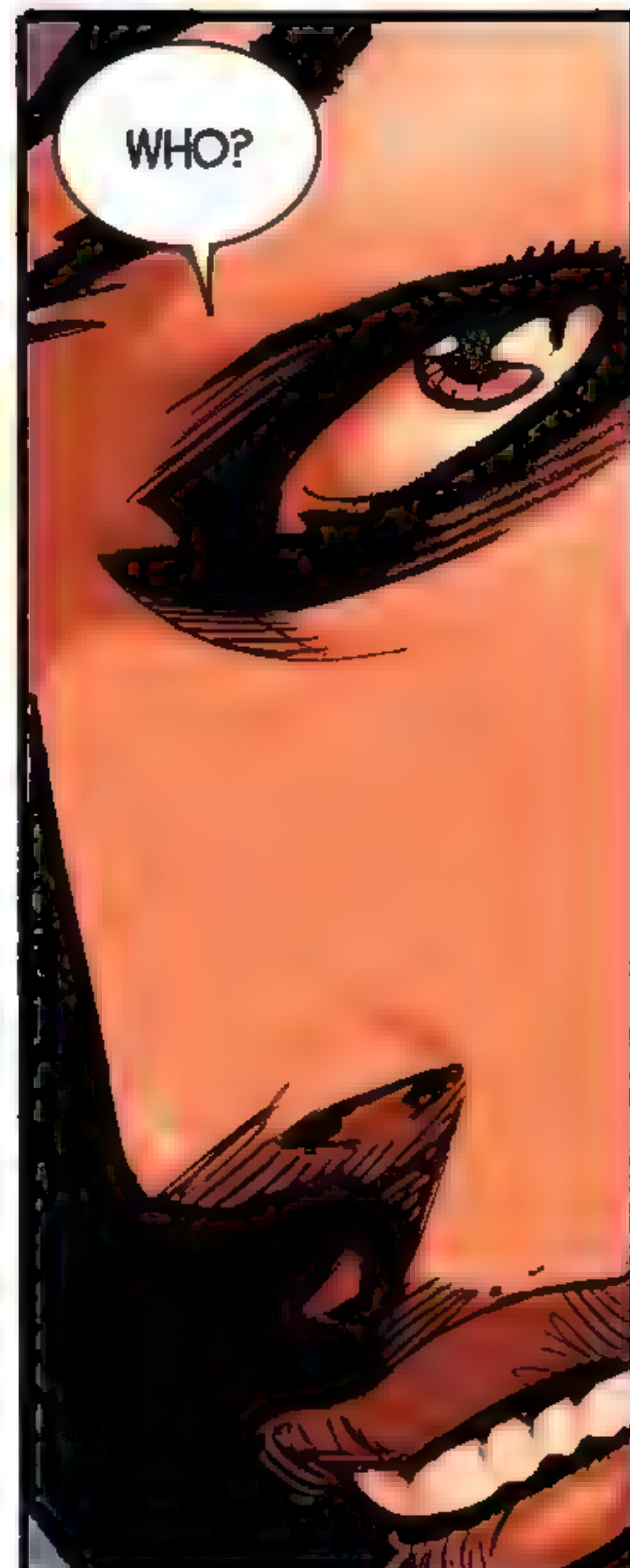
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

SENTIENT
DRONES.



OMG!
IT'S THE
SKINNY
SCISSOR!

OMG!
IT'S THE
SKINNY
SCISSOR!



WHO?

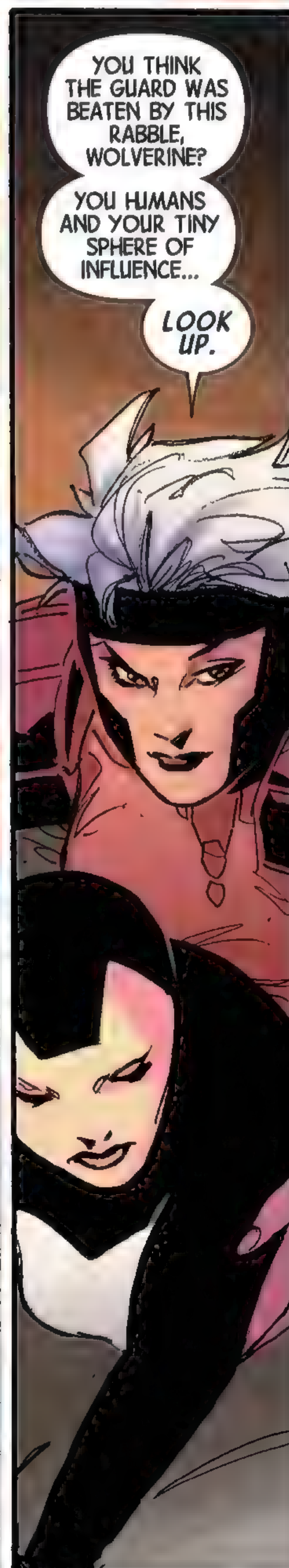


MY EXOSPECS
PICKED UP YOUR
INTERGALACTIC ALERT,
SUPERGUARDIAN--BROKEN
FRONTIER. CAME AS
QUICKLY AS I
COULD.

I BROUGHT
REINFORCEMENTS,
ORACLE...THE
AVENGERS!

ALTHOUGH
IT LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE TOO LATE
TO BE NEEDED
FOR ANYTHING
BUT MOP-UP
DUTY.

WHAT'S AN
IMPERIAL GUARD
UNIT DOING GETTING
ROLLED BY A BUNCH
OF SLEAZO NORMAL-
TYPE ATTACK
DRONES?



YOU THINK
THE GUARD WAS
BEATEN BY THIS
RABBLE,
WOLVERINE?

YOU HUMANS
AND YOUR TINY
SPHERE OF
INFLUENCE...

LOOK
UP.



"LOOK UP...AND
PREPARE YOURSELVES
FOR BATTLE."

OH
BOY.

LOOKS LIKE AROUND
TWENTY HEAVY CRUISERS
AND COUNTLESS SUPPORT
SHIPS OUTNUMBERING
THE FIVE REMAINING--

BOOM!

--FOUR
REMAINING
SHI'AR SUPER-
DESTROYERS.

OKAY.
THAT SOUNDS
PRETTY BAD.

REALLY
BAD.

THEN
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
RUN...

WOULD
YOU MIND
HOLDING
THESE FOR
ME?

OKAY, SURE. MOST OF
THE TECHNOLOGY IS HUNDREDS
OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEYOND
WHAT WE HAVE ON EARTH.

THAT'S SAYING
NOTHING OF THE CUMULATIVE
INFLUENCE OF THE THOUSANDS
OF WORLDS THAT MAKE UP
THE EMPIRE.

I WOULD
NEVER RUN, BUT
HOW DO WE EVEN
FIGHT SOMETHING
LIKE THIS?

I MEAN...
WHEN FACING A
ENDLESS ALIEN
ARMADA, WHAT'S
A SMASHER
TO DO?





NOW.

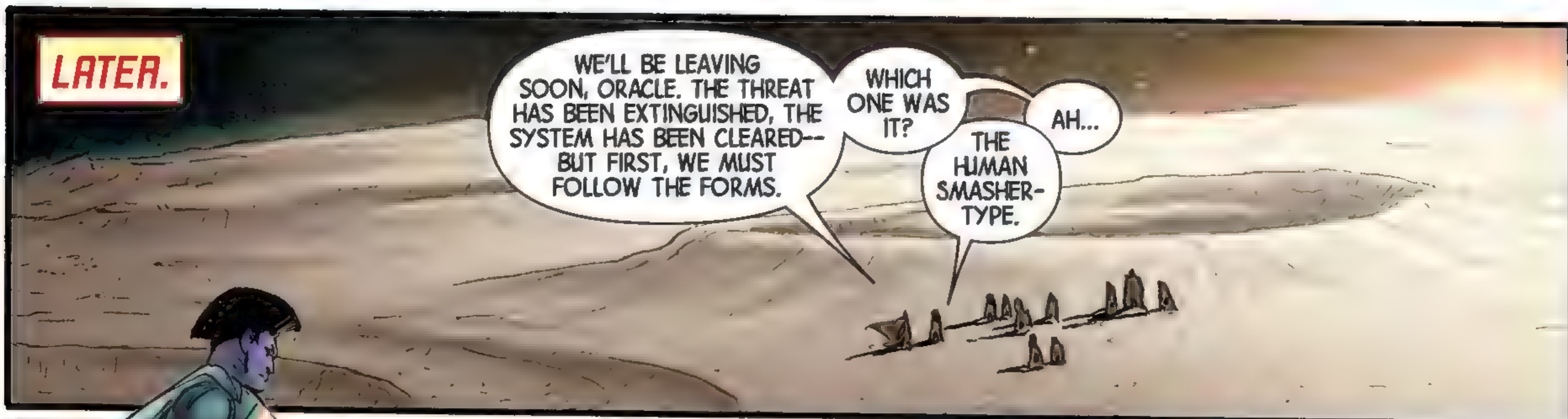
BOOM!

SMASHH!

BRNZZZZ

DON'T
LET UP!



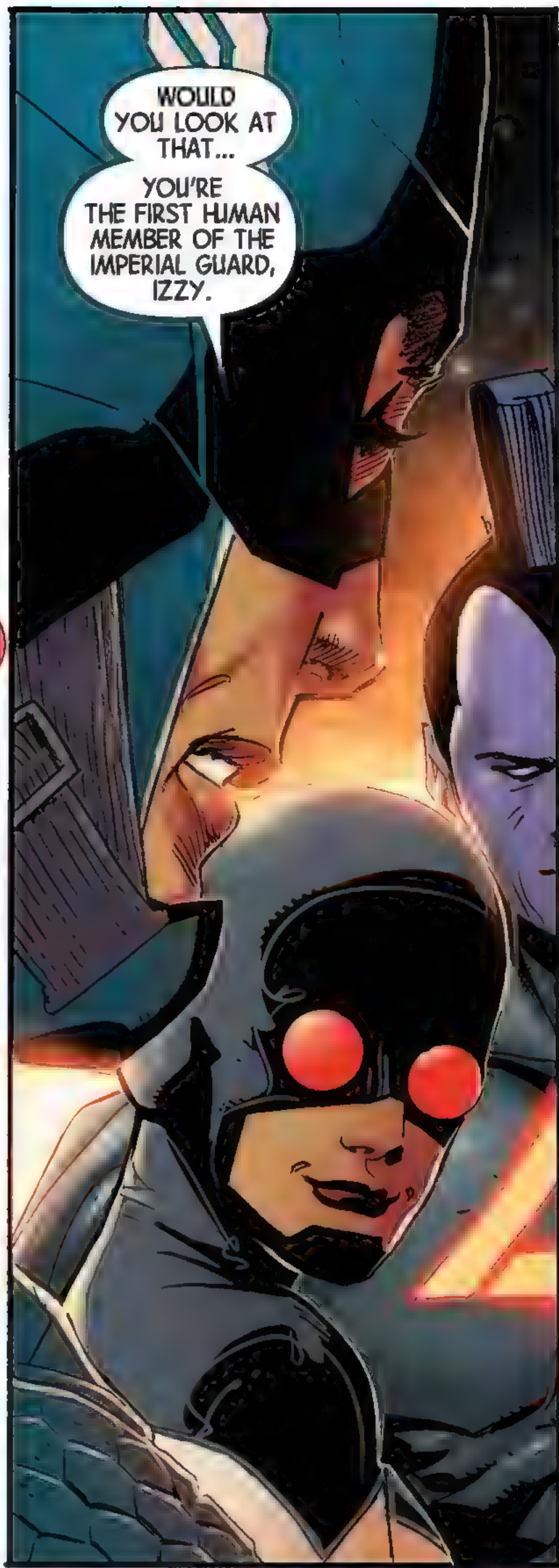




RISE, A
SUPERGUARDIAN.

YES,
MAJESTOR.
I AM.

THEN RISE,
IMPERIAL.



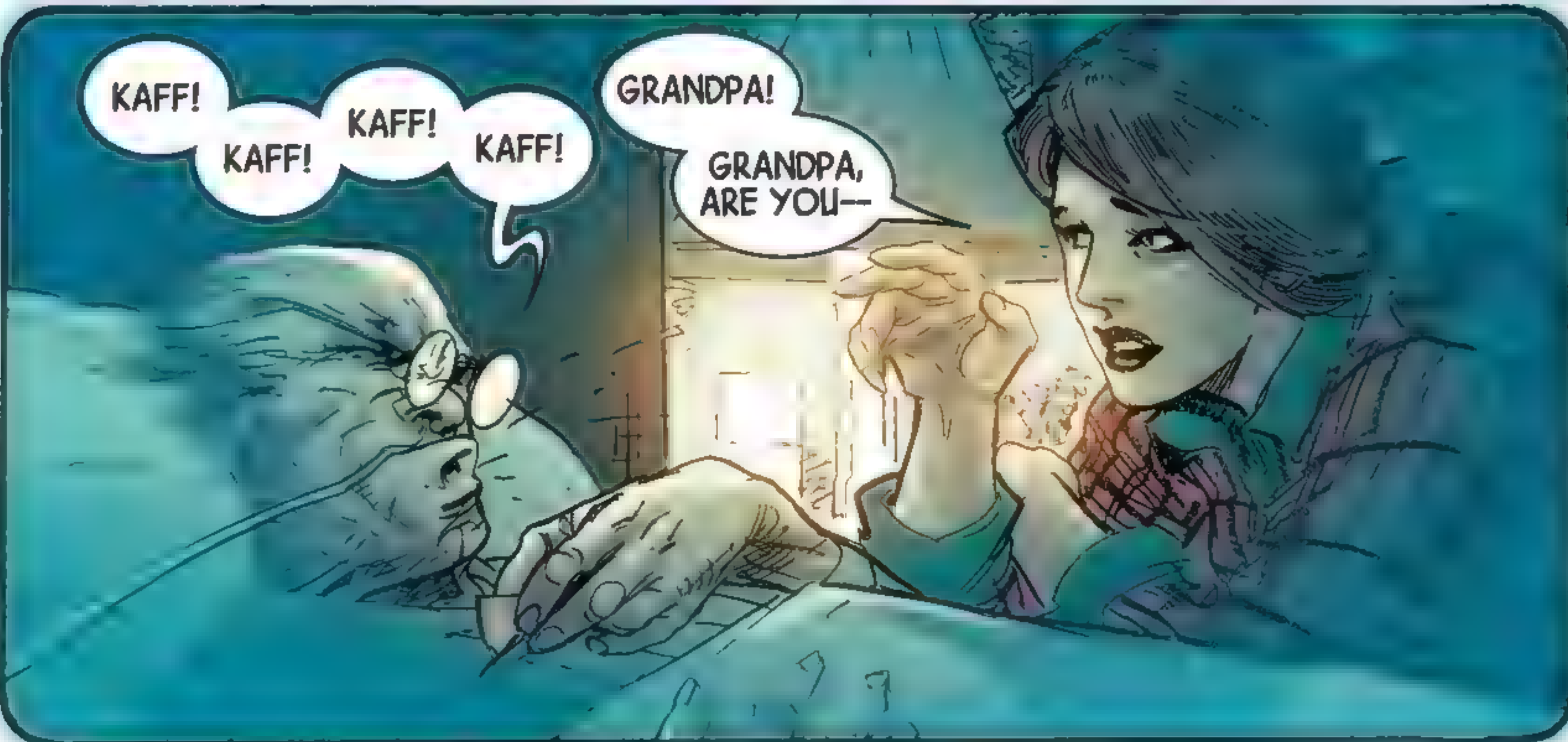
WOULD
YOU LOOK AT
THAT...
YOU'RE
THE FIRST HUMAN
MEMBER OF THE
IMPERIAL GUARD,
IZZY.



LOOK
AT YOU...
BACK FROM
PLUTO.

YOU DON'T
LOOK SO BAD,
GRANDPA...

DAD MADE
THINGS SOUND
MUCH WORSE
THAN--



KAFF!

KAFF!

KAFF!

KAFF!

GRANDPA!

GRANDPA,
ARE YOU--



DON'T FUSS. IT IS WHAT IT IS.

HERE, A GOOD FRIEND GAVE THIS TO ME AND I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT.

KAFF!

I WANT YOU TO USE IT.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT--



LISTEN CLOSE, IZZY...YOU GOT SOMETHING SPECIAL IN YOU...SOMETHING PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. YOU'VE GOT A BIRTHRIGHT, ONE YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.

I'M NOT GONNA BE AROUND MUCH LONGER, SO I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER SOMETHING.

OKAY, GRANDPA... I WILL.

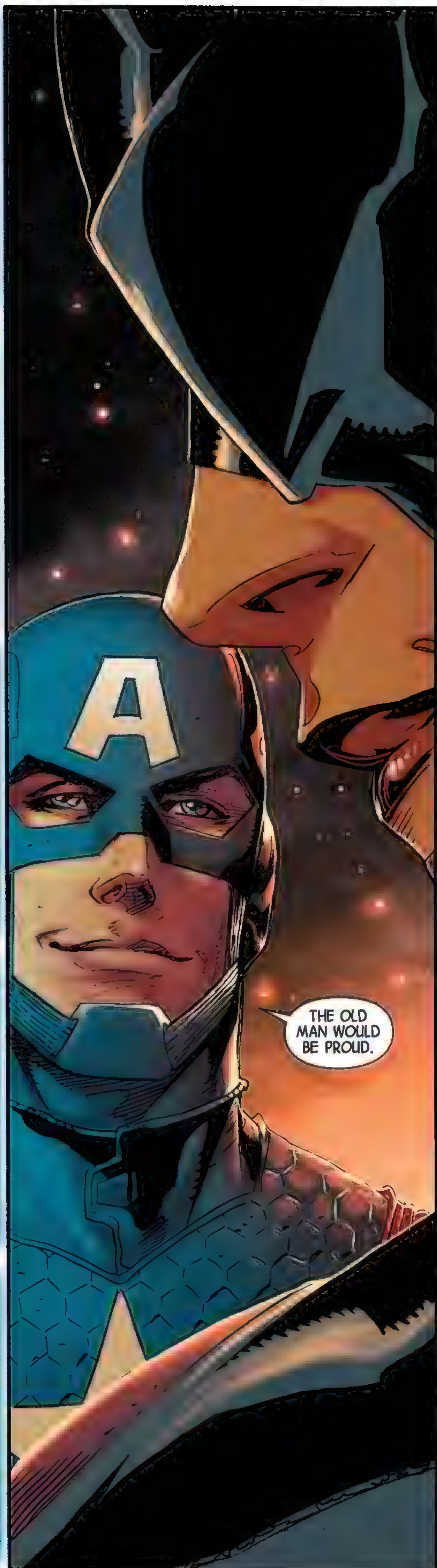
HEROES MAKE OTHERS BELIEVE THEY CAN DO GREAT THINGS. **HEROES MAKE HEROES.**

NOW TURN THAT CARD OVER...



AND PROMISE ME...

NO MORE CAGES.



THE OLD MAN WOULD BE PROUD.

CHANDILAR.

WE LOST THE
ENTIRE FRONTIER
ARMADA. I DEMAND
ANSWERS.

zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!

WELL?

HE IS
BROKEN.

AND?

SUCCESS,
MAJESTOR. HIS MIND
TORN ASUNDER--THERE
WAS NO SECRET HE
COULD KEEP FROM
ME.

TELL ME THEN--
WHAT WEAKNESS
DID THEY SEE,
ORACLE?

WHAT EMBOLDENED
THEM TO THINK THIS
EMPIRE WOULD
TOLERATE AN
INVASION?

I'M SORRY,
MAJESTOR,
BUT WHAT I
LEARNED...

THIS WASN'T
WHAT IT SEEMED.

THEY
WEREN'T
INVADING US,
GLADIATOR...

THEY WERE
RUNNING FROM
SOMETHING.

THEY WERE
RUNNING FROM
SOMEONE.



“WORLD EATER”

THE ILLUMINATI



BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah



NAMOR
Imperius Rex



REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder



IRON MAN
Master of Machines



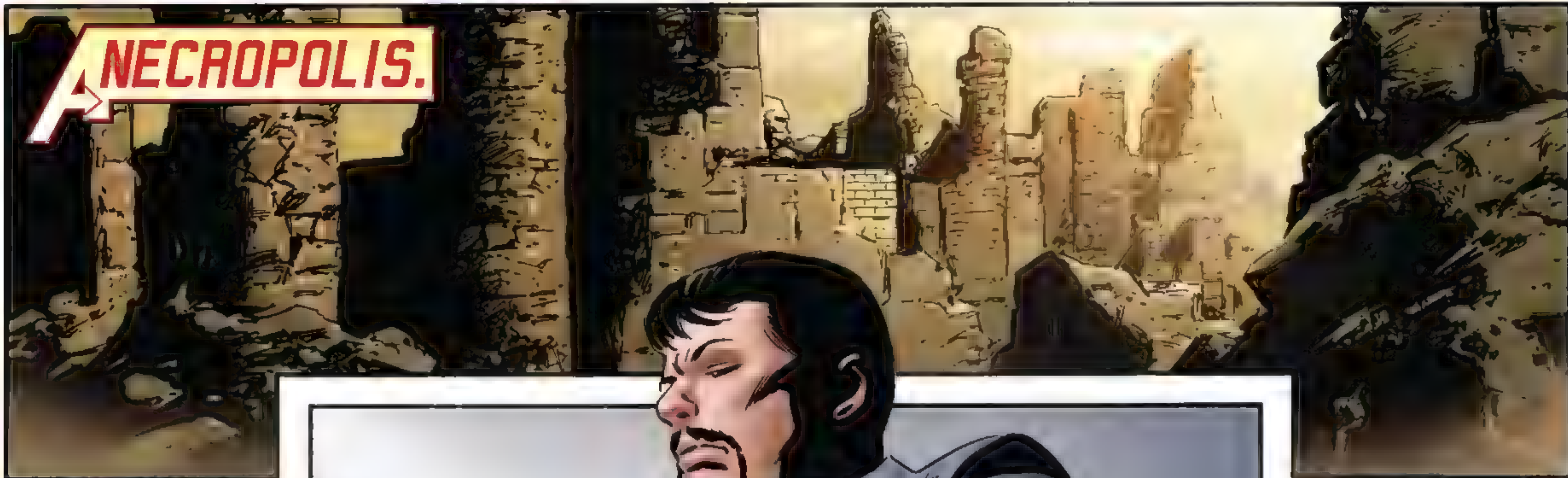
BEAST
Mutant Genius



DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme



BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead

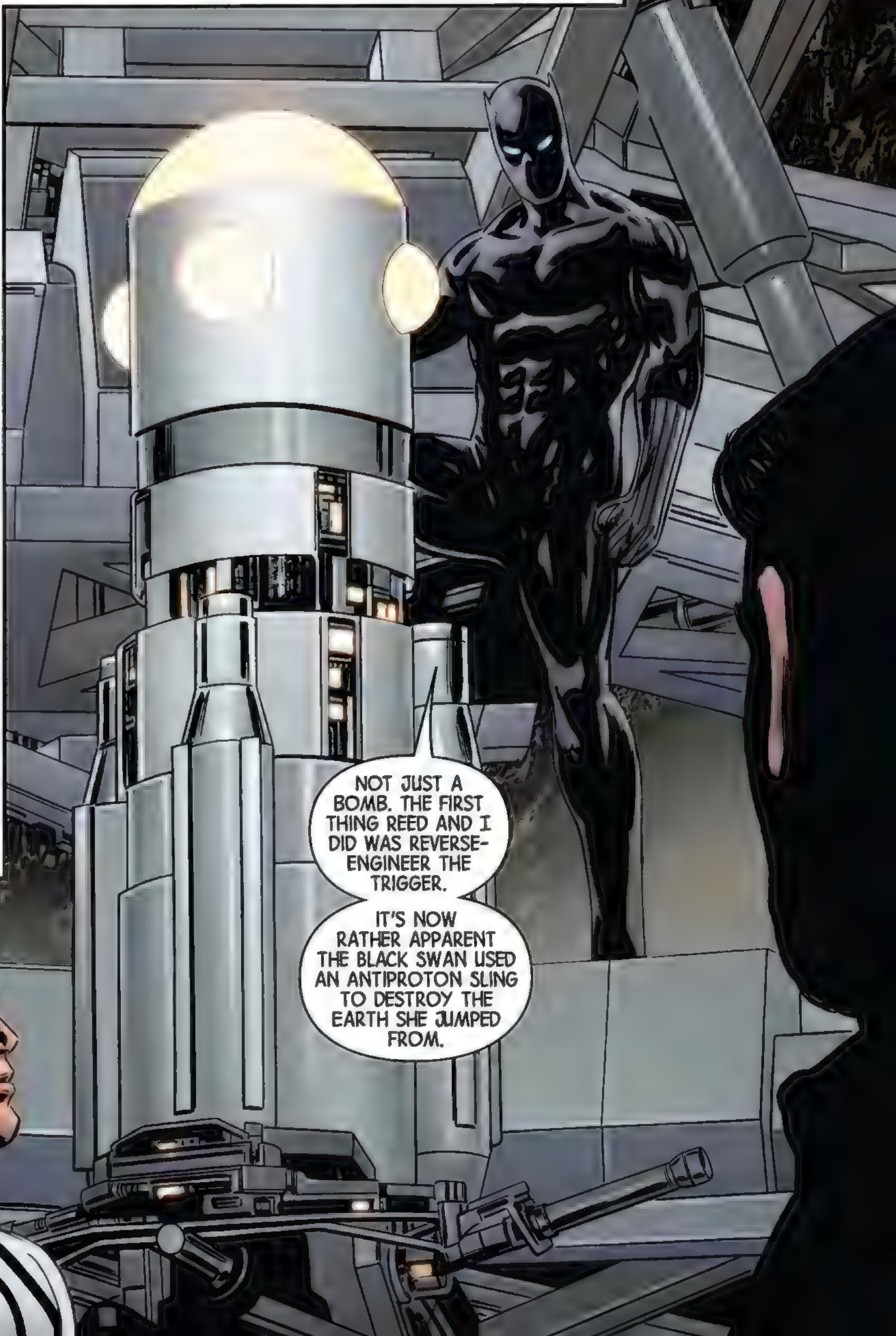


SO THIS
IS WHAT SHE
USED?



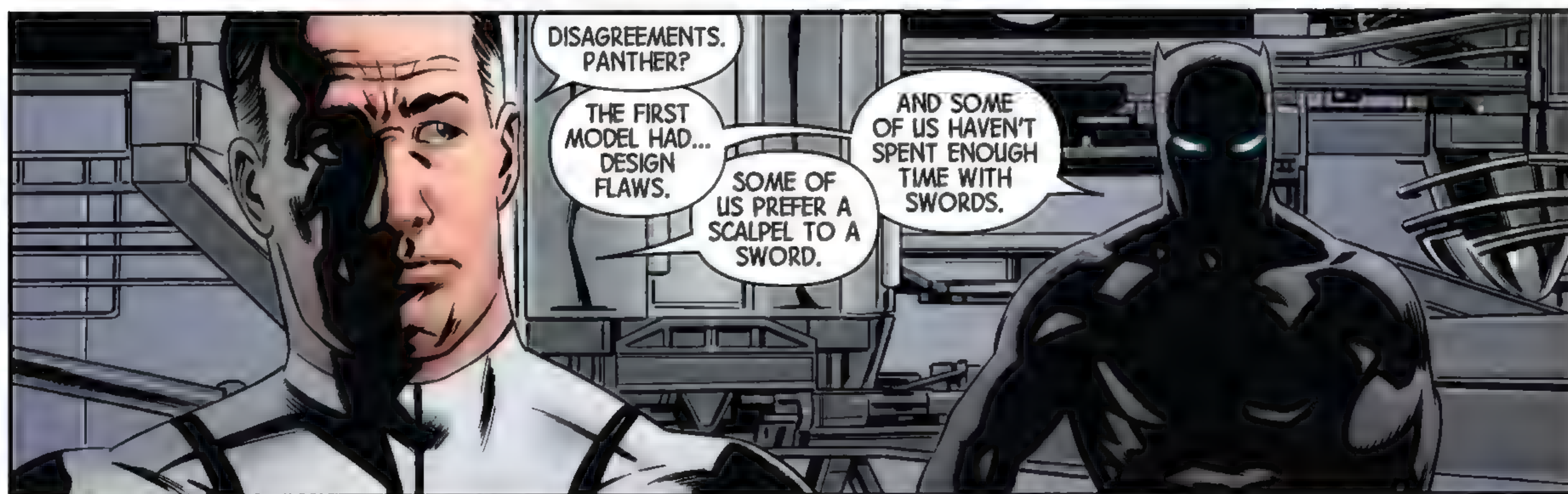
YES.
IT
ACTIVATES AN
INJECTION
SEQUENCE.

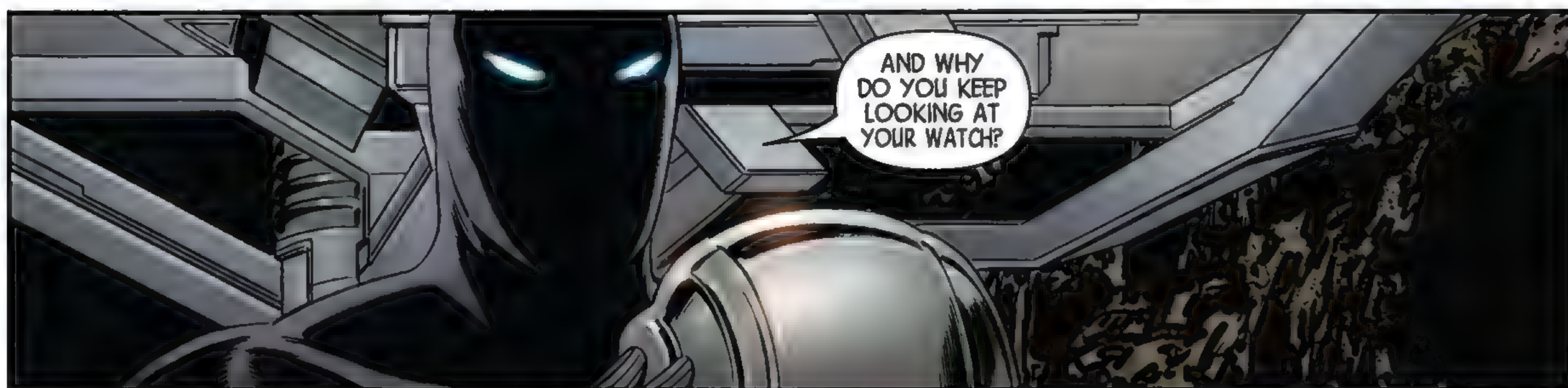
FOR A
BOMB?



NOT JUST A
BOMB. THE FIRST
THING REED AND I
DID WAS REVERSE-
ENGINEER THE
TRIGGER.

IT'S NOW
RATHER APPARENT
THE BLACK SWAN USED
AN ANTIPROTON SLING
TO DESTROY THE
EARTH SHE JUMPED
FROM.



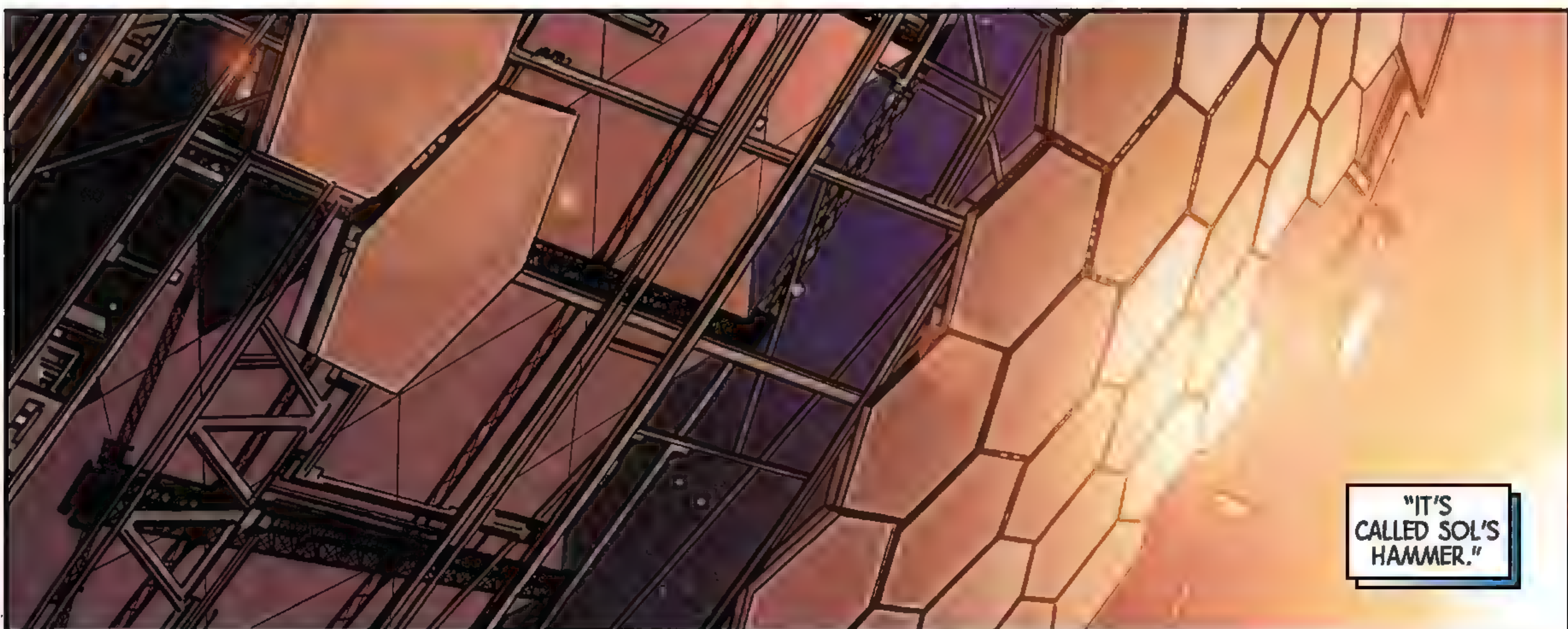
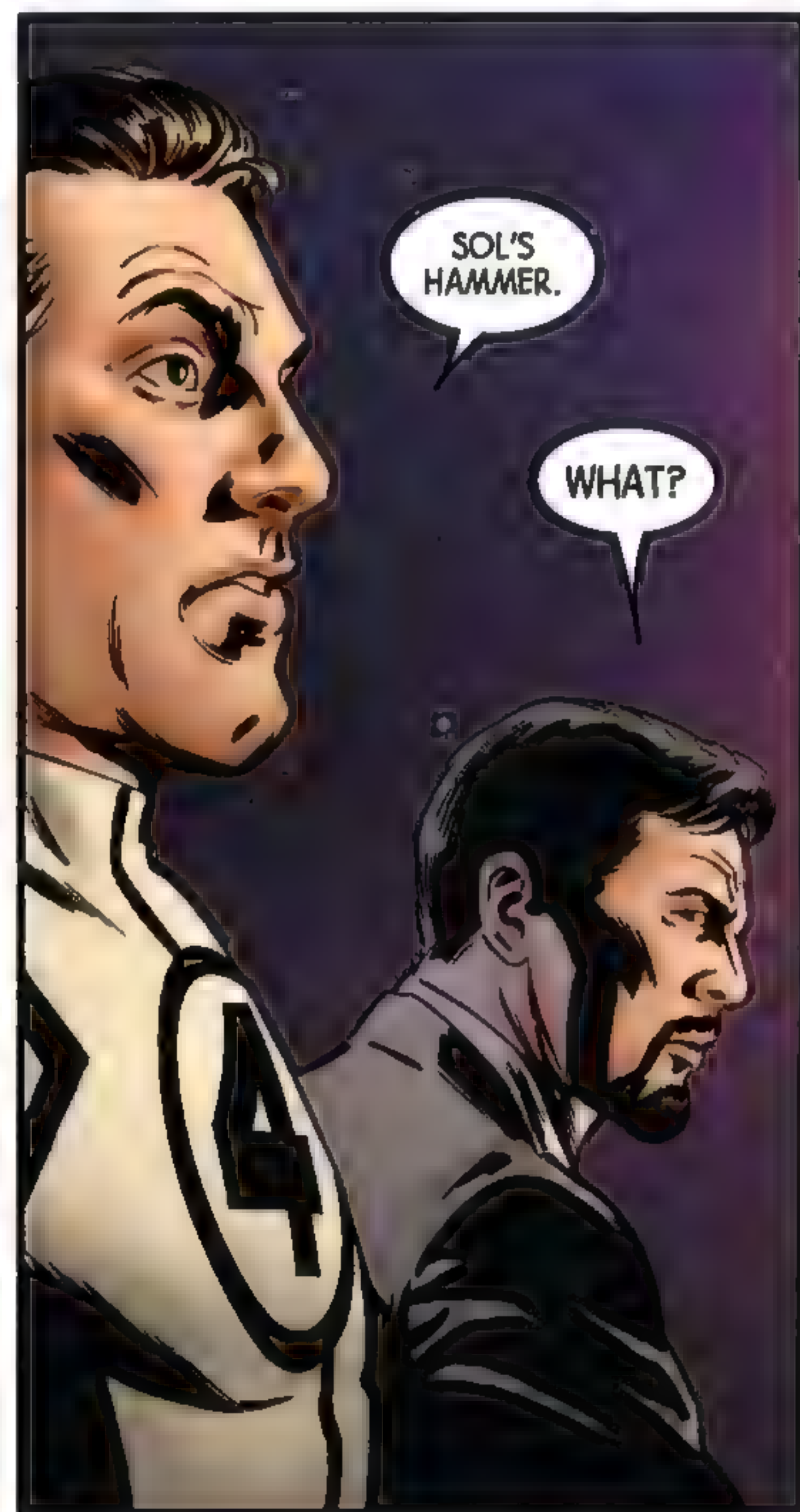




...I WANT TO
SHOW YOU MY
SOLUTION TO OUR
LITTLE PROBLEM.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT.

YOU'RE
BUILDING
A DYSON
SPHERE.





**THE SANCTUM
SANCTORUM OF
DOCTOR STRANGE.**



I'VE
PREPARED TEA,
DOCTOR.

THANK
YOU,
WONG.

THE TABLE IS
FINE.



IT'S
VERY HOT,
SO YOU--

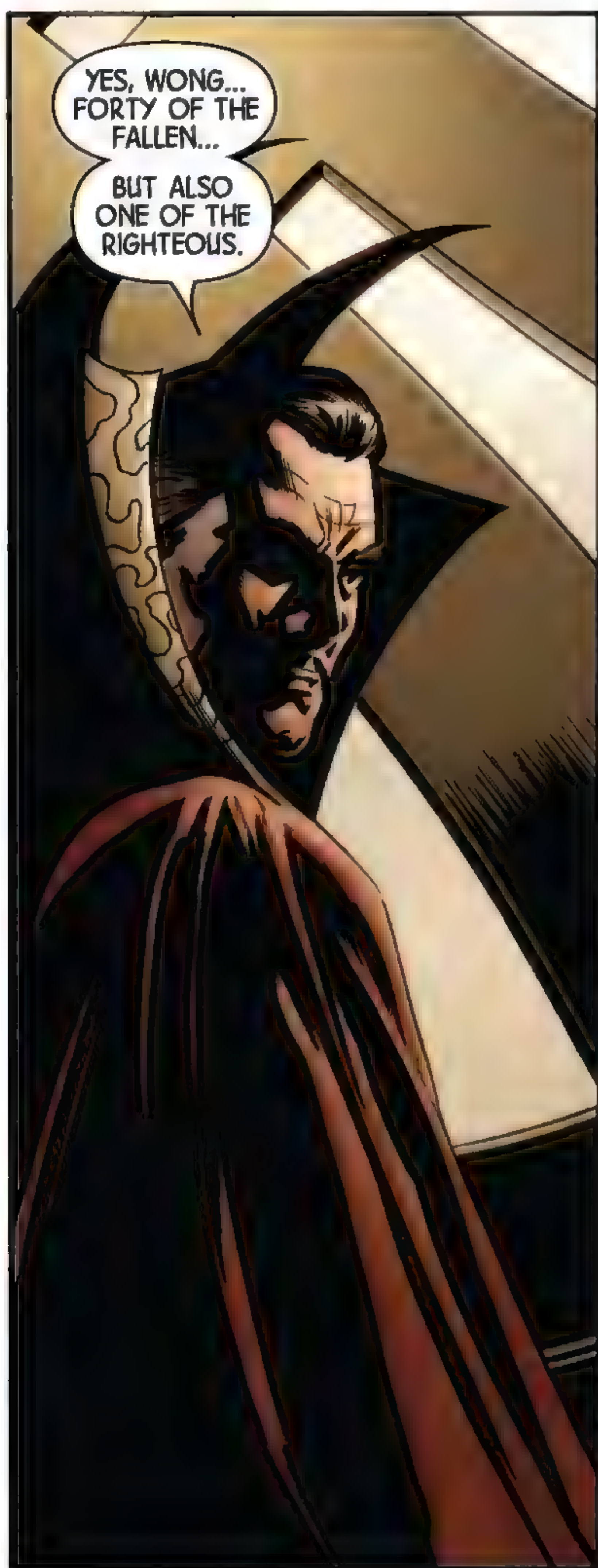
AAIEEE!



WHAT
DARK CLOUD
DEMANDS THIS
EVIL?

DOCTOR,
NO SPELL IN THE
BLU'DAKORR HAS EVER
NOT CAUSED THE DEATH
OF THE CASTER. TO
TOUCH IT STAINS
THE SOUL.

LEGEND SAYS,
IT REQUIRES
THE SPIRITS OF
FORTY FALLEN
MEN.





AND
FEAR MOST
OF ALL...

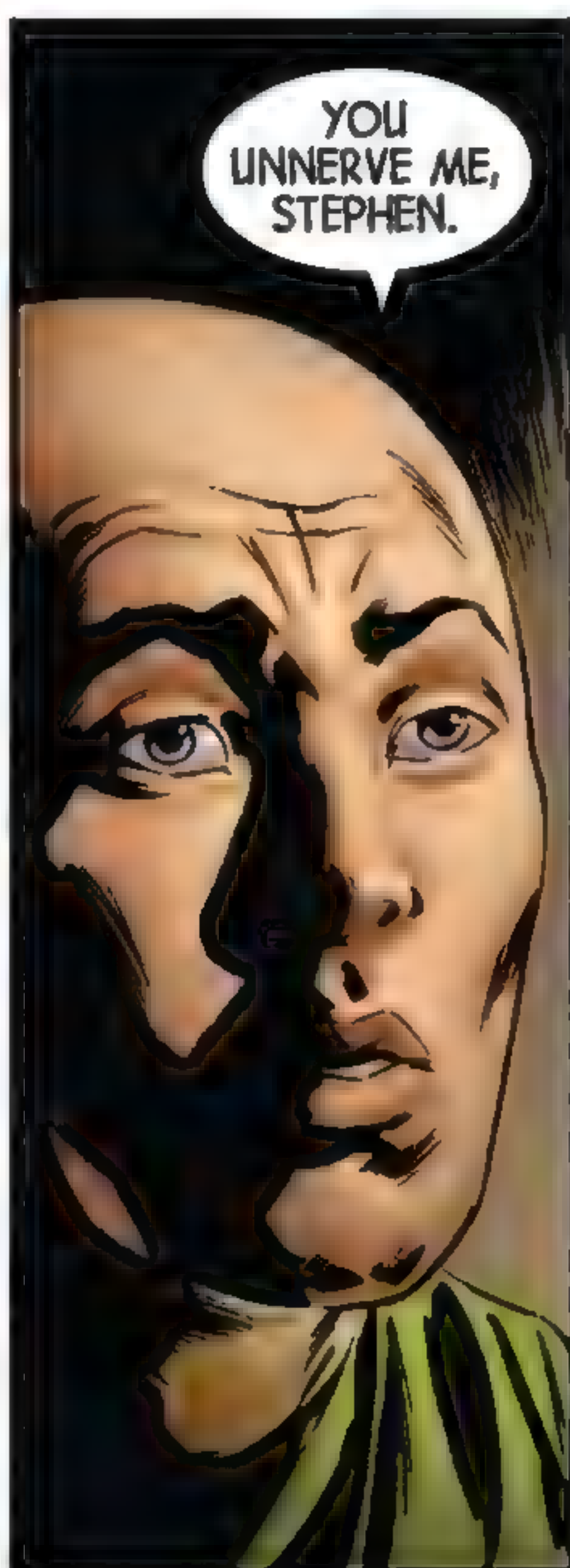
TIME
SLIPPING
AWAY.



I HAVE TAKEN SOME ACTIONS TO ENABLE
MORE...FLEXIBILITY IN THE MANAGING OF
MY ESTATE, WONG.

YOU'LL FIND
THE PAPERWORK
IS ON MY DESK IN
THE DOWNSTAIRS
STUDY.

I LEAVE
ALL THAT I
POSSESS IN
YOUR CARE.



YOU
UNNERVE ME,
STEPHEN.



MY FRIEND, FROM THIS
POINT FORWARD TREAT
EACH MOMENT OF EACH
DAY AS IF IT WERE
YOUR LAST.

AS IT
VERY WELL
MAY BE.



AM I GOING
TO SEE YOU
AGAIN?

I CARRY
THE BLOOD
BIBLE,
WONG...



IT
WOULD SEEM
UNLIKELY.

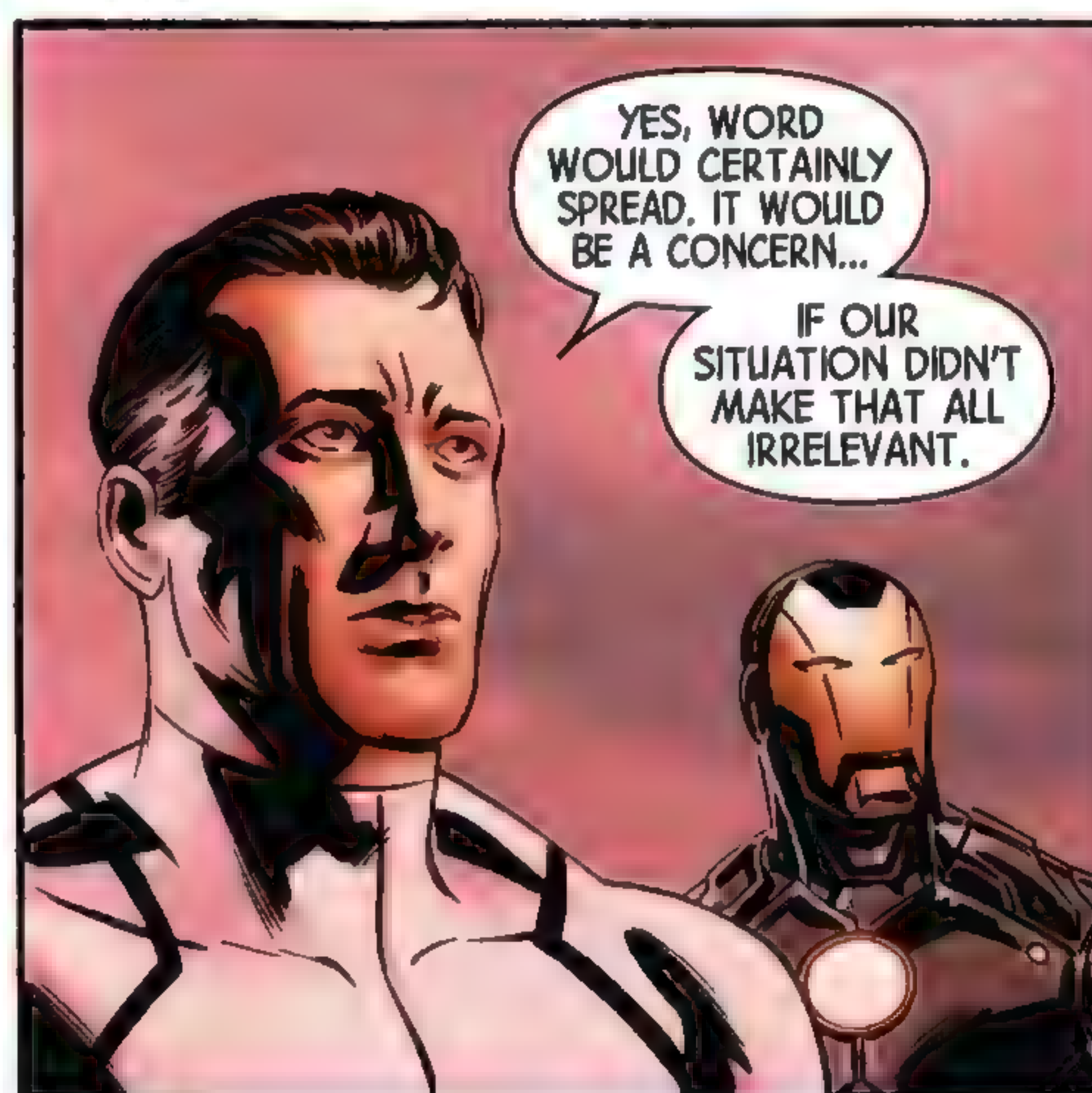
ELLIS ISLAND.
NEW YORK.



OKAY, SURE...

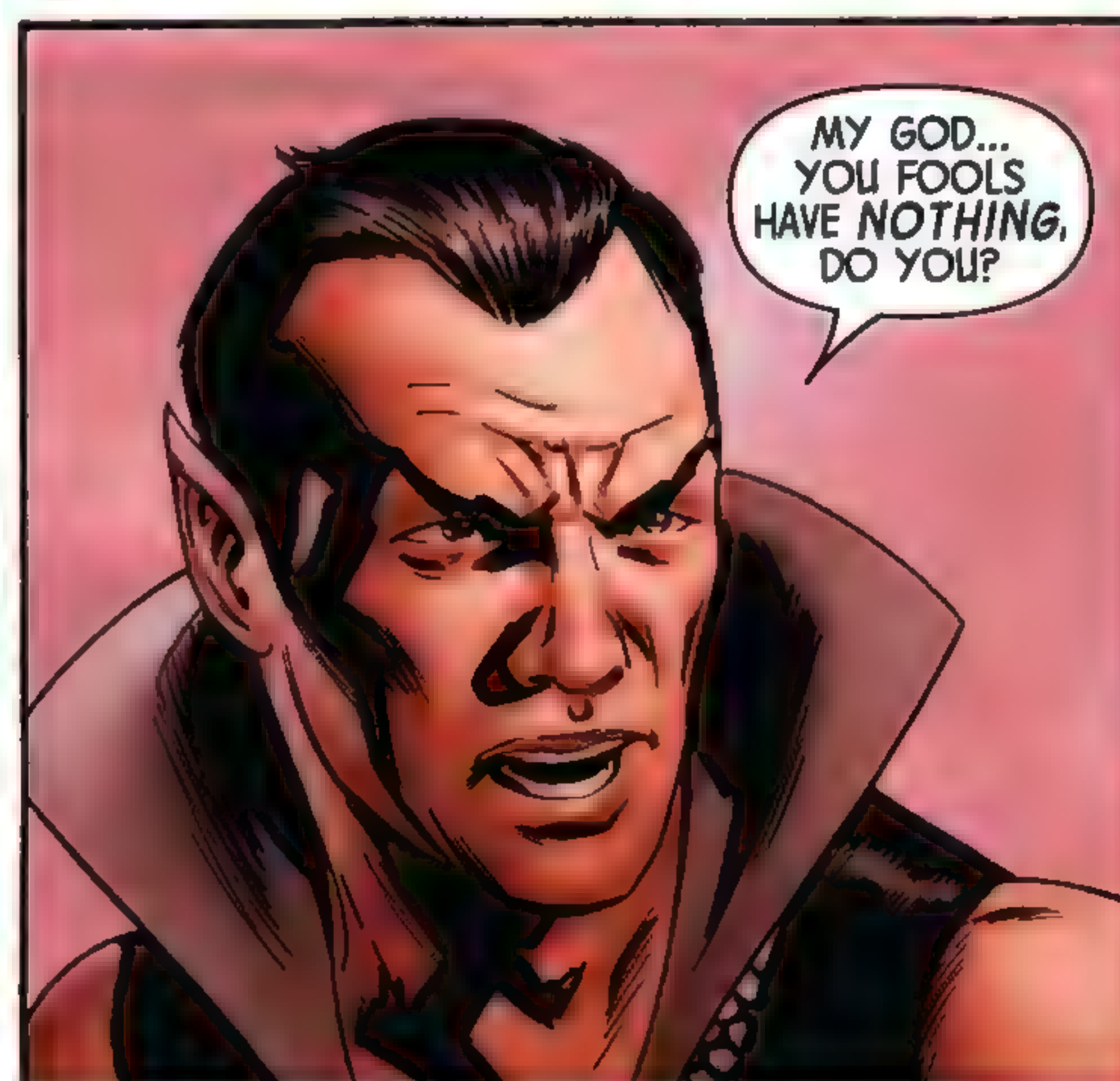
GIVE US YOUR TIRED,
YOUR POOR, YOUR DYING,
BROKEN WORLDS.

I DON'T KNOW
WHY I WAS THINKING
THESE THINGS WOULD
BE CONFINED TO
REMOTE LOCATIONS...

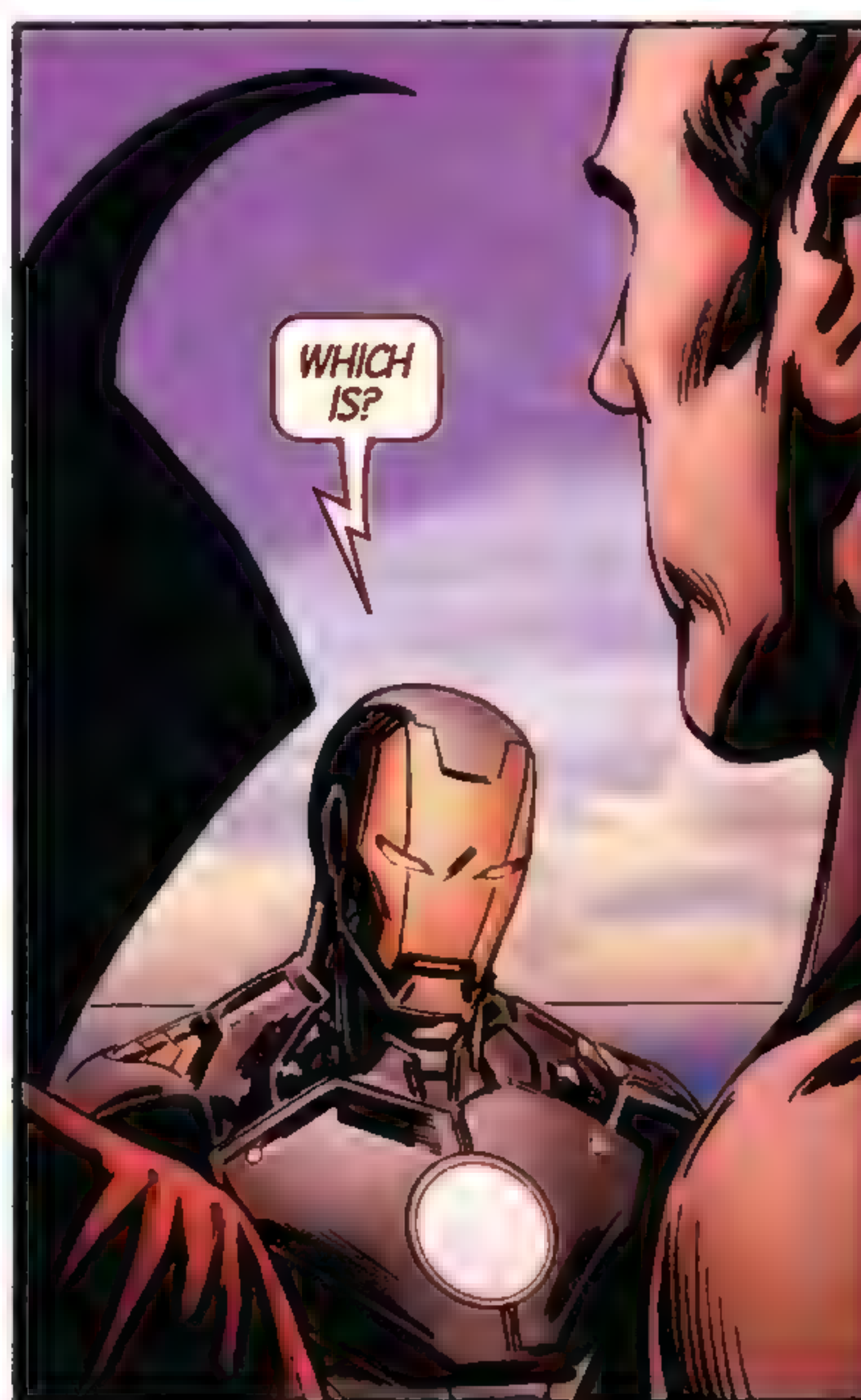
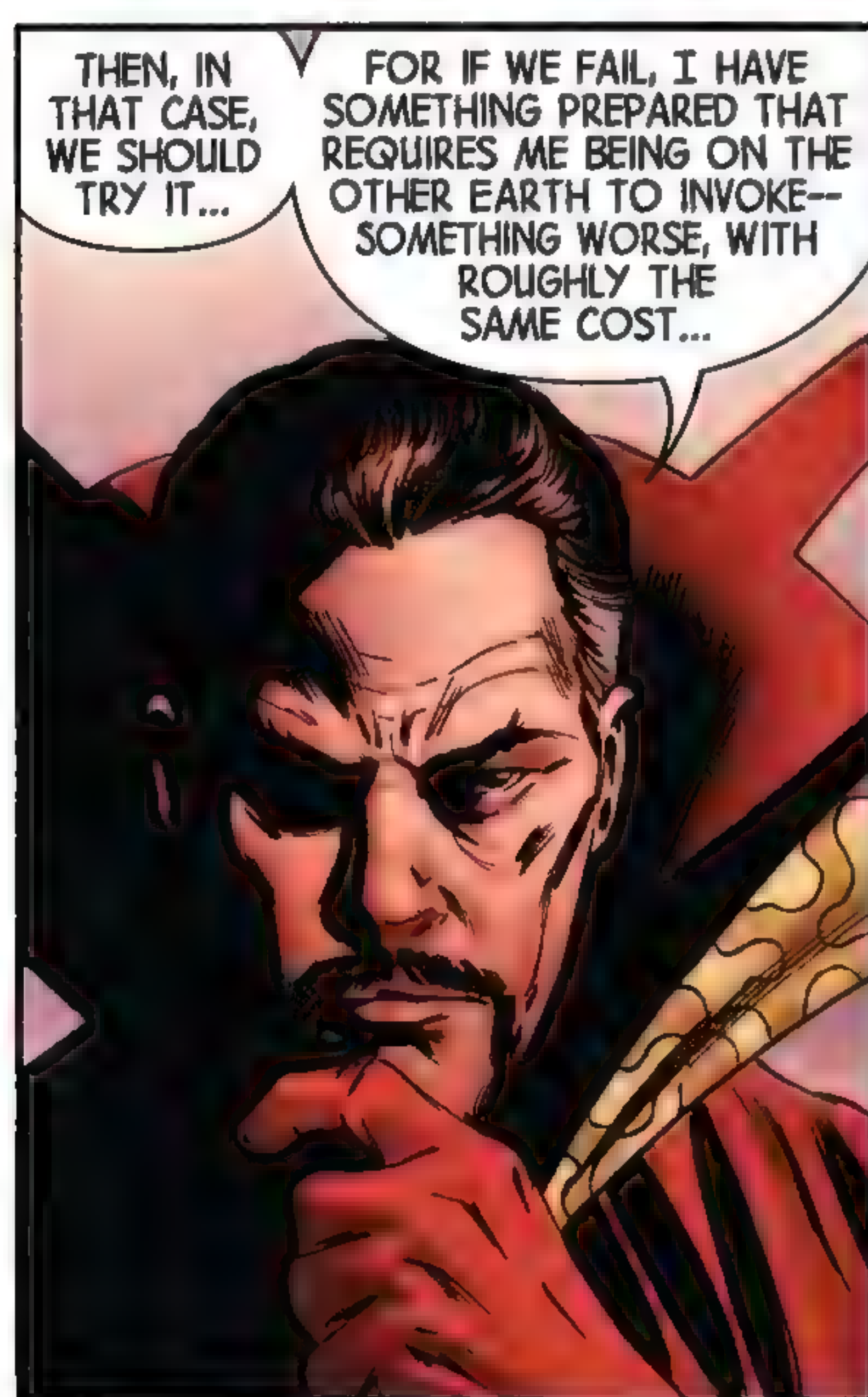
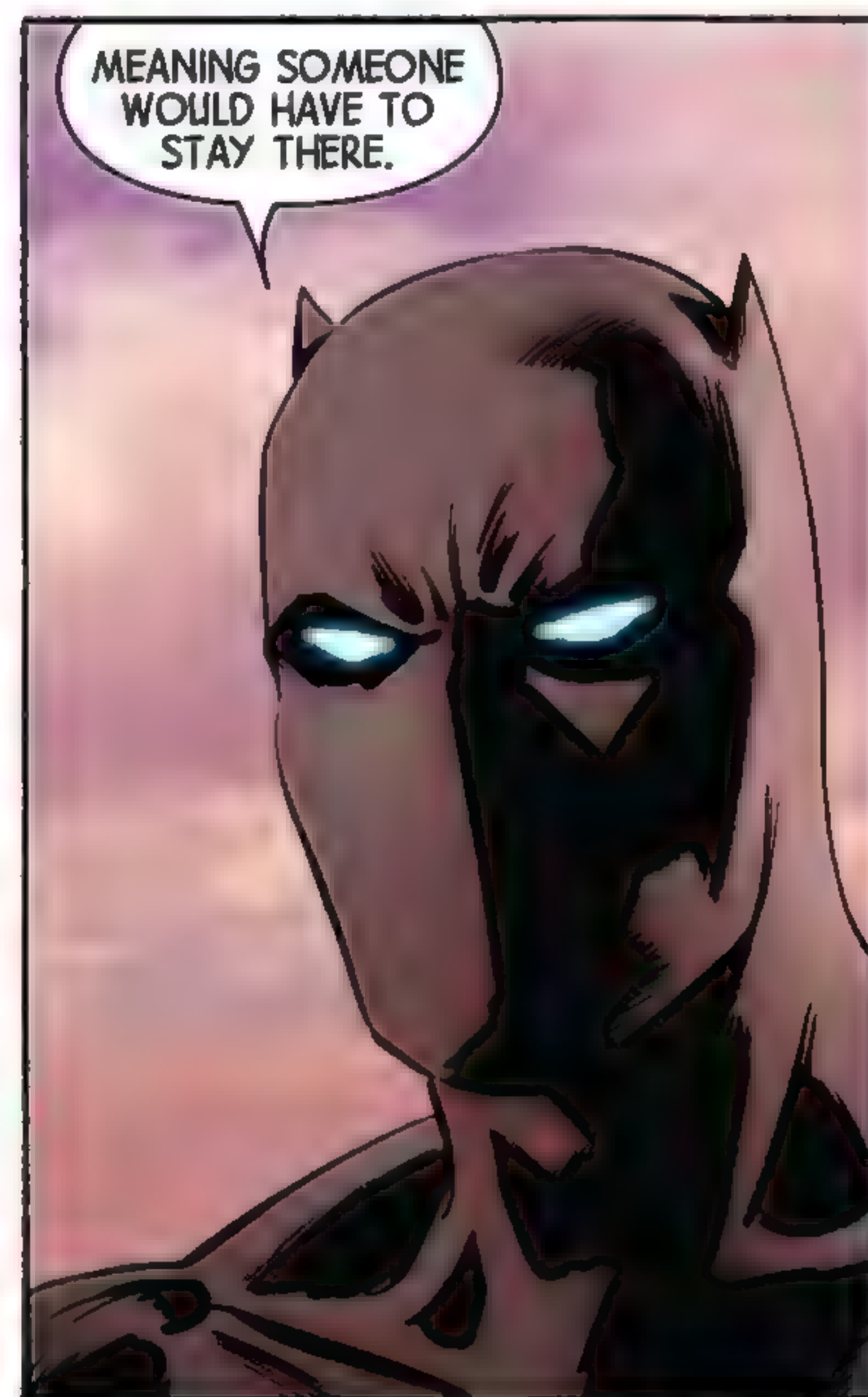
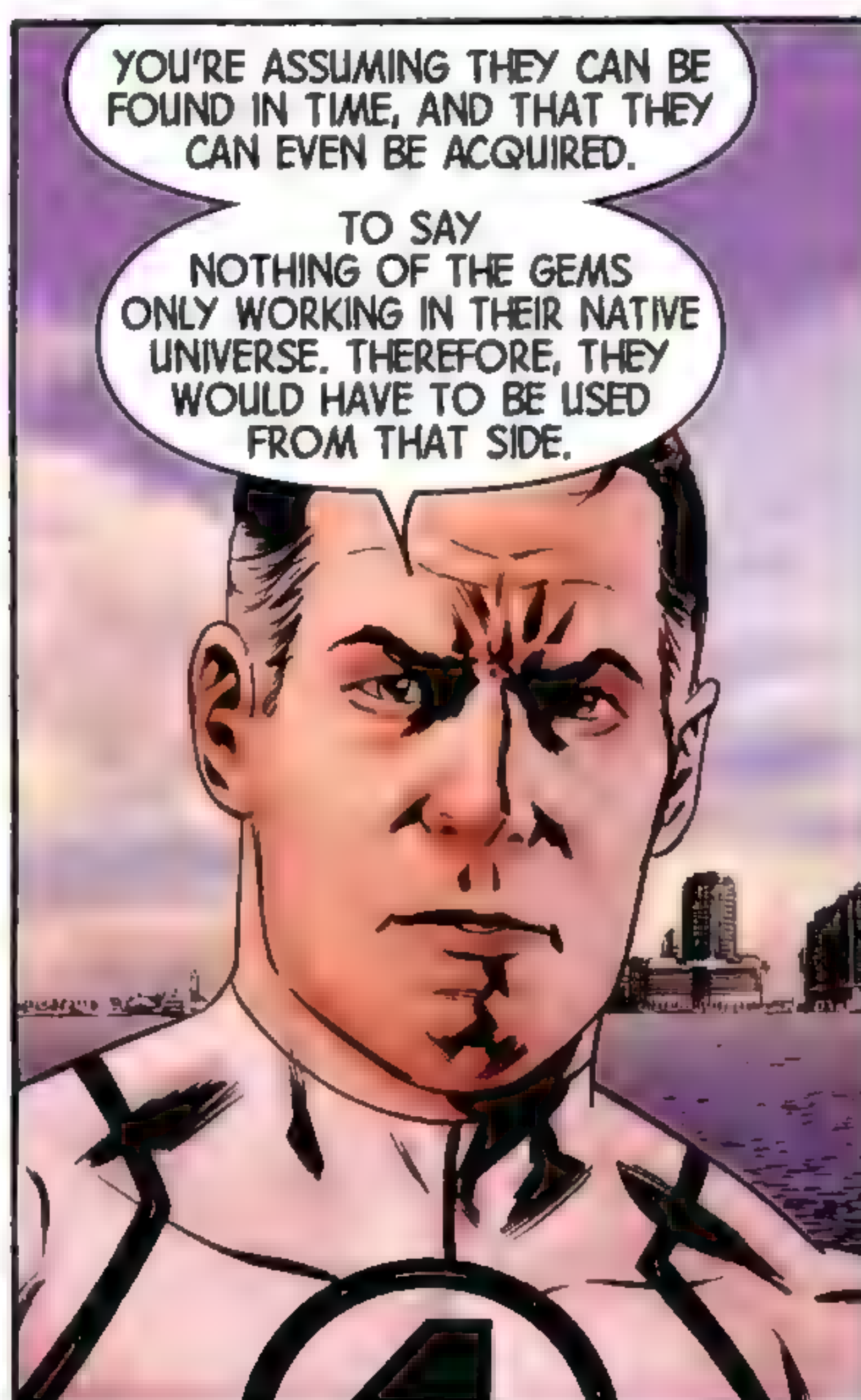
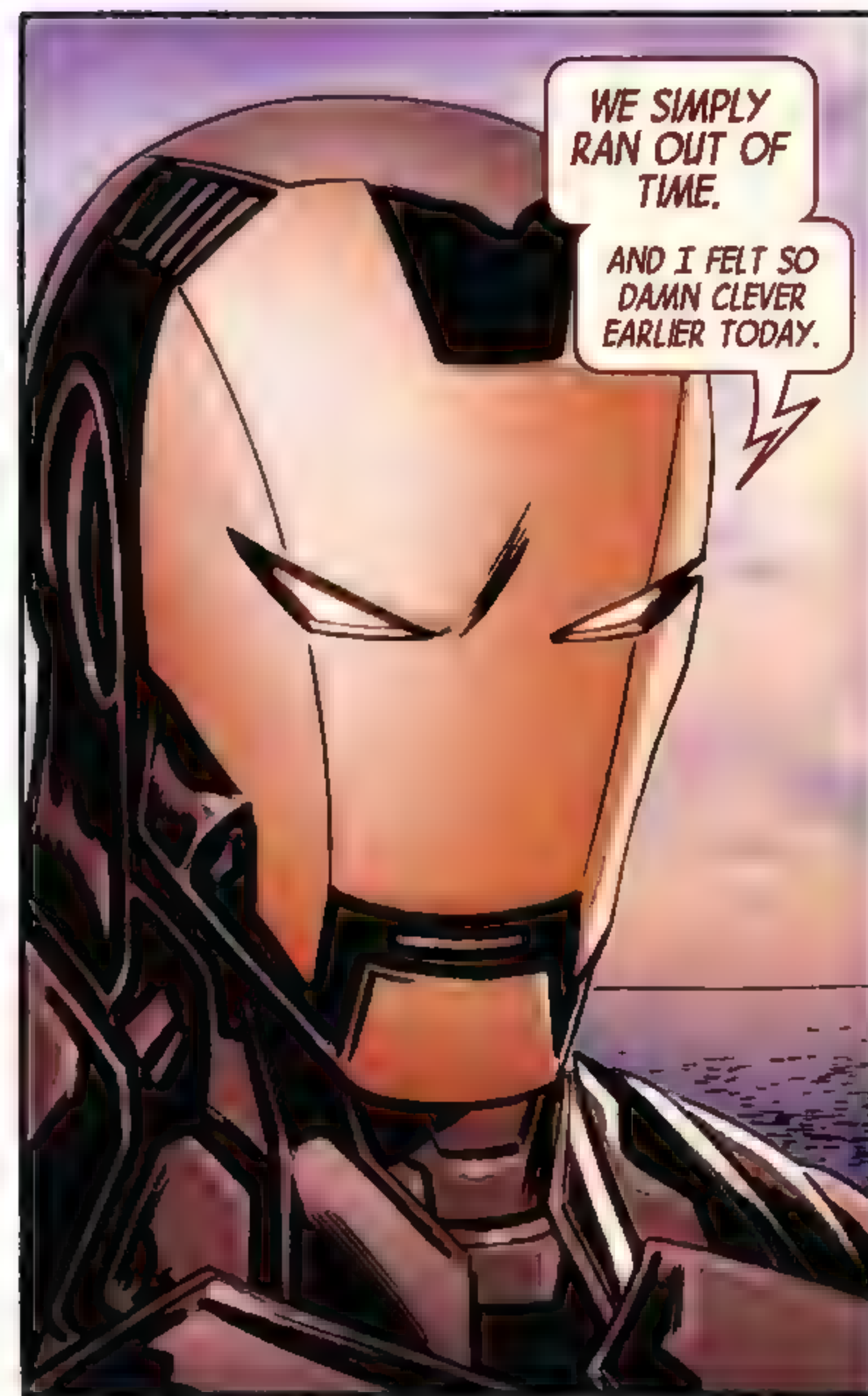
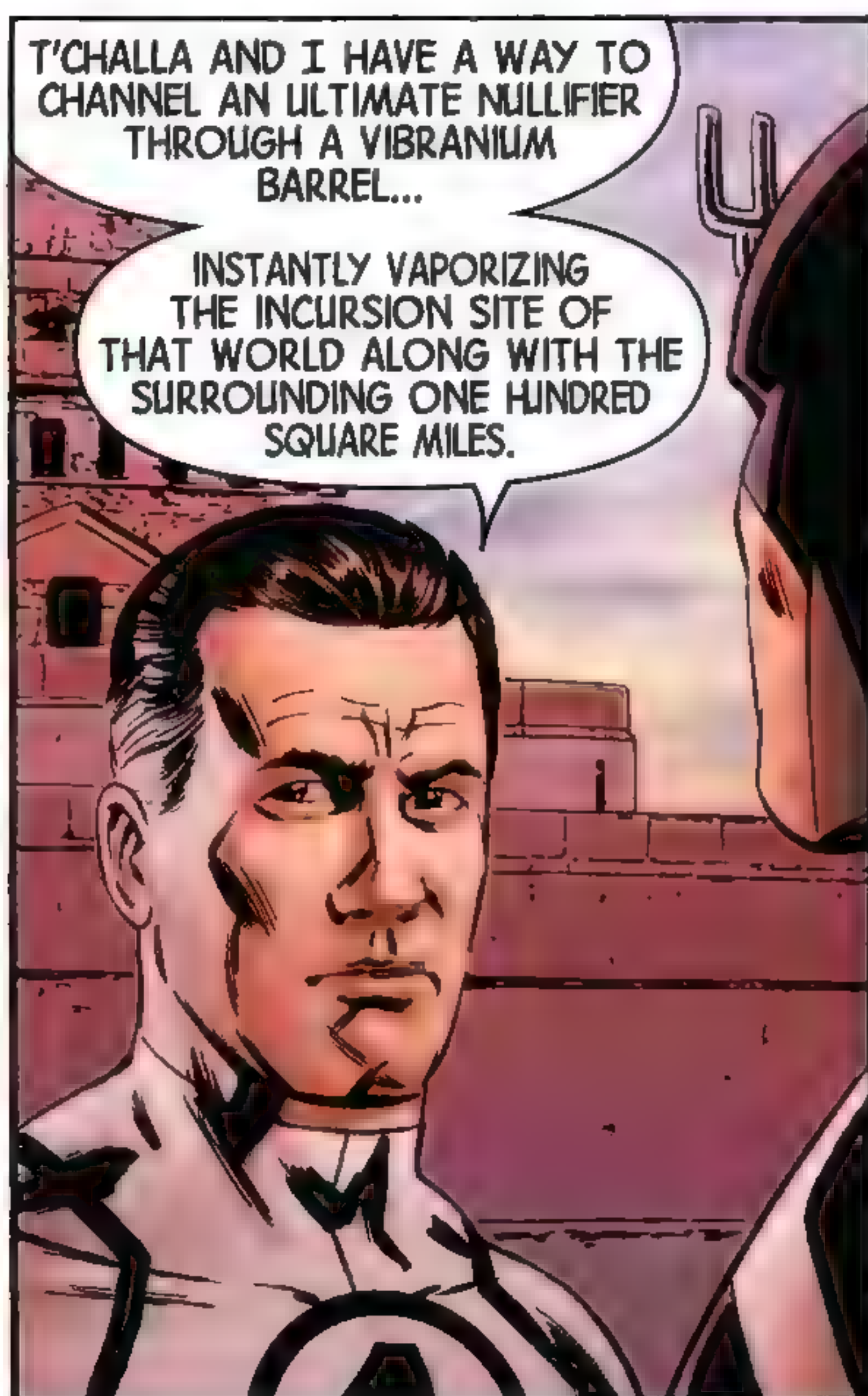


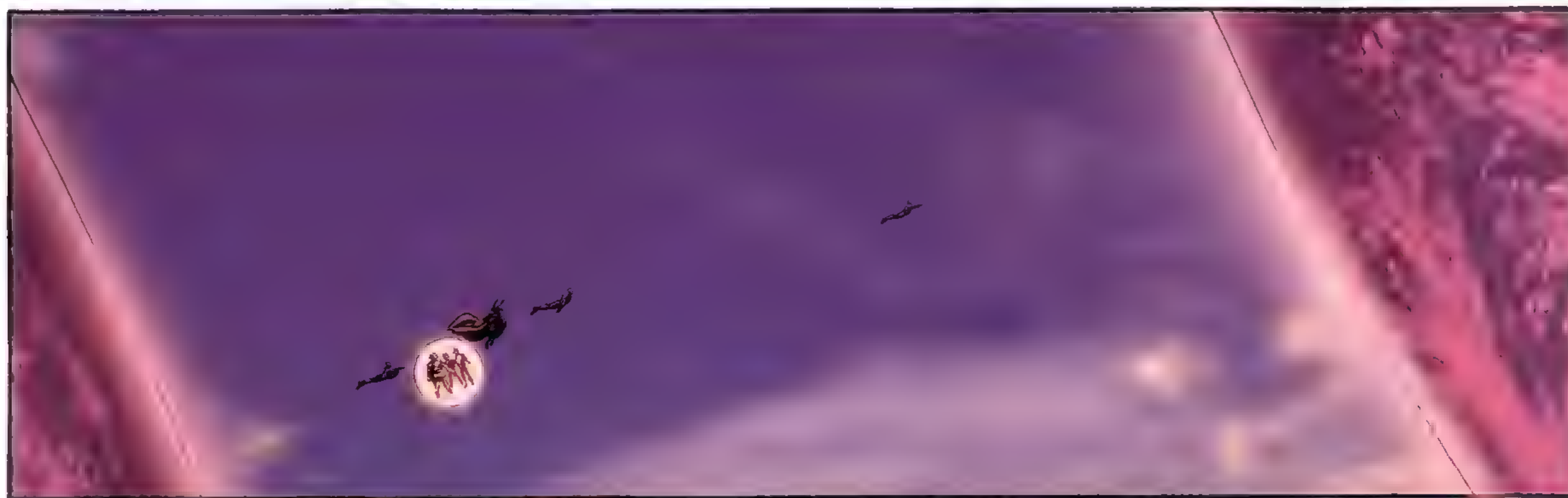
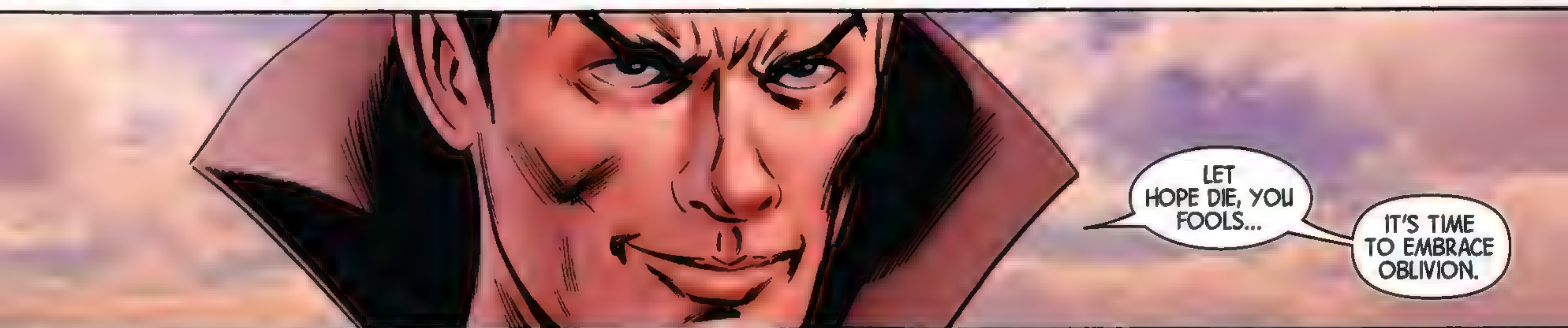
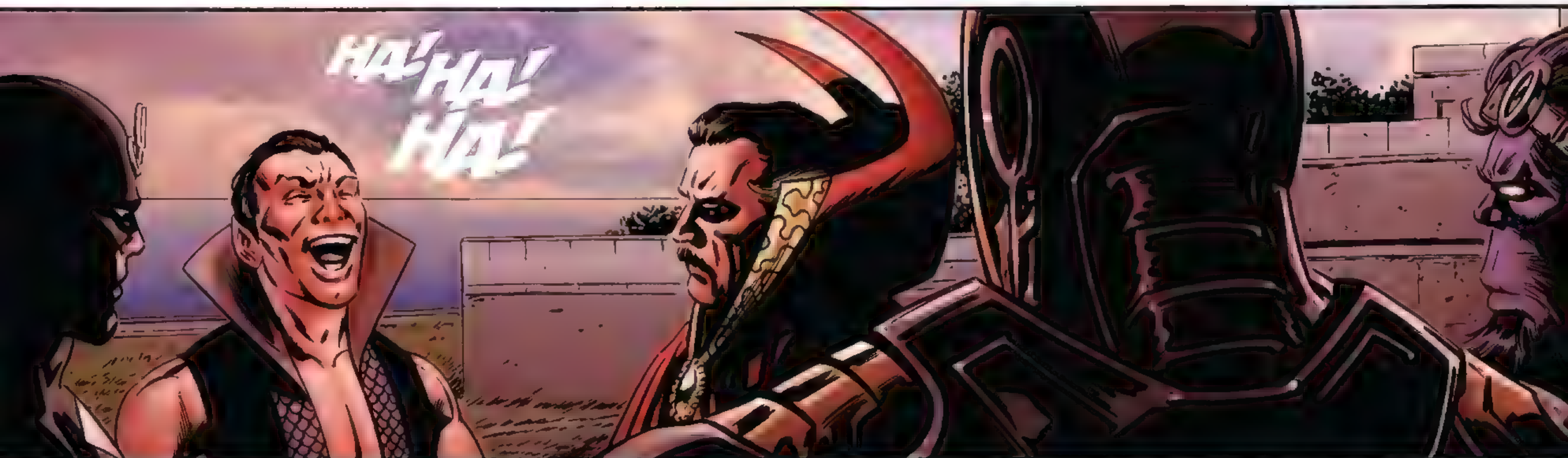
YES, WORD
WOULD CERTAINLY
SPREAD. IT WOULD
BE A CONCERN...

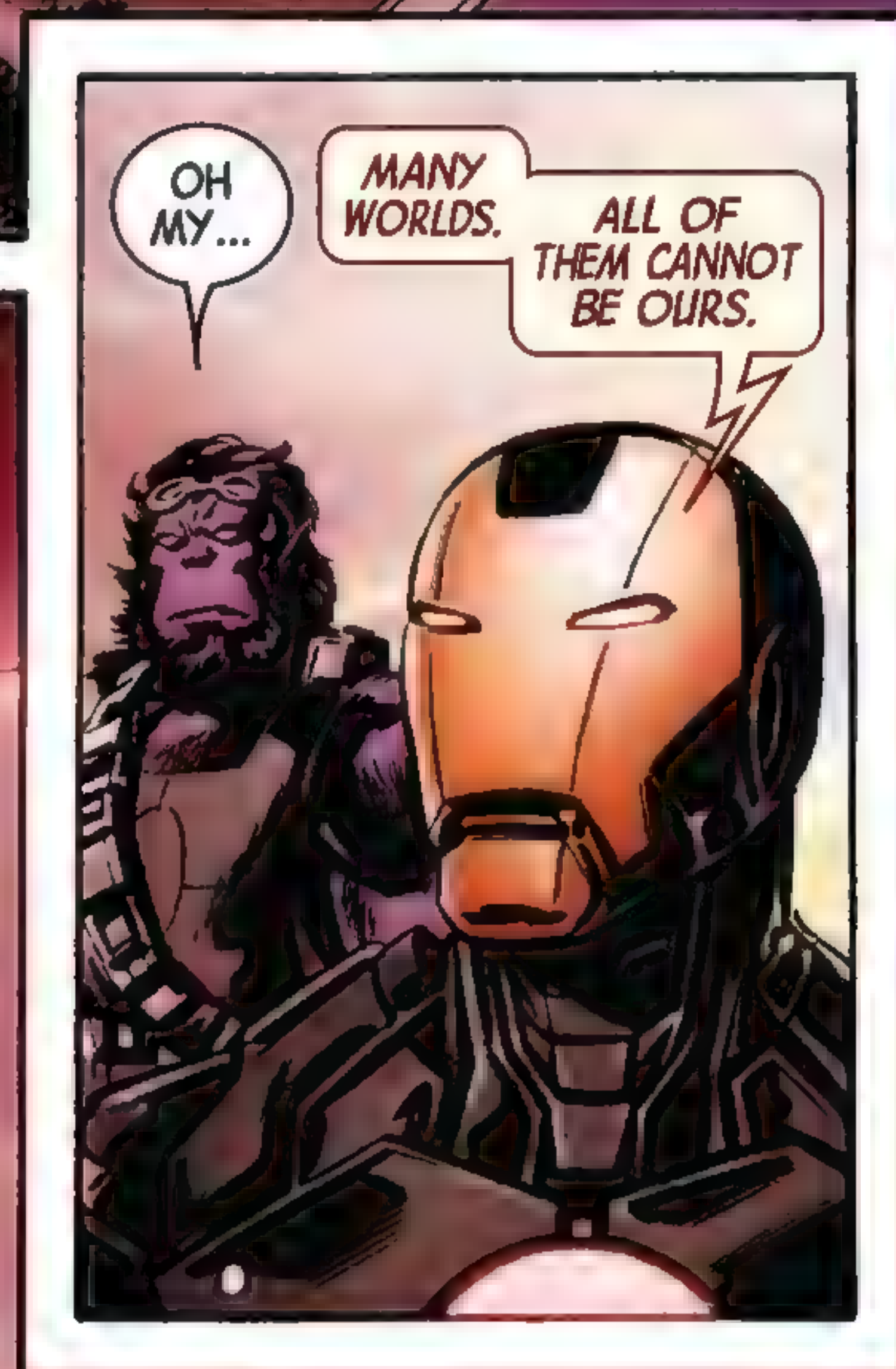
IF OUR
SITUATION DIDN'T
MAKE THAT ALL
IRRELEVANT.



MY GOD...
YOU FOOLS
HAVE NOTHING,
DO YOU?



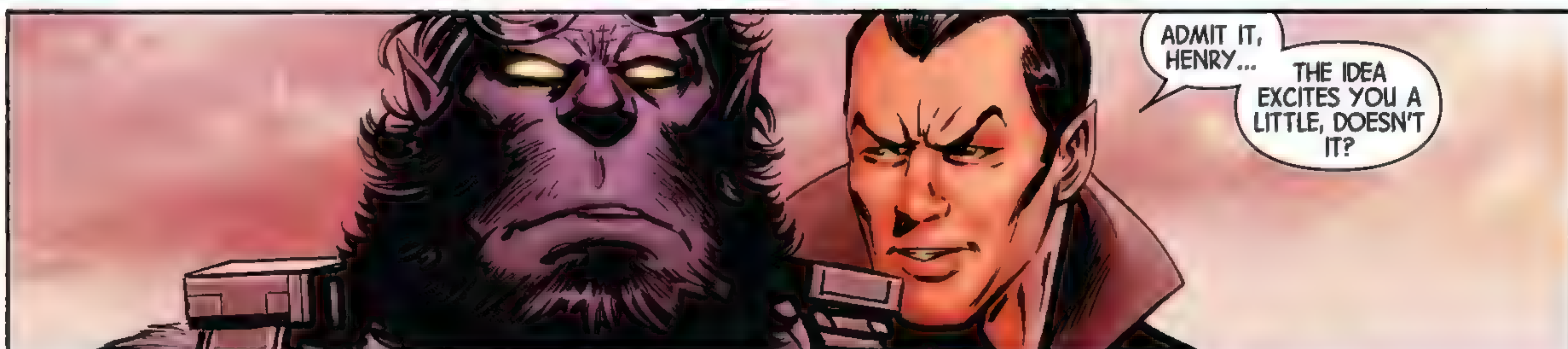
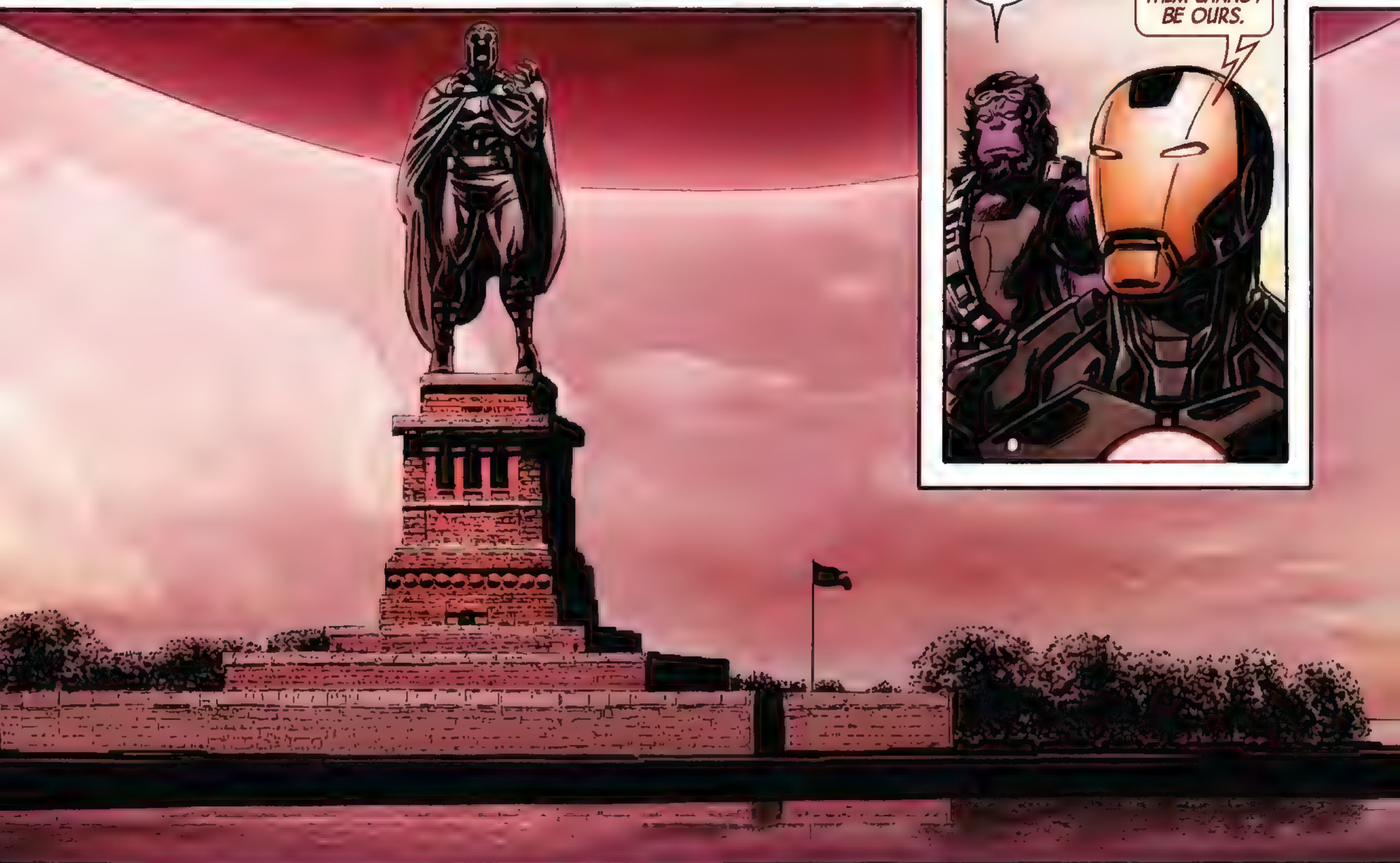




OH MY...

MANY WORLDS.

ALL OF THEM CANNOT BE OURS.



ADMIT IT, HENRY...

THE IDEA EXCITES YOU A LITTLE, DOESN'T IT?

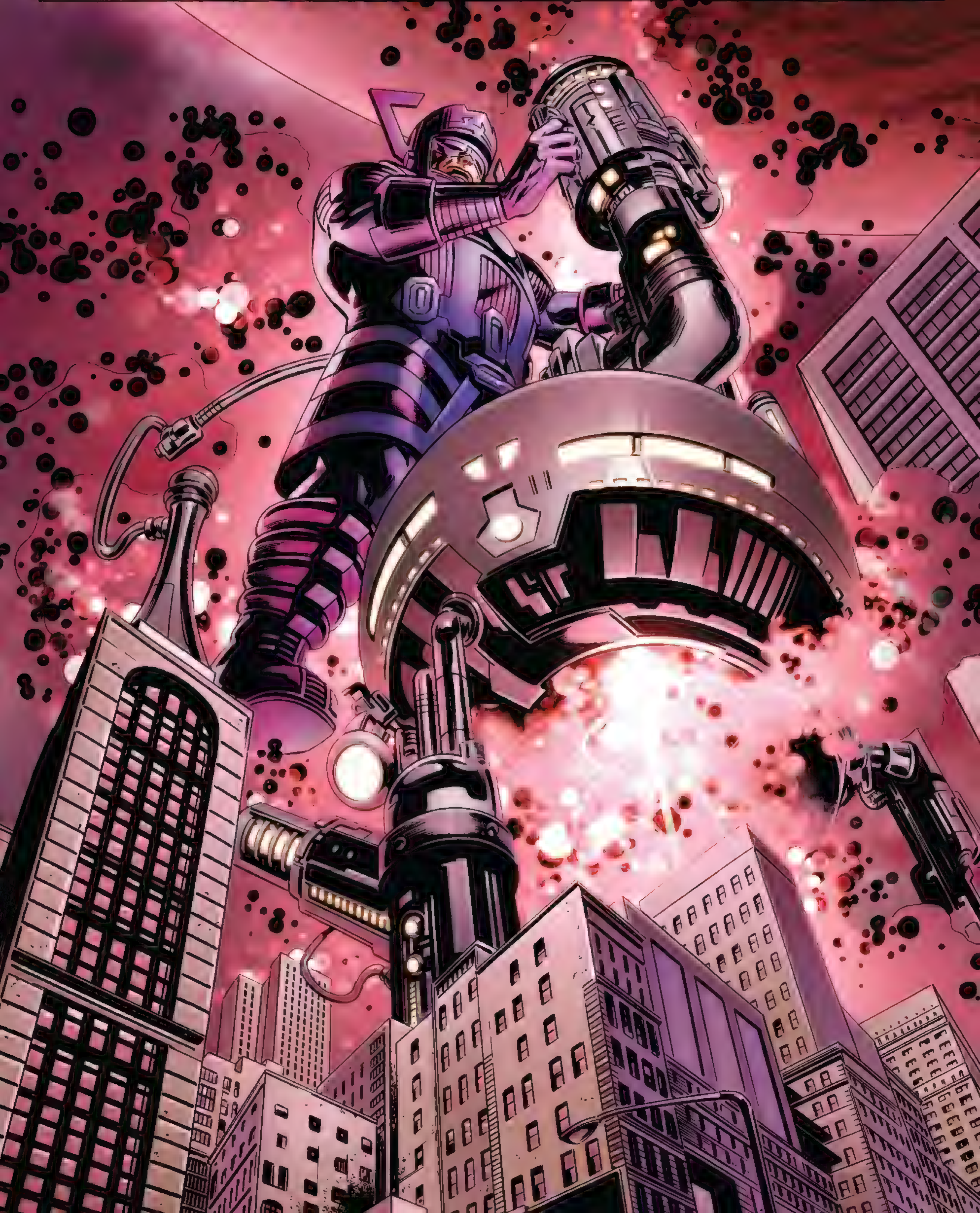
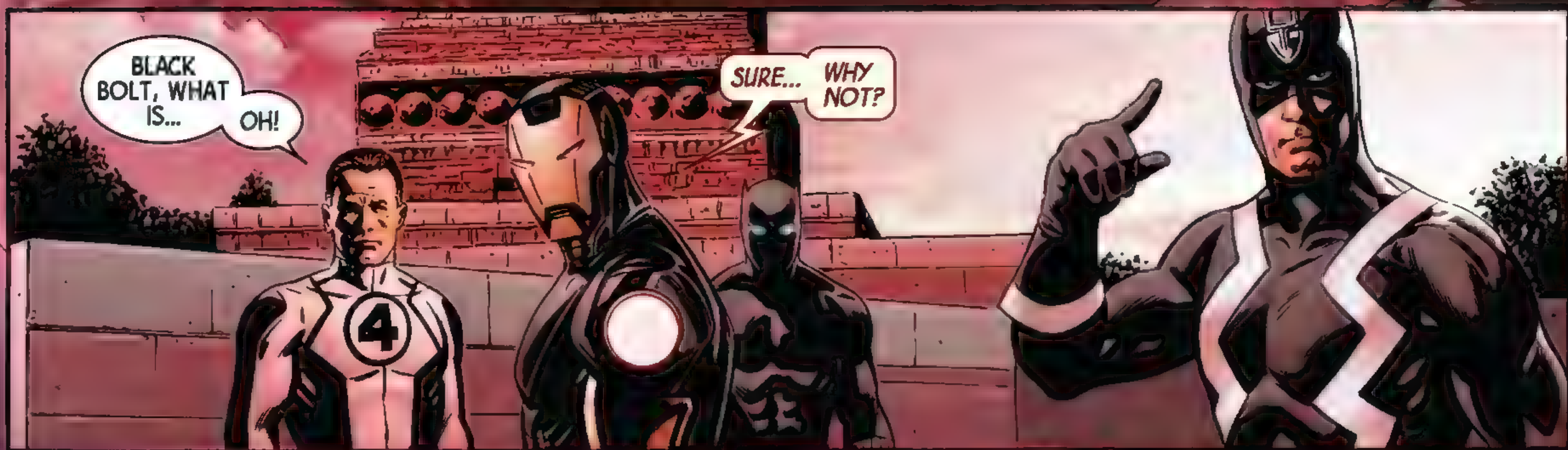


WE HAVE JUST OVER SIX HOURS. CALL IT FOUR, IF WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE TIME FOR STEPHEN TO DO WHATEVER HE PLANS.

IN TRANSIT, REED AND I PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO WHERE WE START.

GOOD. BECAUSE FRANKLY, I DON'T HAVE A—

SNAP!





I'LL
HAVE TO GET
A CLOSER
LOOK...

BUT IT APPEARS
HE'S ASSEMBLED A
CONVERSION MACHINE
TO ACCELERATE THE
DESTRUCTION OF
THE WORLD.

IF IT'S
ANYTHING LIKE
THE ONES I'VE SEEN
GALACTUS BUILD IN THE
PAST, IT WILL REACH
CRITICAL MASS WITHIN
MINUTES OF BEING
ACTIVATED.

WE'LL HAVE
TO GO NOW
IF WE HAVE
ANY HOPES
OF...



...STOPPING...

OH.



WE CAN'T
JUST LET THESE
PEOPLE...

WE
HAVE TO
TRY.



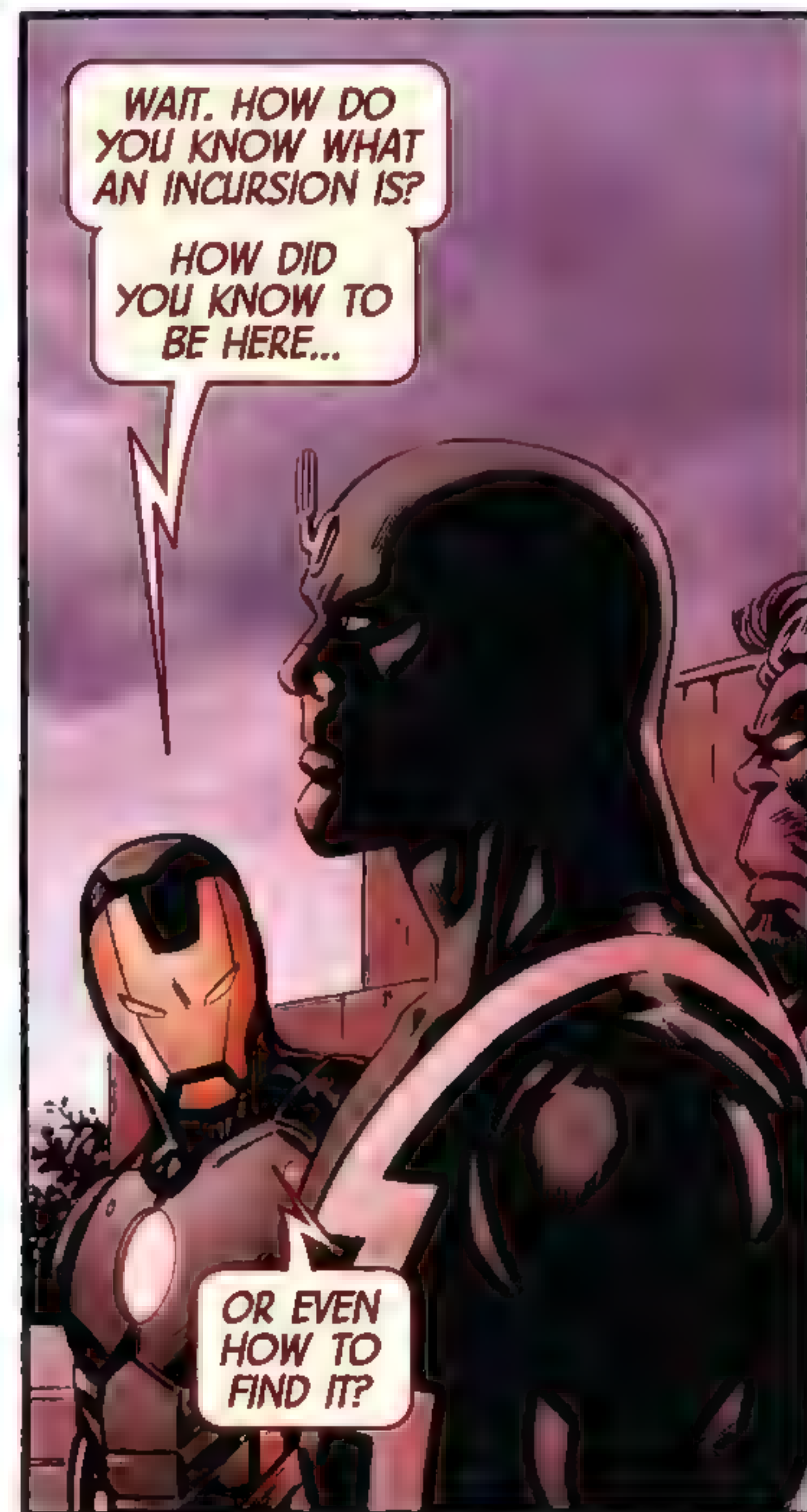
OF
COURSE WE
DO.

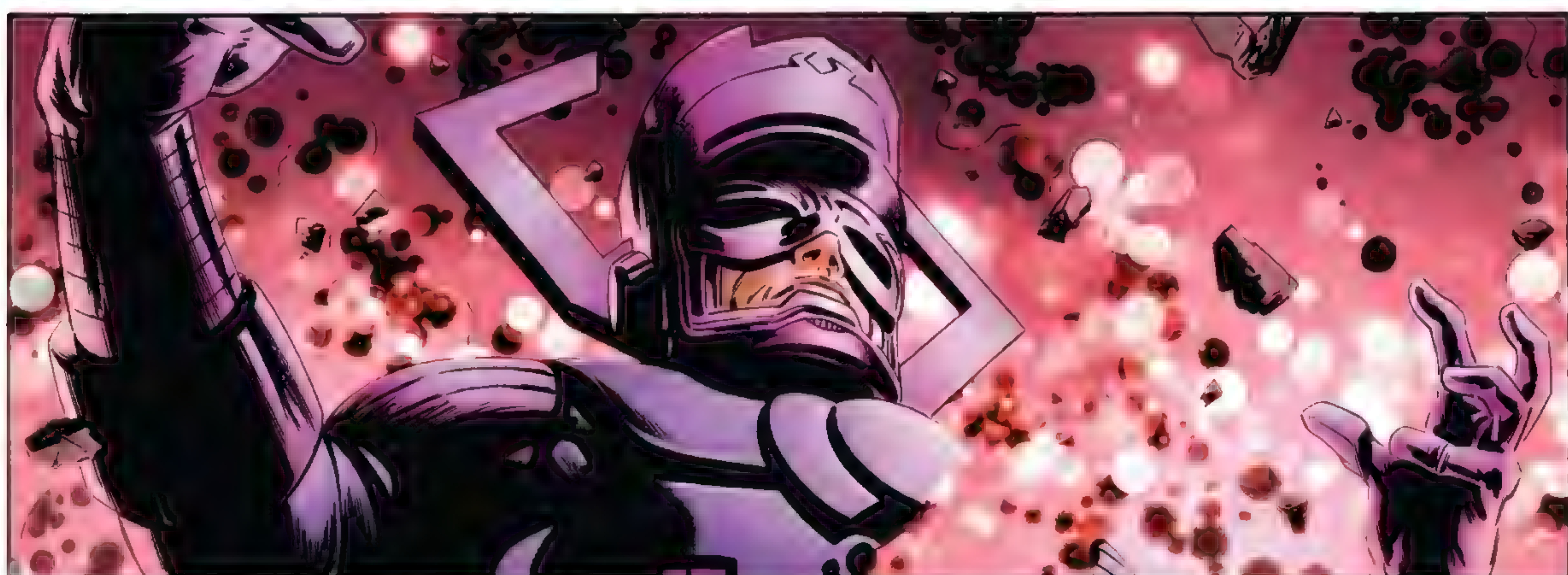
HOW
COULD WE
NOT?



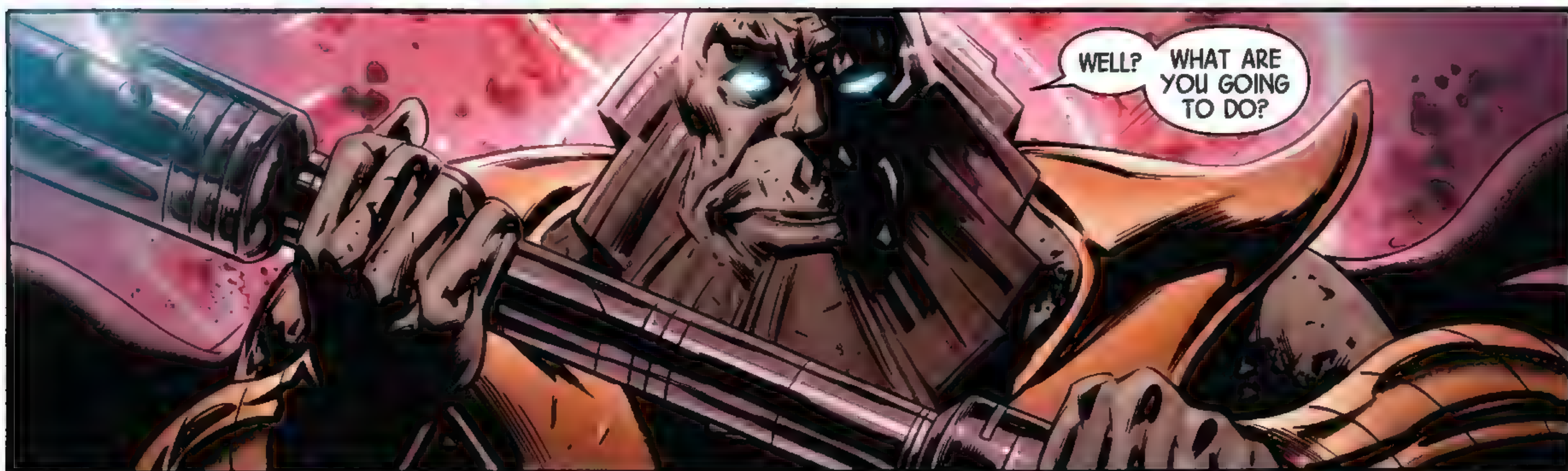
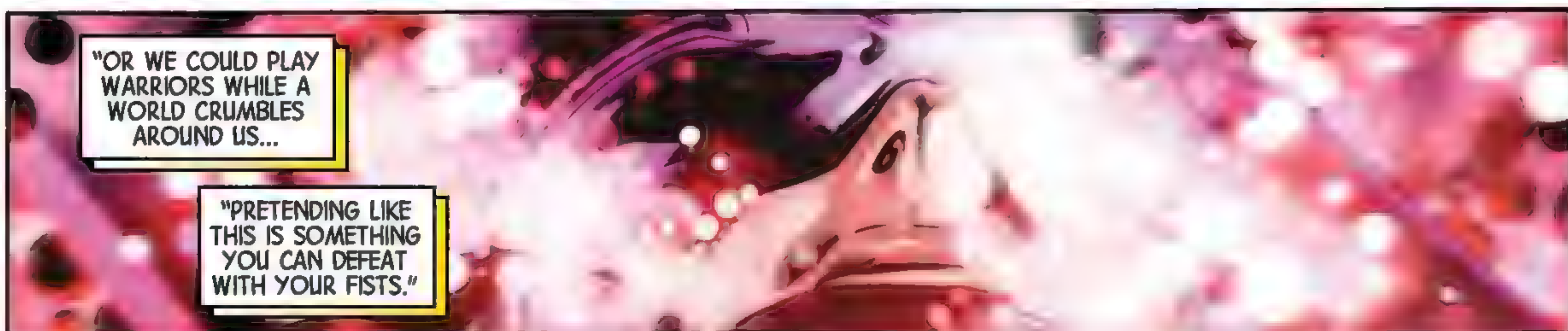
EASILY.

AND BE
ALL THE BETTER
FOR IT.







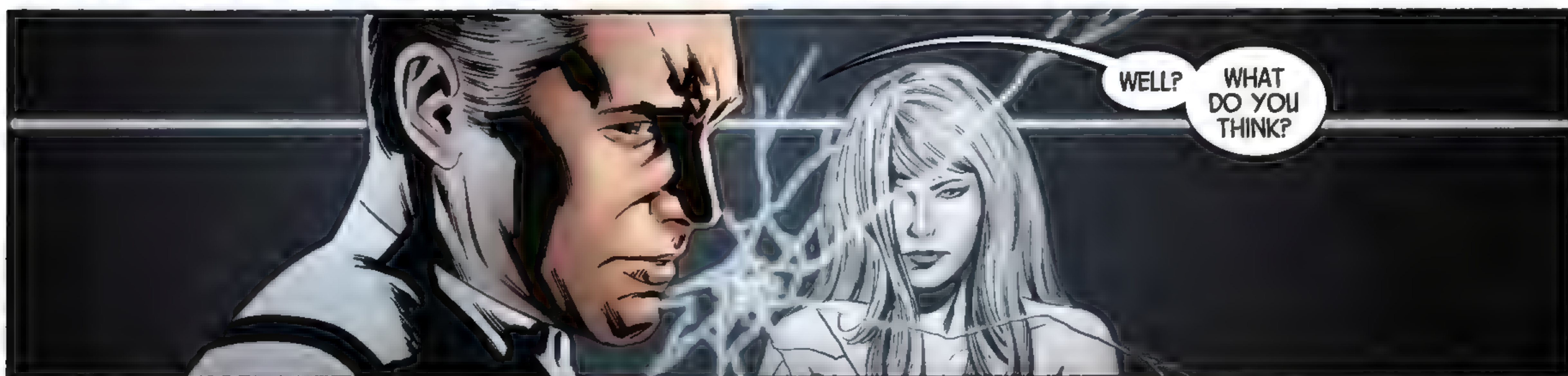
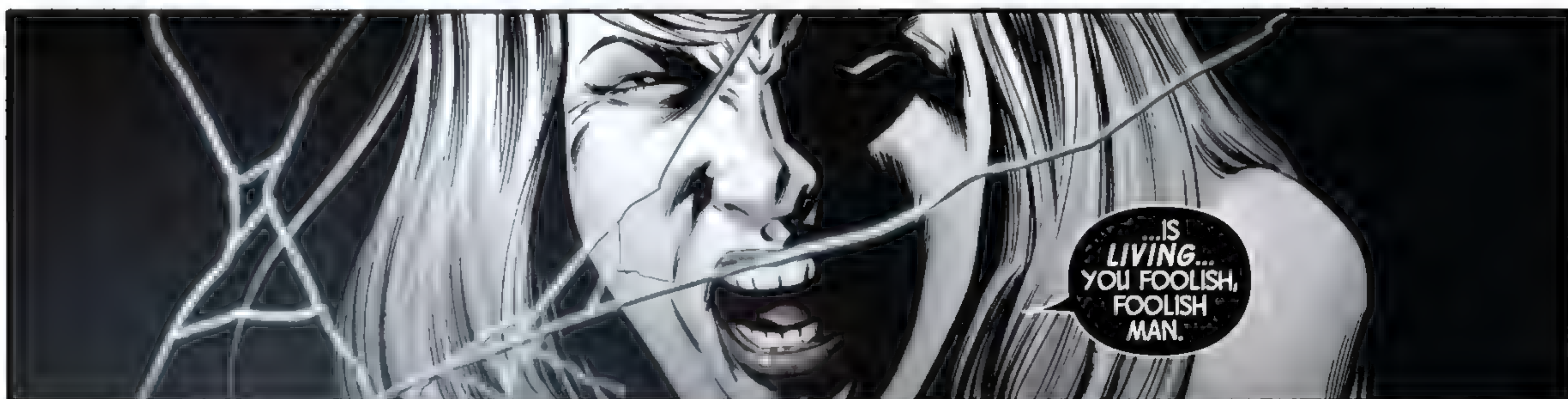


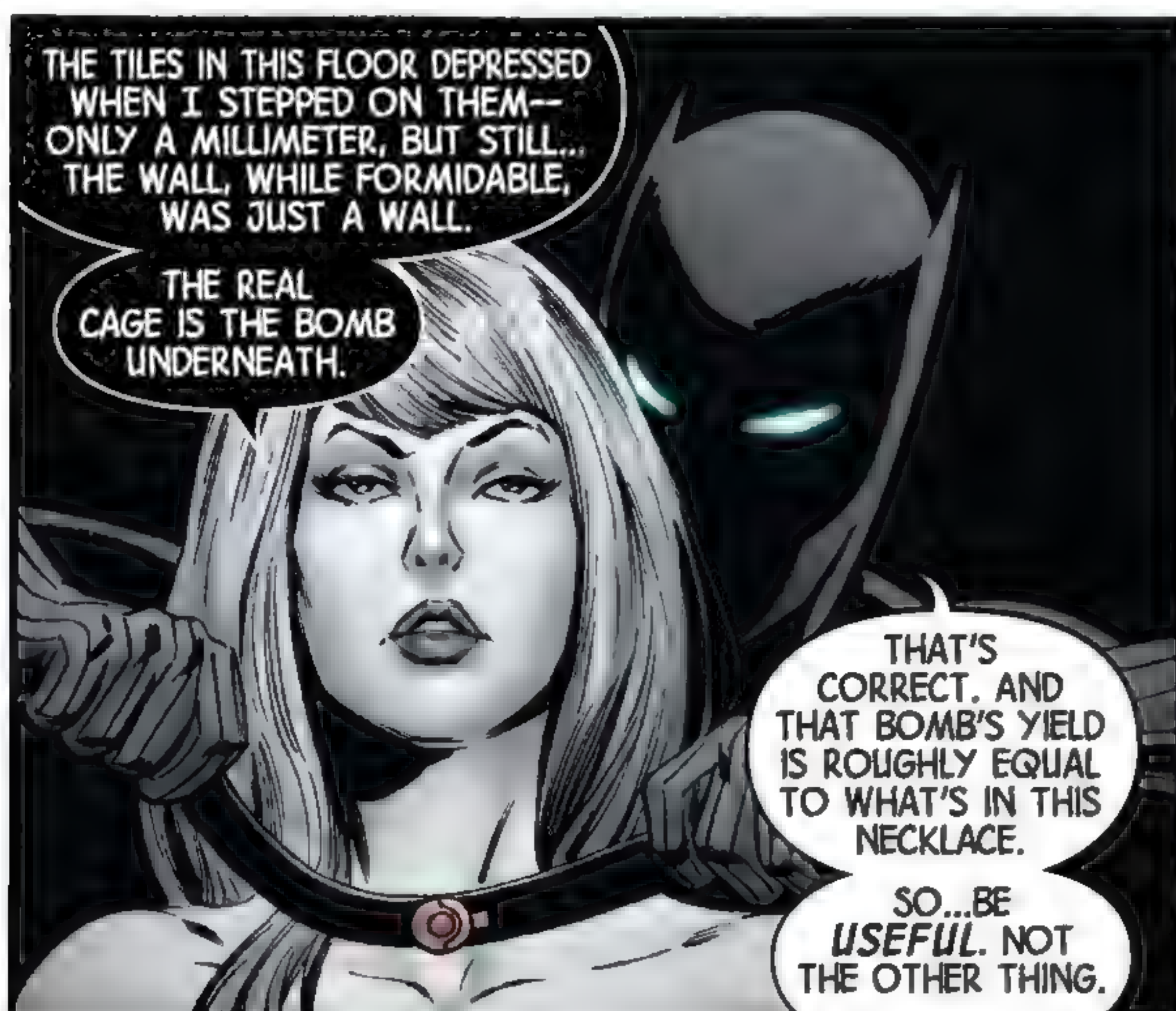




“BLACK SWANS”



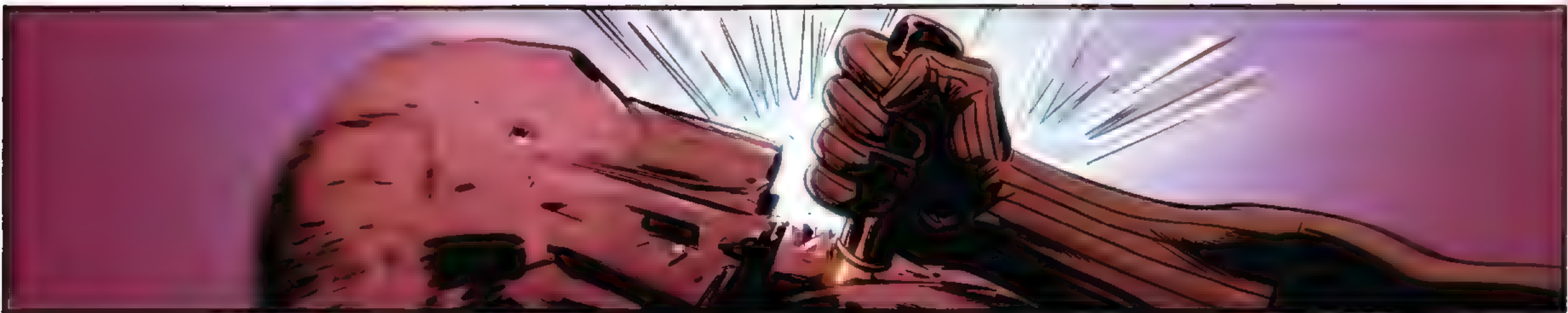
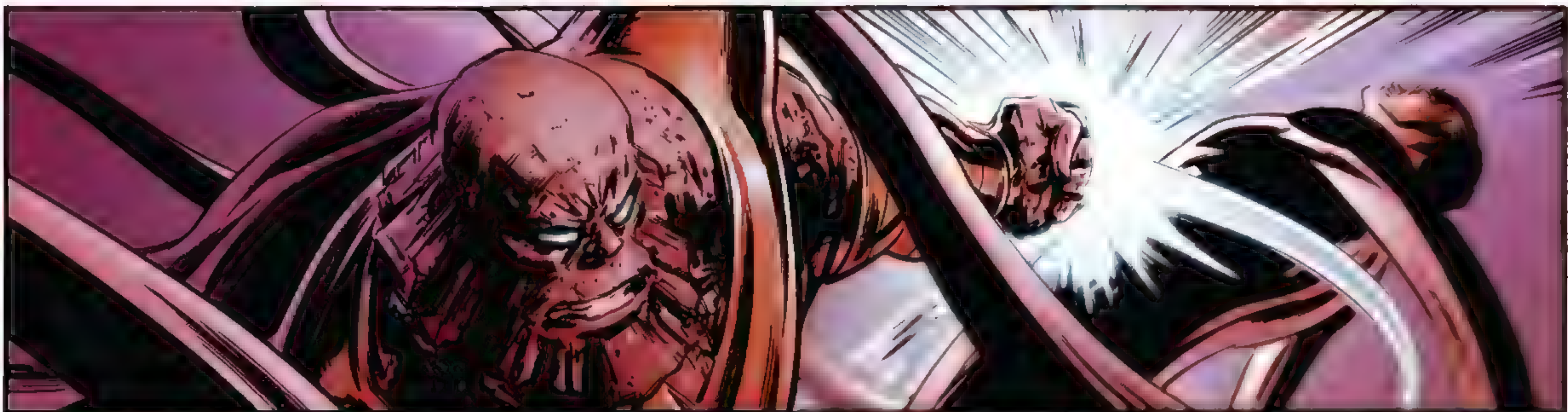


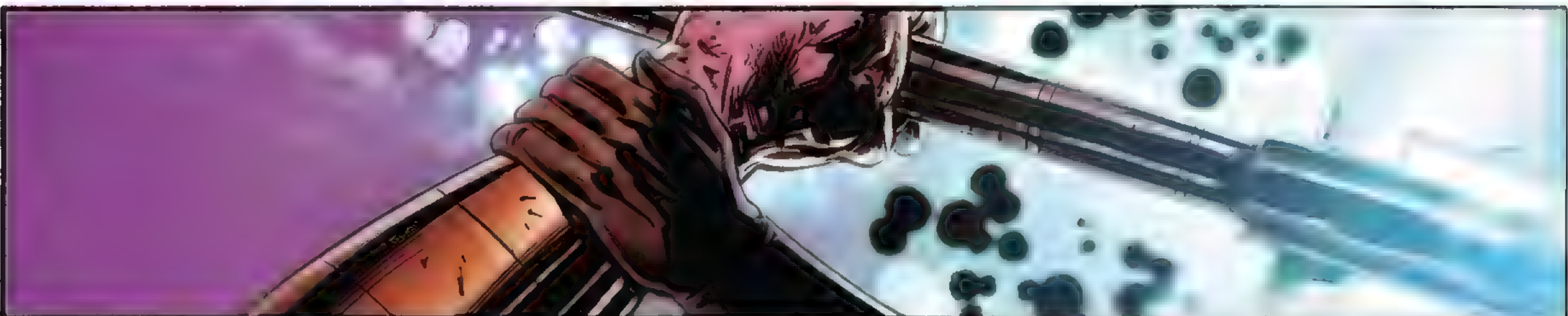
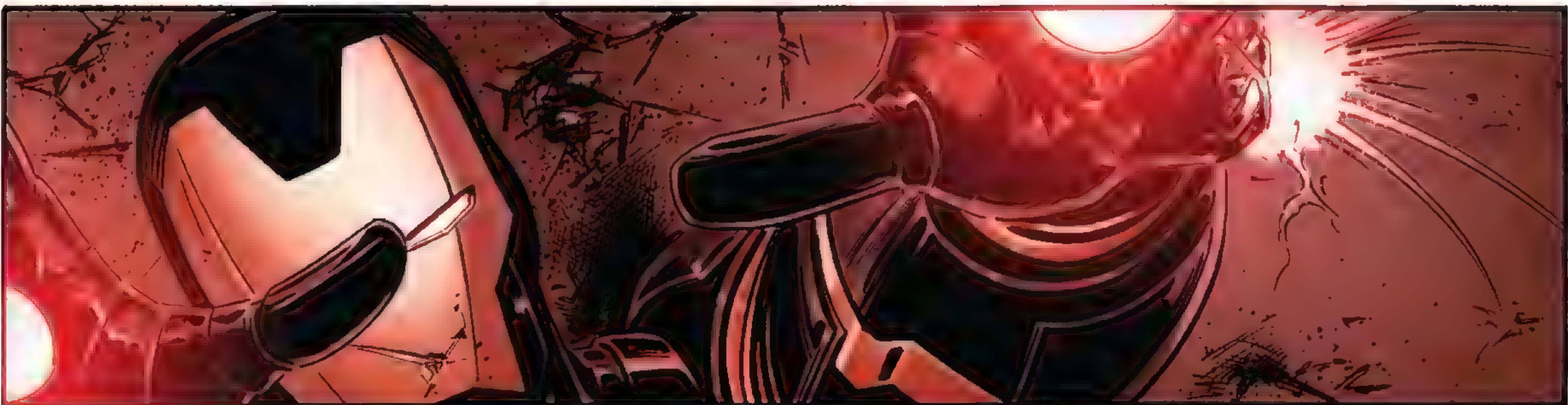
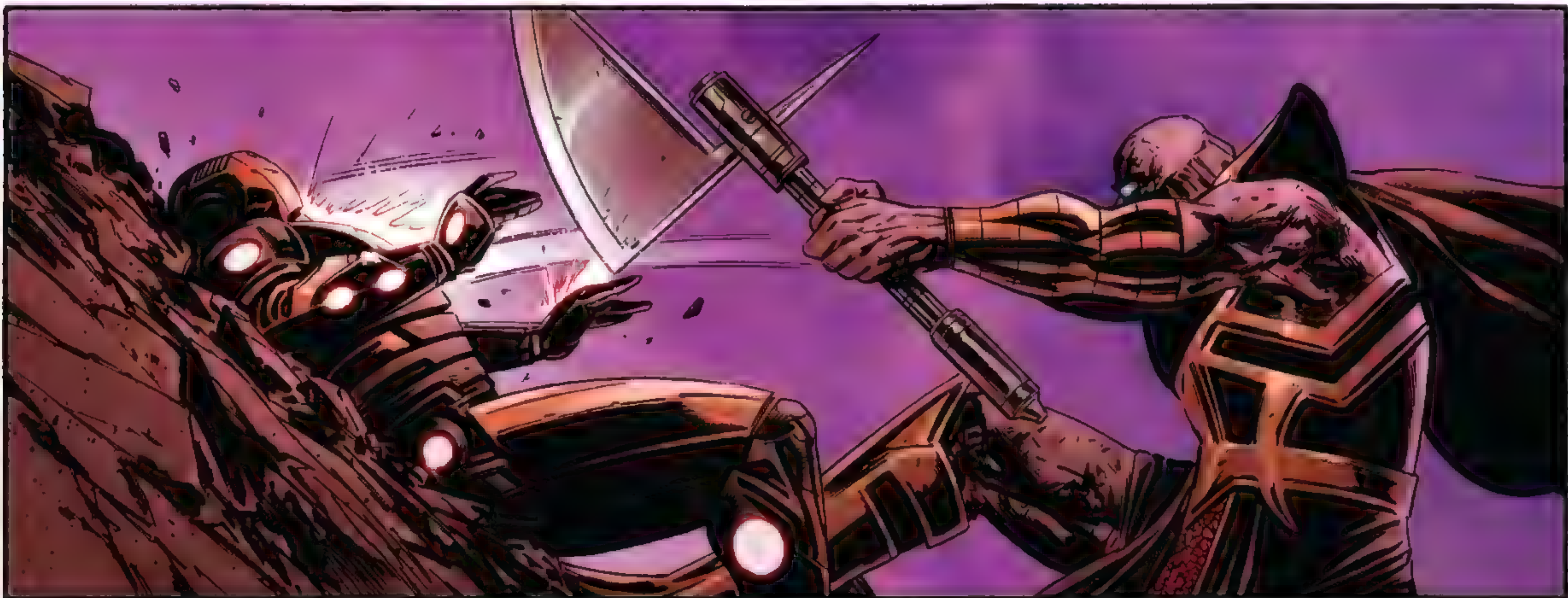




ONE WEEK AGO.



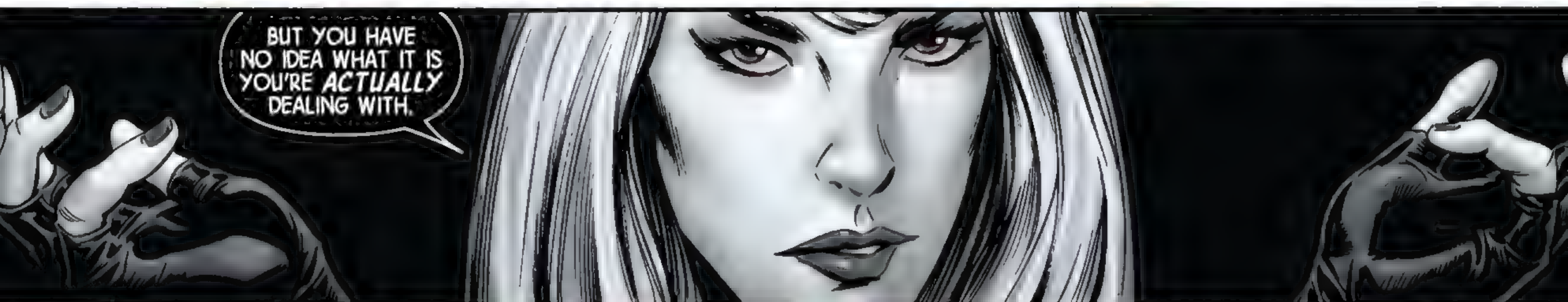


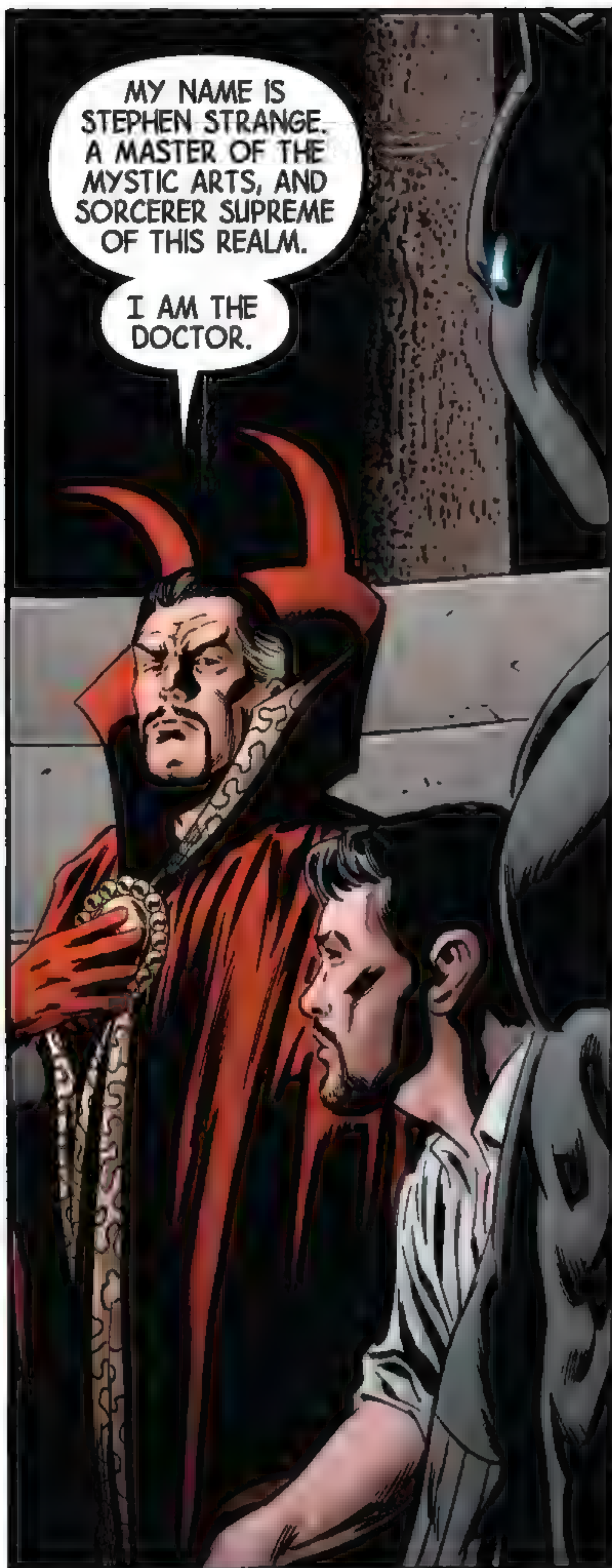












MY NAME IS
STEPHEN STRANGE.
A MASTER OF THE
MYSTIC ARTS, AND
SORCERER SUPREME
OF THIS REALM.

I AM THE
DOCTOR.



PTOO!

A
NECROMANCER.
A SUMMONER.

I WILL NOT
TOLERATE THIS
MAN SPEAKING
TO ME.



HRMPH.

SEEMS
SHE'S GOT
YOU PEGGED,
STEPHEN.

I LIKE
HER.



WHY DON'T
YOU JUST BEGIN
WITH WHAT WE
DON'T KNOW.

HEH. A
VIRTUALLY INFINITE
AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE
IN THE MULTIVERSE AND
YOU WANT TO KNOW
WHAT YOU DON'T
KNOW...

REMEMBER
YOU AND I TALKING
ABOUT TIME, AND HOW
VERY LITTLE OF IT
YOU HAVE?

WE'LL ADAPT
AND REFOCUS AS
YOU PROGRESS. FOR
NOW...START AT
THE BEGINNING.



AH...THE
BEGINNING...



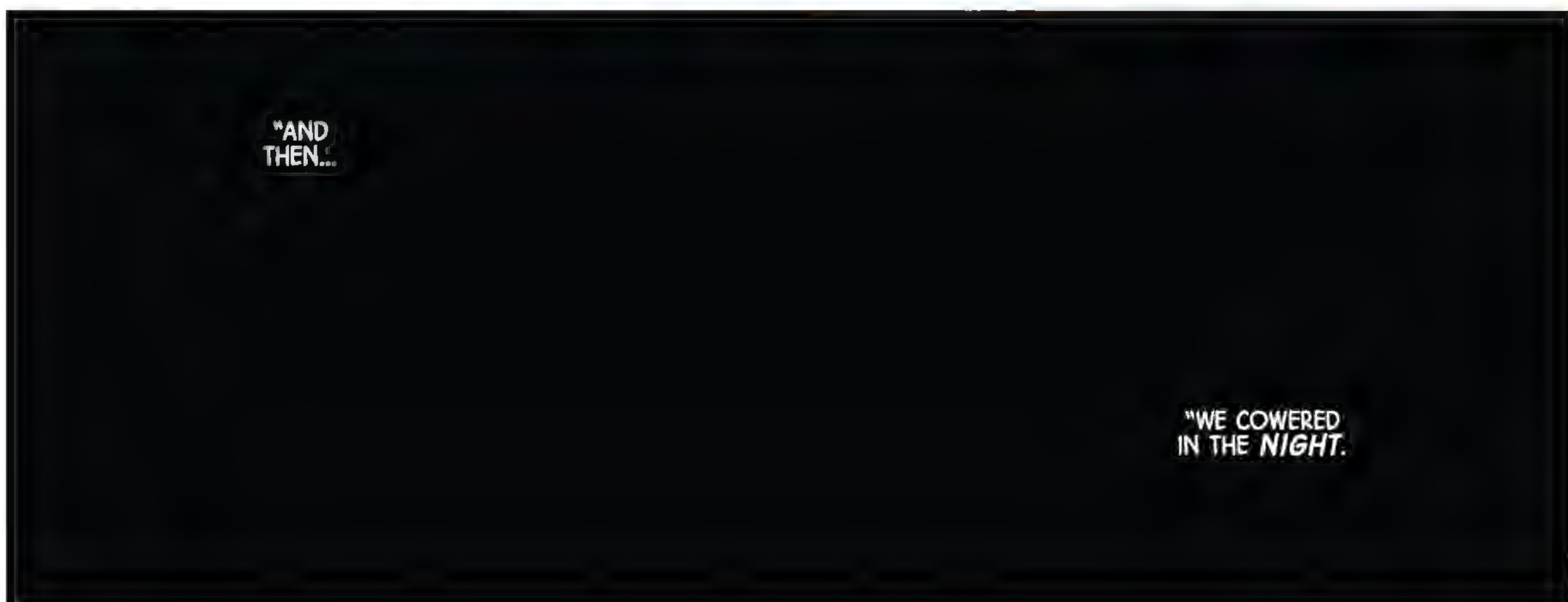
"THERE WAS
EVERYTHING."



"FOLLOWED BY
NOTHING."



"A SWIRLING,
GAPING MAW
THAT SWALLOWED
LIFE-GIVING SUNS."



"AND
THEN..."

"WE COWERED
IN THE NIGHT."

"I WAS FOUR
WHEN WE LOST
THE HEIGHTS.



"MY NAME THEN WAS
YABBAT UMMON
TARRU, THIRD SISTER
TO THE CROWN
PRINCE, DADINGRA.

"MY BROTHER WAS
HEIR TO THE THRONE
OF THE HIDDEN CITY,
AND KEEPER OF THE
GREAT KEY.



"THE KEY UNLOCKED THE CITY'S—
OUR PLANET'S—GREATEST TREASURE,
A LIBRARY OF WORLDS. A GIFT FROM
SINNU SARRUM, THE IVORY KINGS.

"DADINGRA HAD THE KEY, AND HE COULD
OPEN THE DOOR, BUT THE LIBRARY COULD
NOT BE NAVIGATED BY THE UNTRAINED.

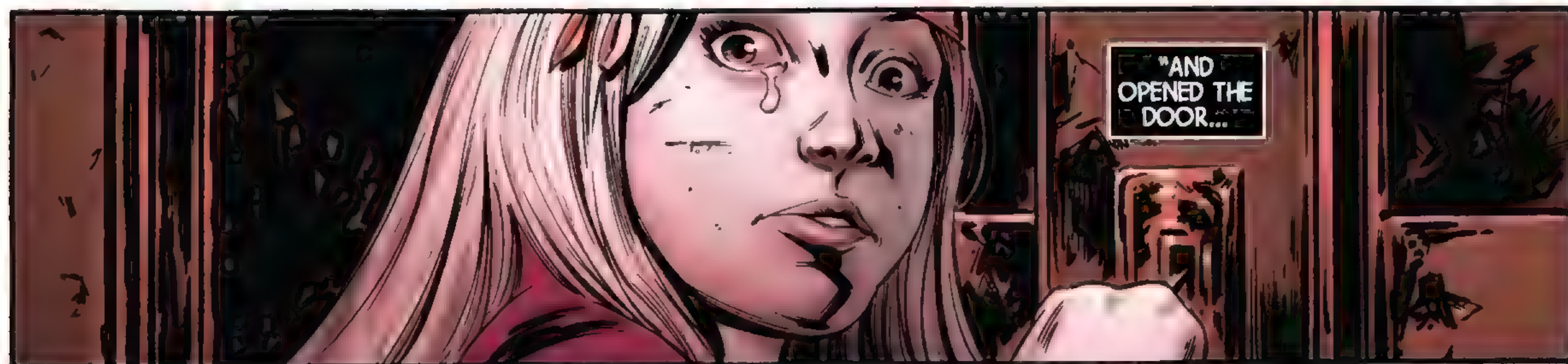
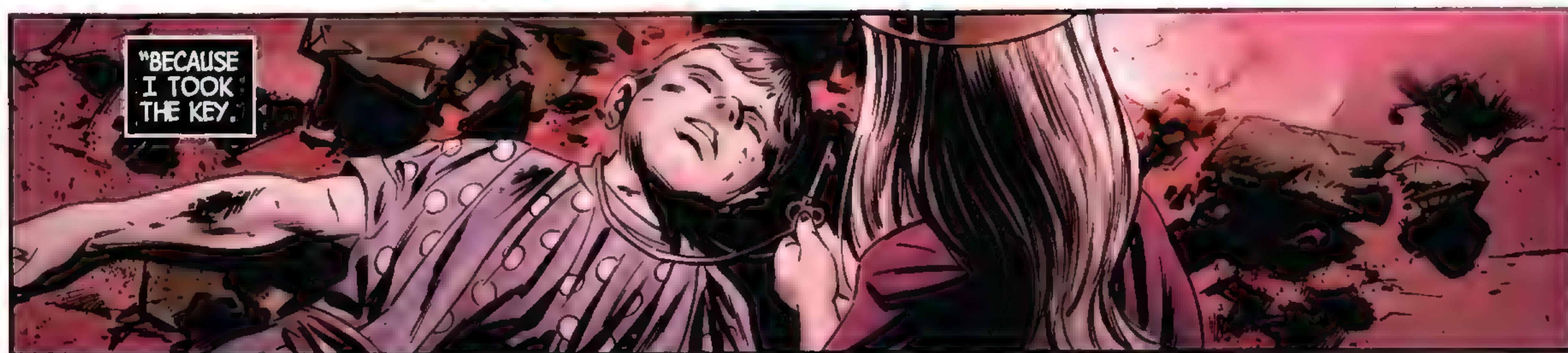


"LEGEND SAID THAT ONLY
THE GREAT LADIES—WHOM
NONE OF OUR PEOPLE HAD
EVER SEEN—COULD FIND THEIR
WAY THROUGH THE TWISTED
PATHS BETWEEN WORLDS.

"STILL, EVERY DAY MY
BROTHER UNLOCKED
AND OPENED THE DOOR
HOPING THE LADIES
MIGHT APPEAR.

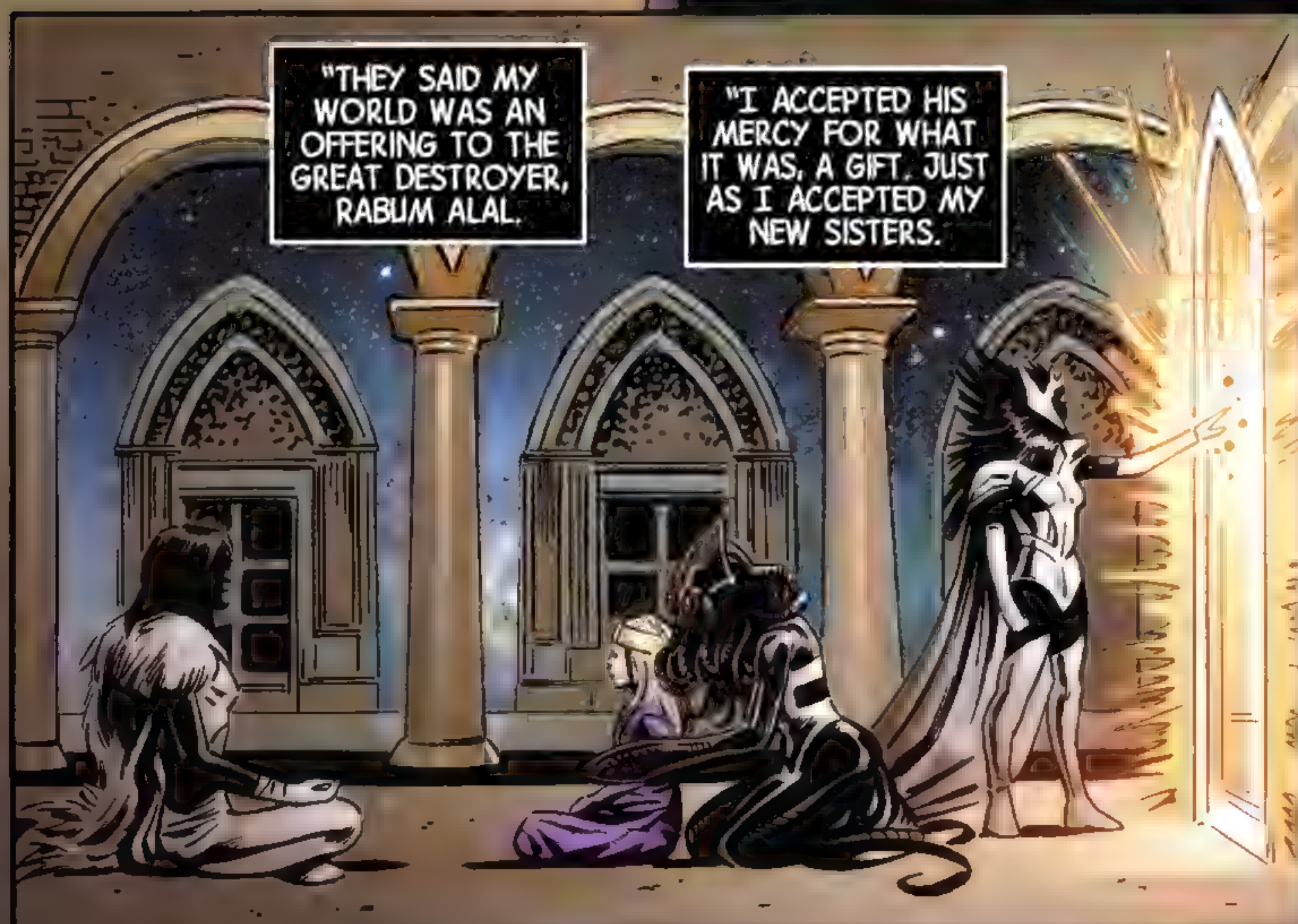
"HE DID
THIS EVERY
SINGLE DAY...







"AND FOUND
THE GREAT
LADIES WAITING
FOR ME INSIDE."



"THEY SAID MY
WORLD WAS AN
OFFERING TO THE
GREAT DESTROYER,
RABUM ALAL."

"I ACCEPTED HIS
MERCY FOR WHAT
IT WAS, A GIFT, JUST
AS I ACCEPTED MY
NEW SISTERS."



"I WAS RAISED A
BLACK SWAN BY
BLACK SWANS."



FIRST, THEY
TAUGHT ME
HOW TO--

WAIT.

SWANS.
THERE ARE
MORE OF
YOU?

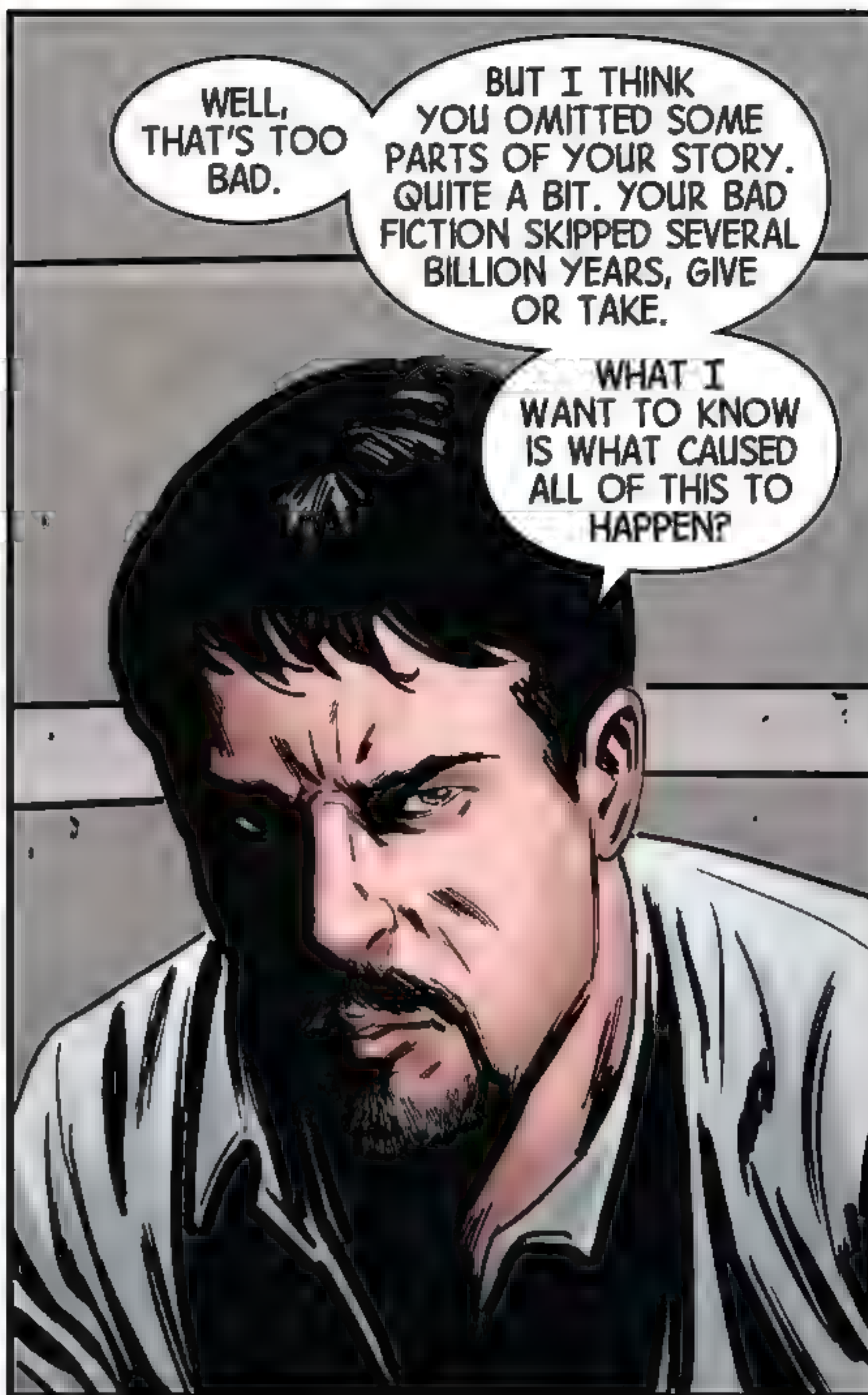
OF
COURSE.



AND THIS
LIBRARY OF WORLDS--
IS IT SOME TYPE OF
WAY STATION FOR
MULTIVER--

IT IS
DESTROYED
NOW.

THE SWANS
SCATTERED.



WELL,
THAT'S TOO
BAD.

BUT I THINK
YOU OMITTED SOME
PARTS OF YOUR STORY.
QUITE A BIT. YOUR BAD
FICTION SKIPPED SEVERAL
BILLION YEARS, GIVE
OR TAKE.

WHAT I
WANT TO KNOW
IS WHAT CAUSED
ALL OF THIS TO
HAPPEN?



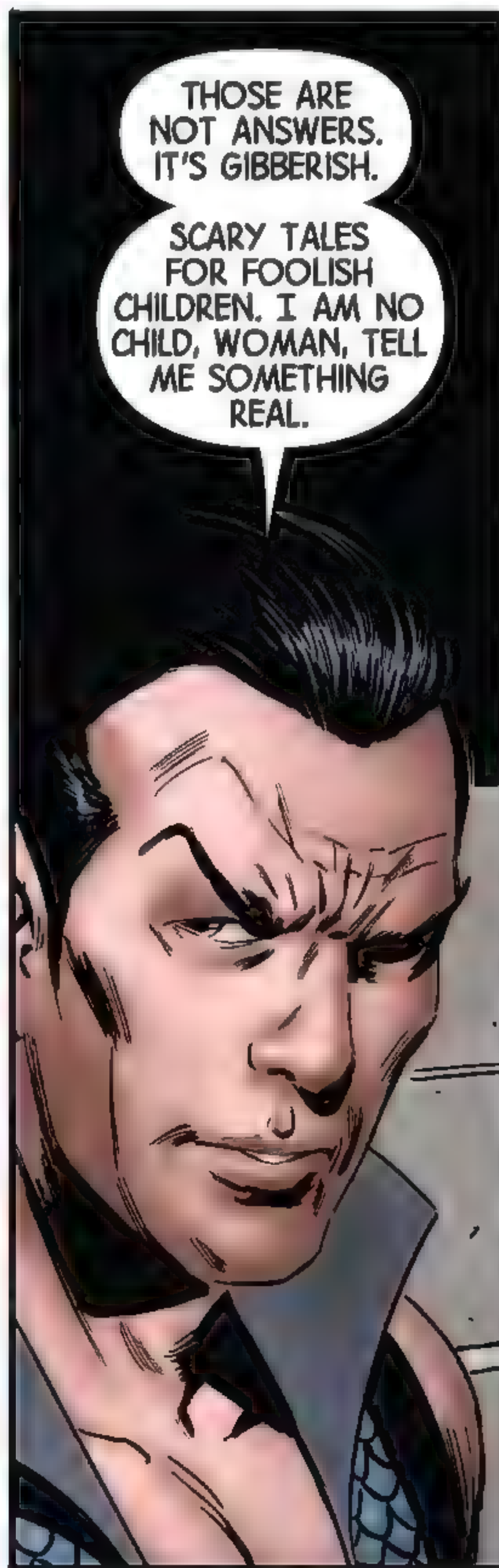
I TOLD
REED RICHARDS,
AND THEN I
ASSUME HE
TOLD YOU...

THERE WAS
AN EVENT. THE
BIRTH OF RABUM
ALAL, THE GREAT
DESTROYER.



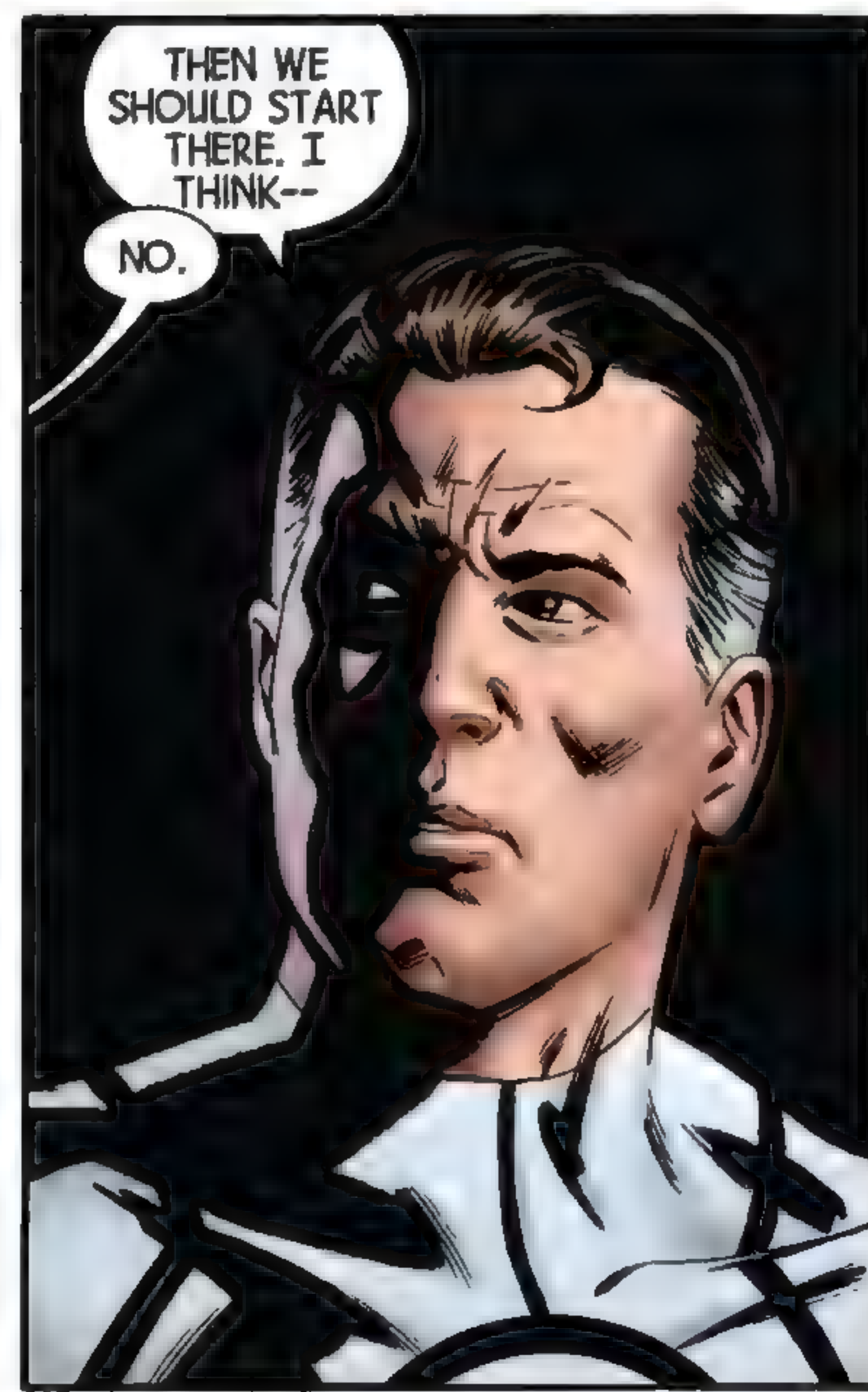
"AT HIS BIRTH, THE
EARLY DEATH OF
EVERYTHING BEGAN.

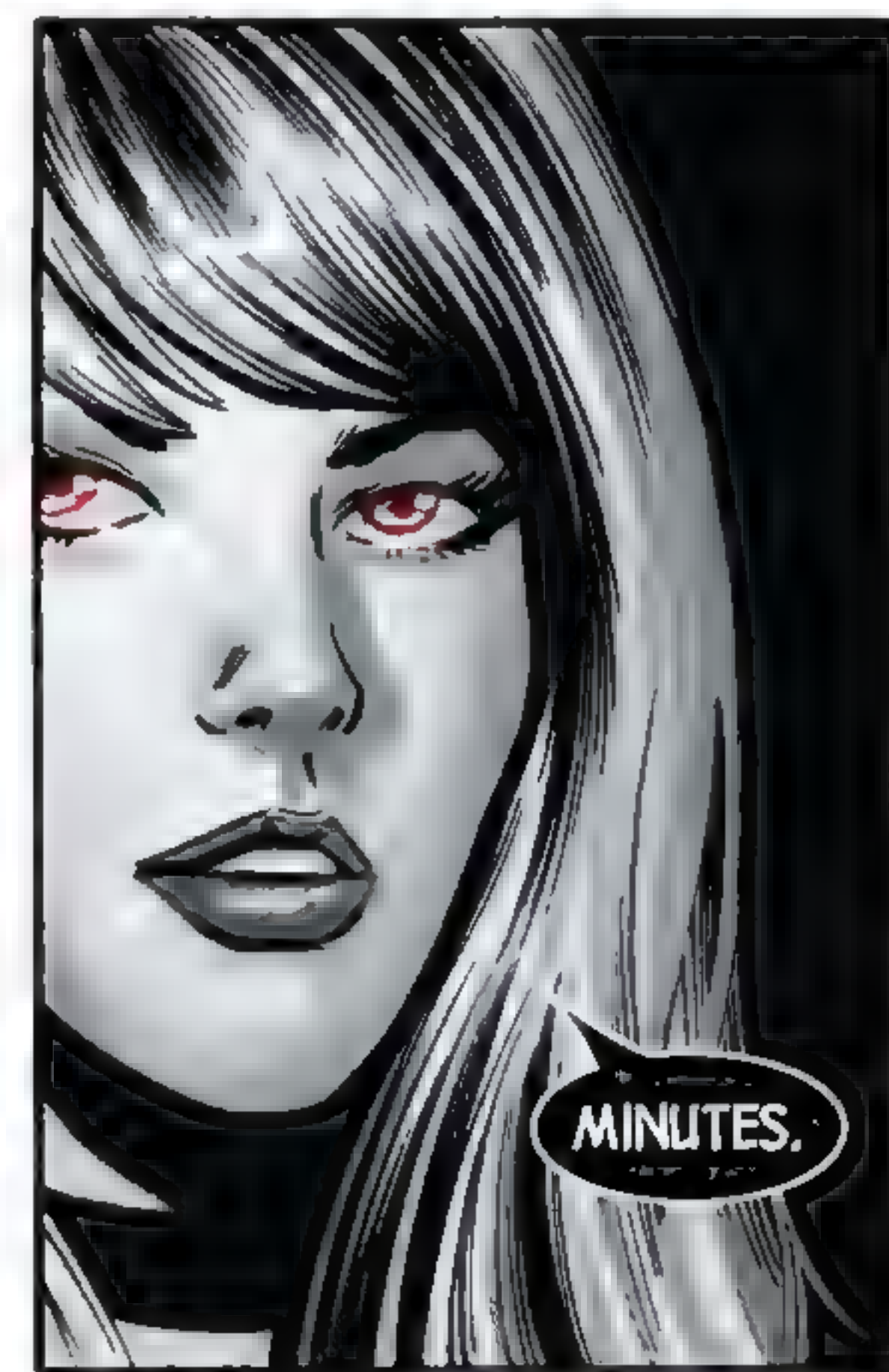
"SO WE OFFER HIM HIS
EARTHS, AN OFFERING,
THAT THE MANY MAY LIVE
FOR A SEASON LONGER.
WARDUM UGGAE."

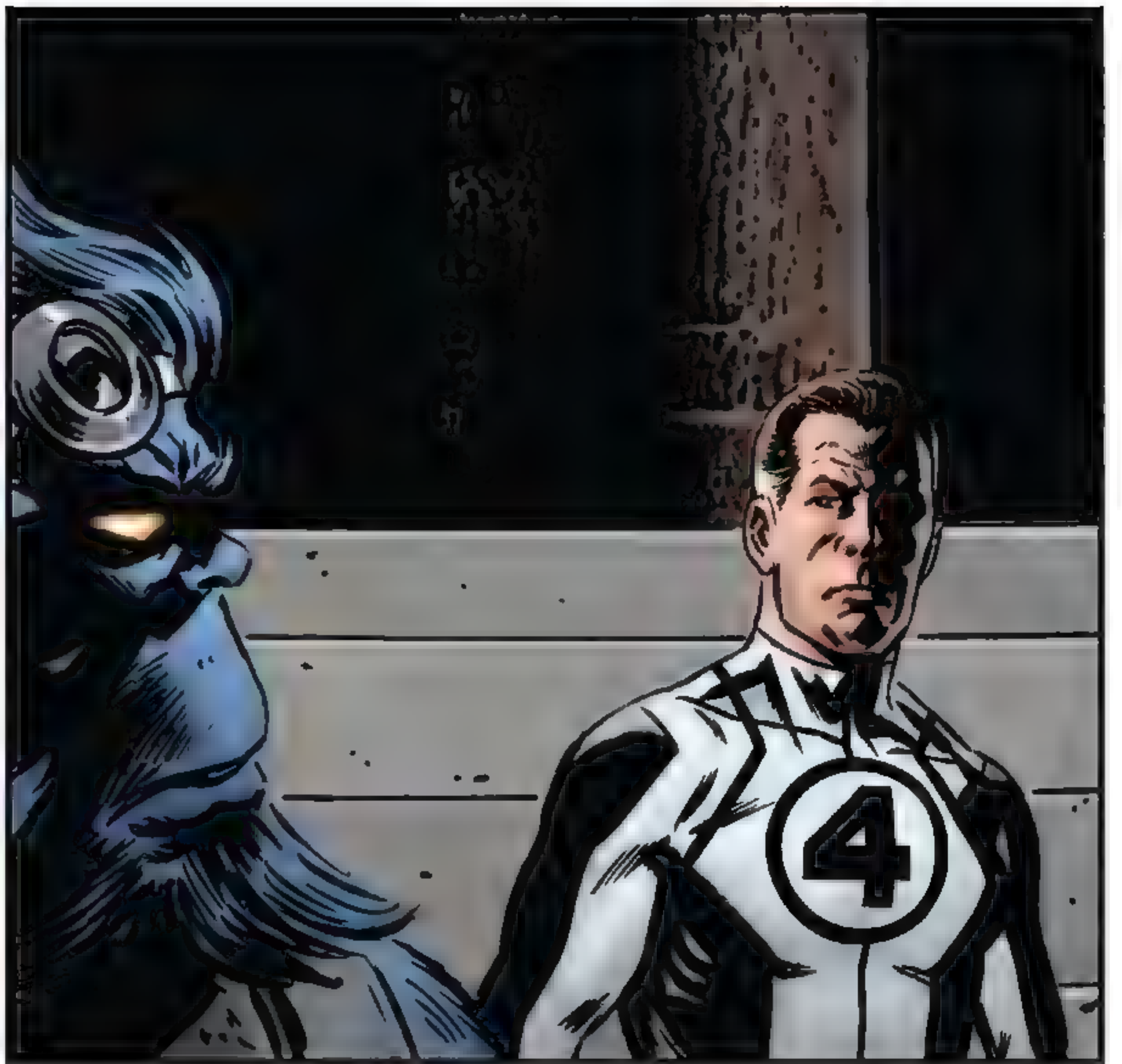


THOSE ARE
NOT ANSWERS.
IT'S GIBBERISH.

SCARY TALES
FOR FOOLISH
CHILDREN. I AM NO
CHILD, WOMAN, TELL
ME SOMETHING
REAL.









“BLUE HELL”

NECROPOLIS.

7:29:43 UNTIL OBLIVION.

YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THIS IS GOING TO WORK?

OF COURSE.

JUST FOR MY PEACE OF MIND...

I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOU SAY IT.

VERY WELL.

I AM TO OBSERVE, AND WHEN NEEDED--AND ASKED--OFFER INFORMATION THAT YOU...**GREAT MEN** CAN FIND USEFUL.

AND WHILE IT HAS REMAINED UNMENTIONED IN THIS CONVERSATION, IF I FAIL TO ACT PROPERLY, I AM CERTAIN YOUR KING OF THE DEAD WILL WELCOME ME INTO HIS KINGDOM OF DUST.

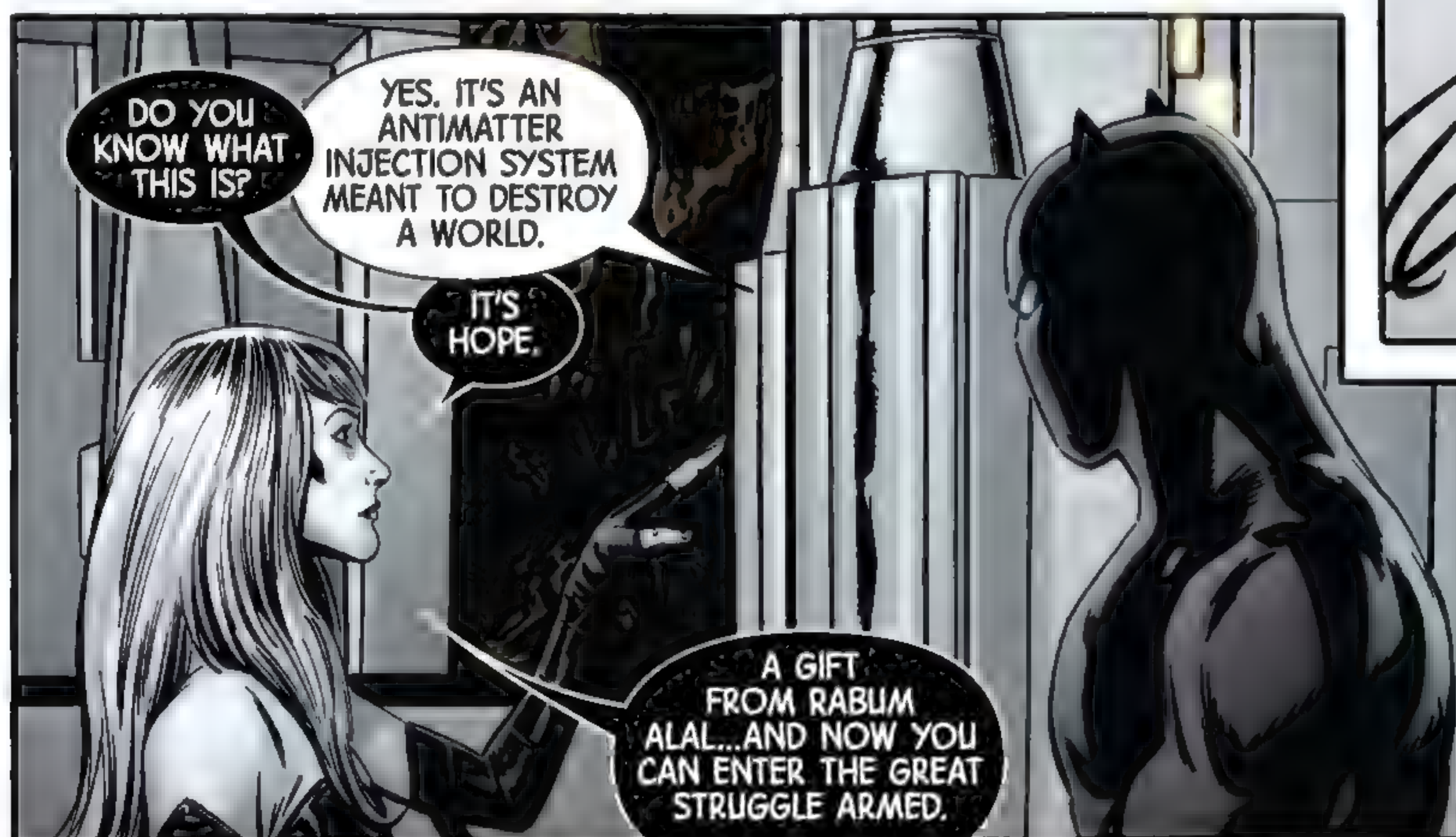
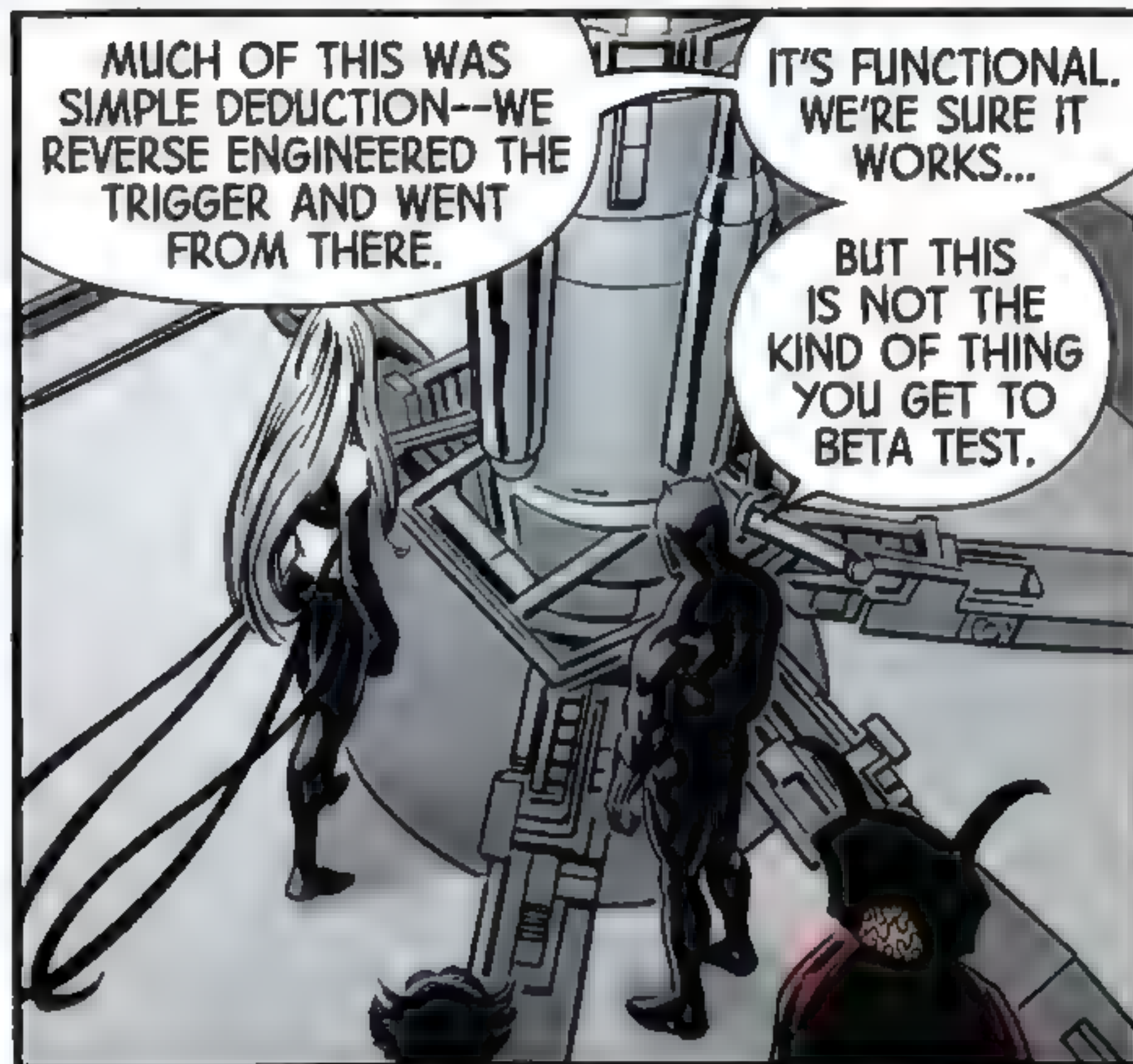
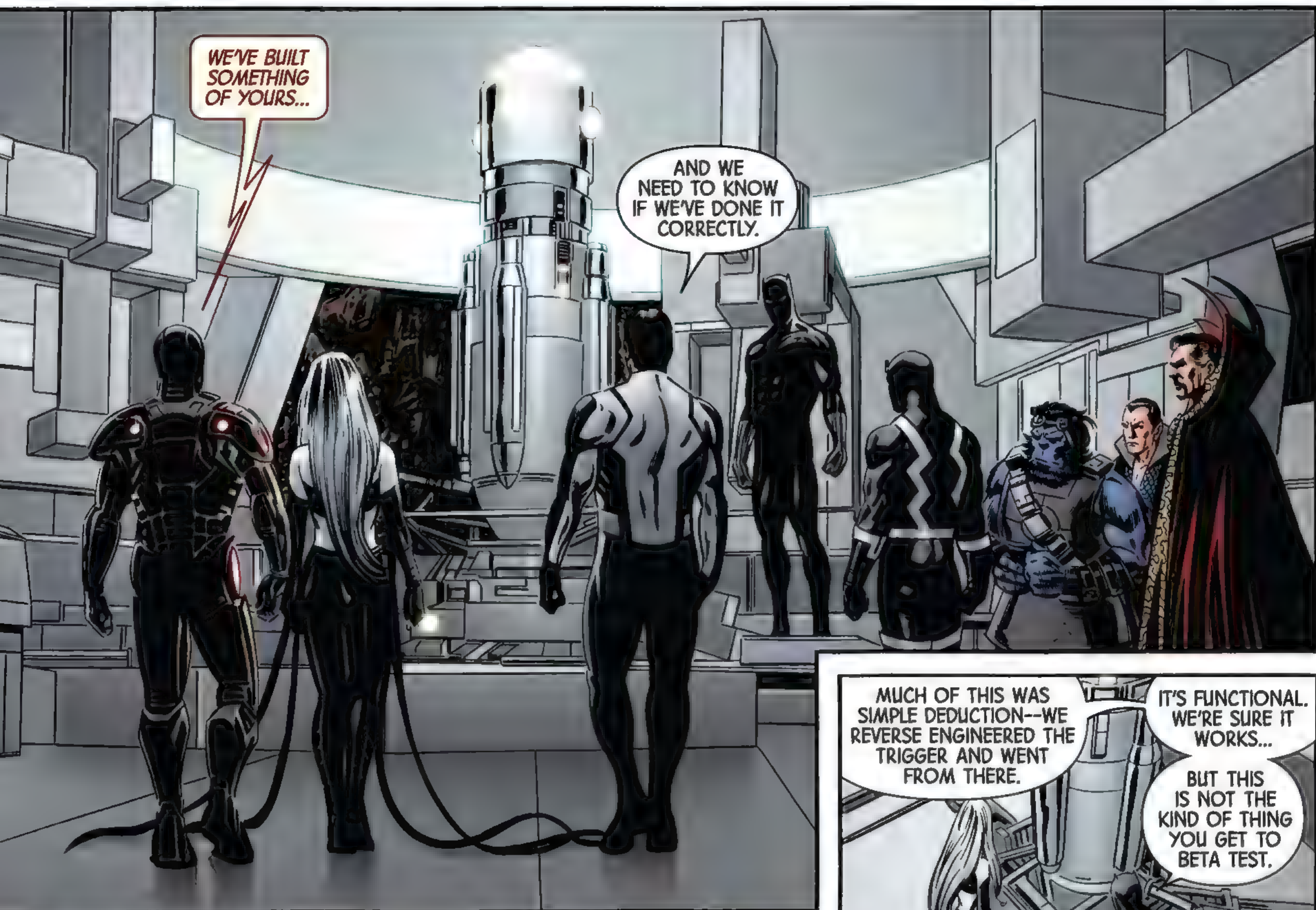
RABUM ALAL, NADANU ANNU AMELSERRU LIBBU.

JUST SO LONG AS WE'RE CLEAR.

TELL ME, ANTHONY STARK...DOES MY SUBSERVIENCE MAKE YOU FEEL POWERFUL?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT HOW I FEEL, WORRY ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING...

TO THAT END, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO SEE BEFORE WE LEAVE.





I'M SORRY, BUT I THINK YOU'VE MADE THE COMMON MISTAKE OF CONFUSING EXPEDIENCY WITH DESIRE.

NEEDS AND WANTS, AS IT WERE.

YES.

LIKE THESE FOOLS HERE **NEED** TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAVE THEIR WORLD, BUT **WANT** TO STILL FEEL LIKE HEROES WHEN THEY WAKE IN THE MORNING.



WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

ARE WE TAKING THE DEVICE?



DO WE HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE?



GOOD. THE WHEEL GRINDS MEN DOWN OR SHARPENS THEM INTO WEAPONS.

YOU'VE BUILT A KNIFE...



"NOW YOU HAVE TO FIND THE COURAGE TO GET IT BLOODY."

LATVERIA.



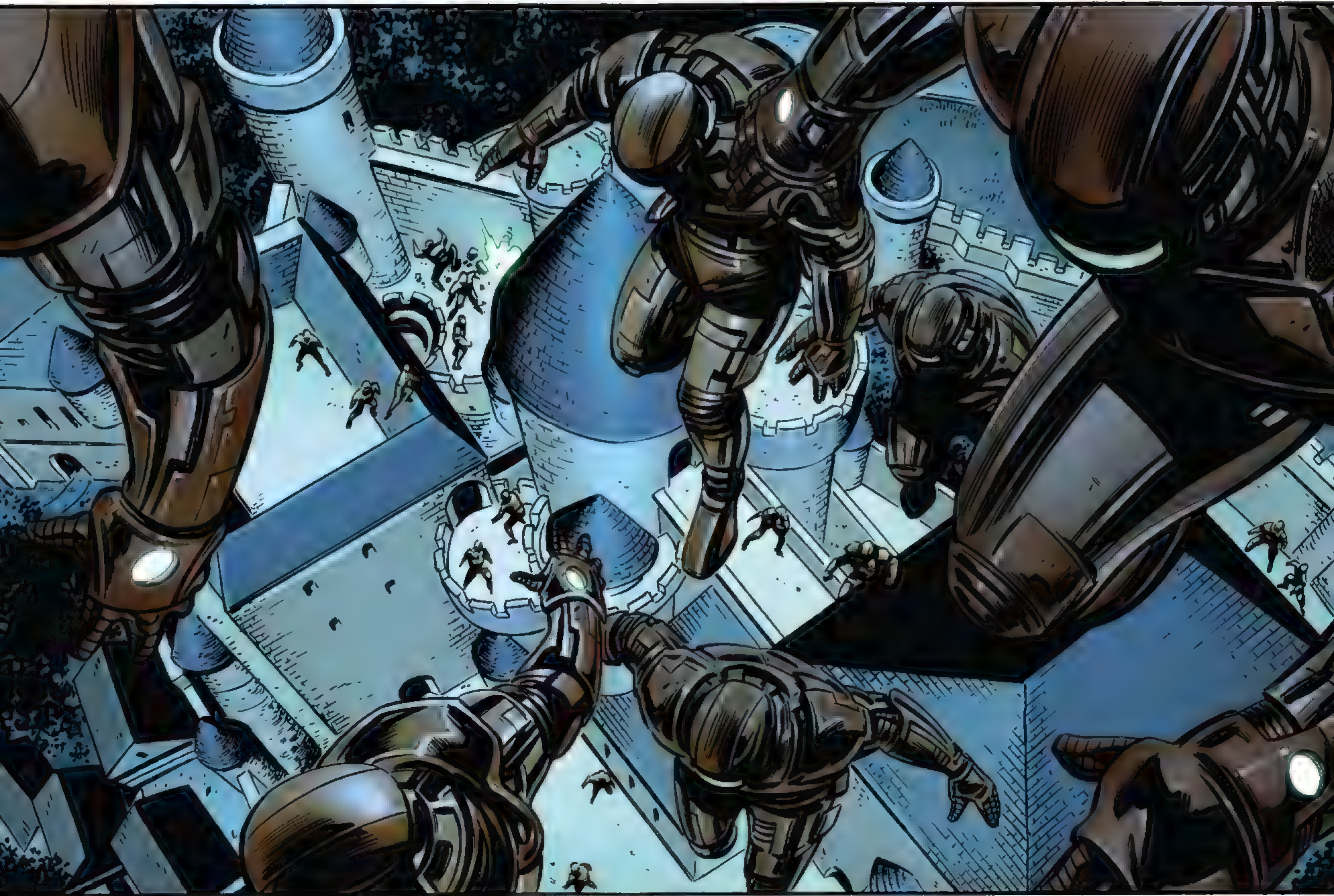
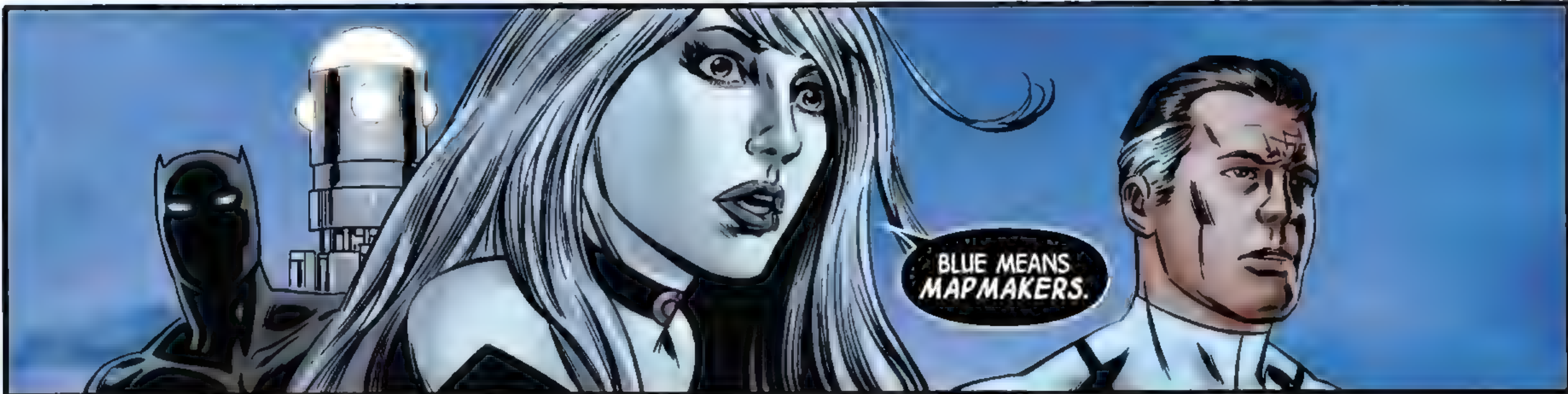
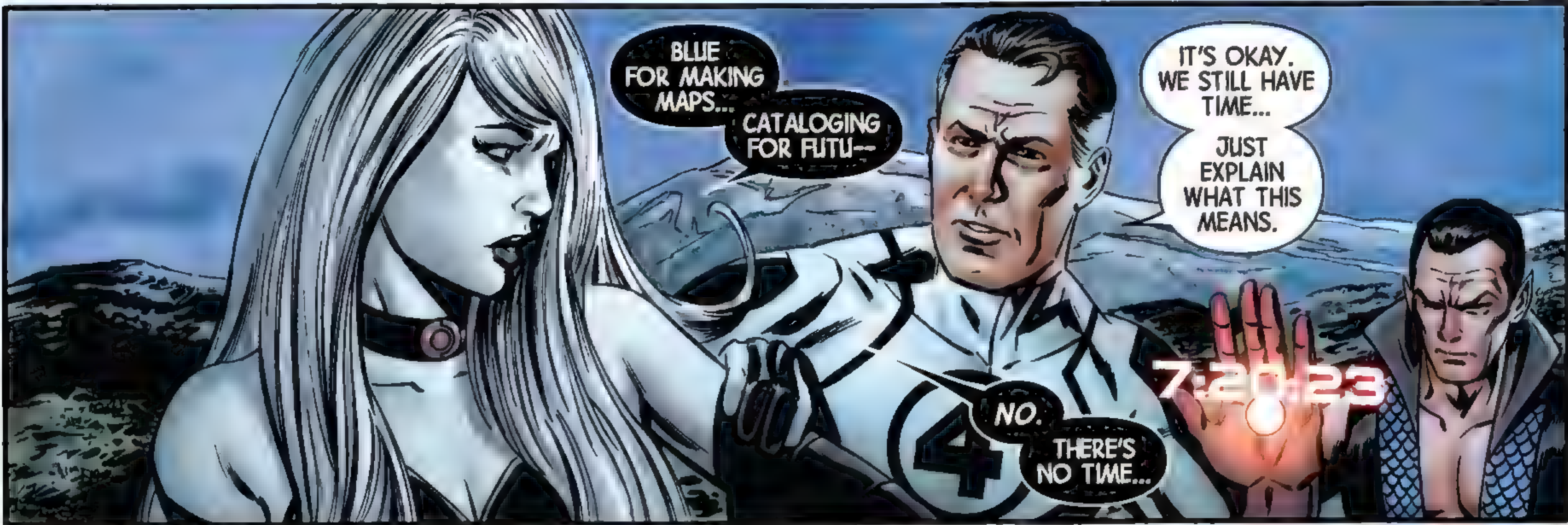
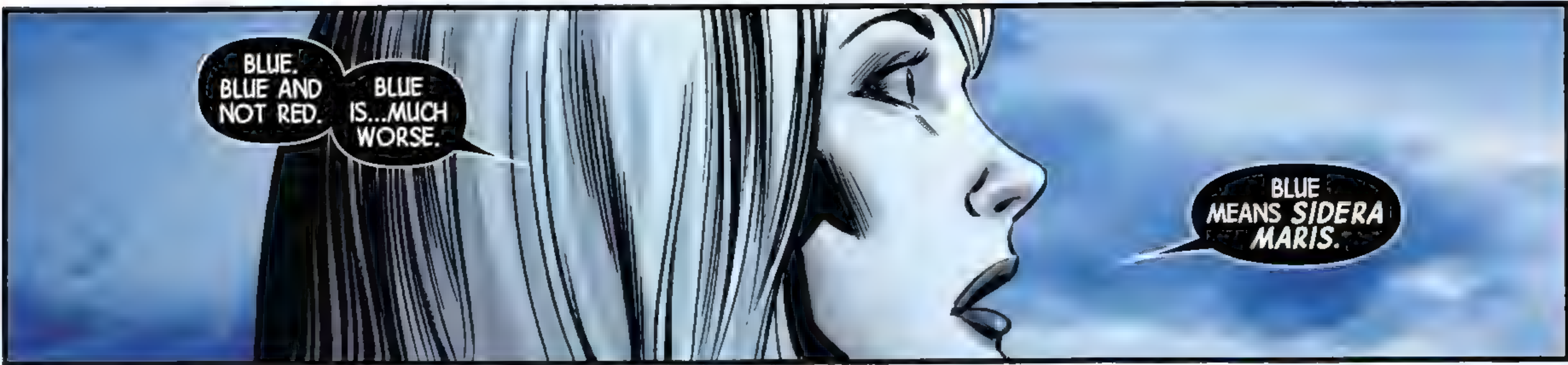
THE INCURSION WALL IS TWENTY LENGTHS IN FRONT OF US.

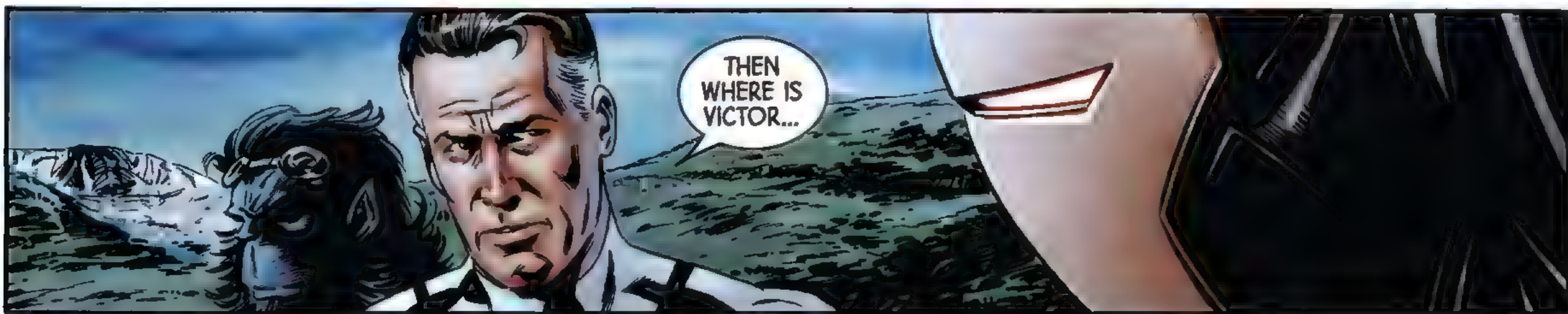
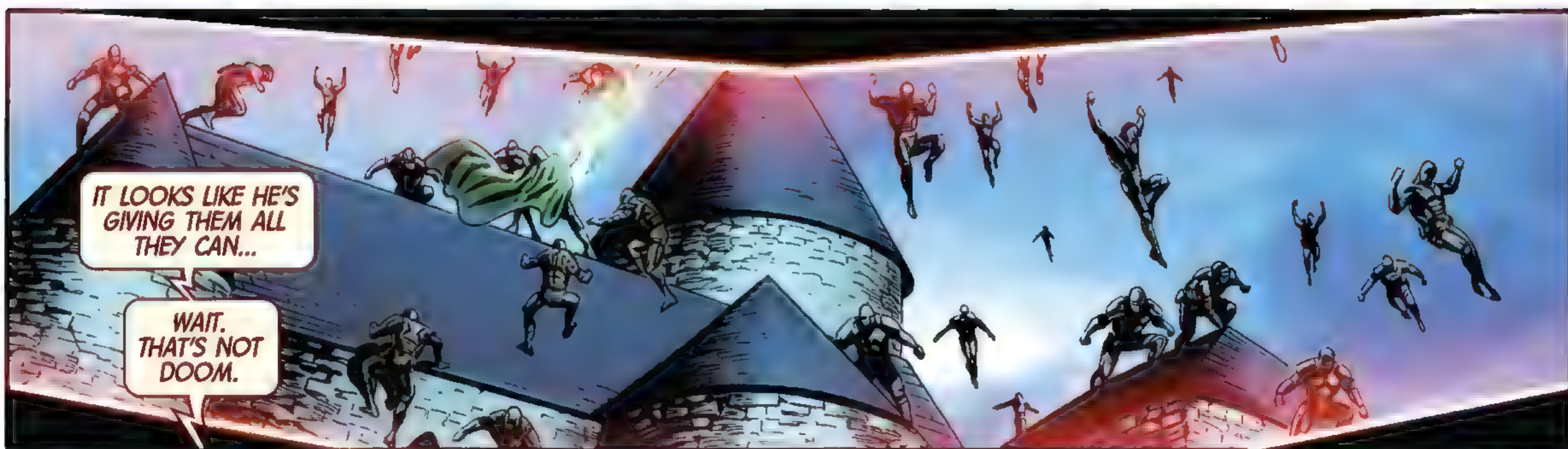
SO...CASTLE DOOM, THE END OF THE WORLD... AND VICTOR.

PERFECT.

LET'S GO.









"WHERE
IS DOCTOR
DOOM?"

YOU
DARE...?

OF ALL THE
PLACES IN ALL
THE WORLDS, YOU
CHOOSE TO ACCOST
DOOM IN HIS OWN
HOME... YOU
DARE?



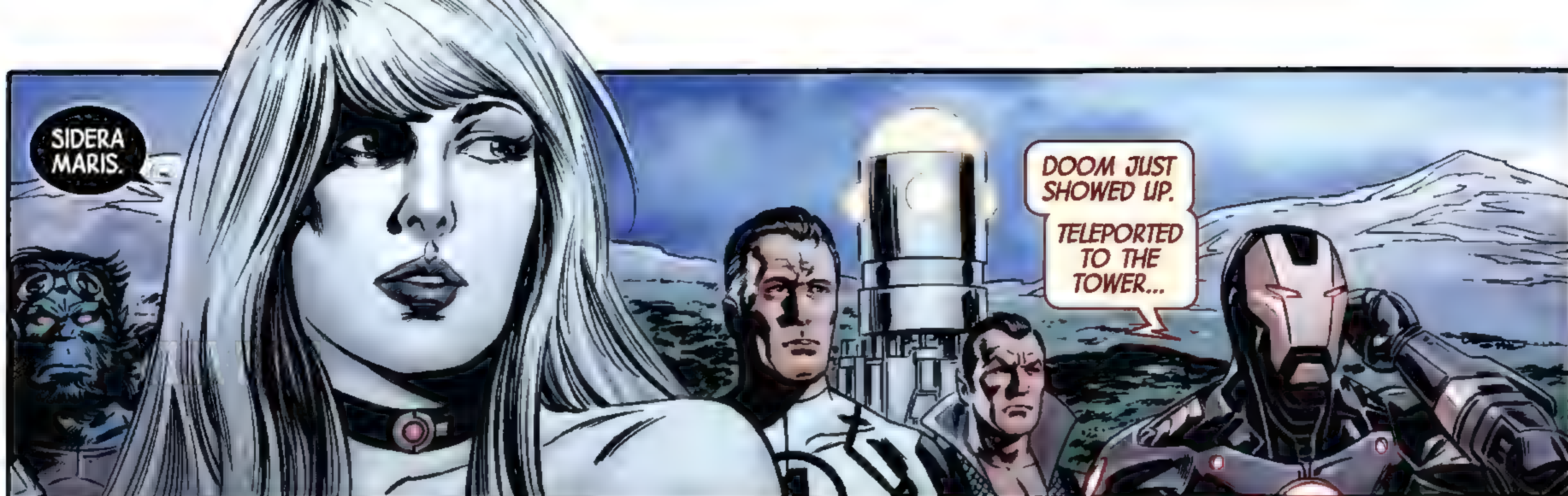
FOOLS!

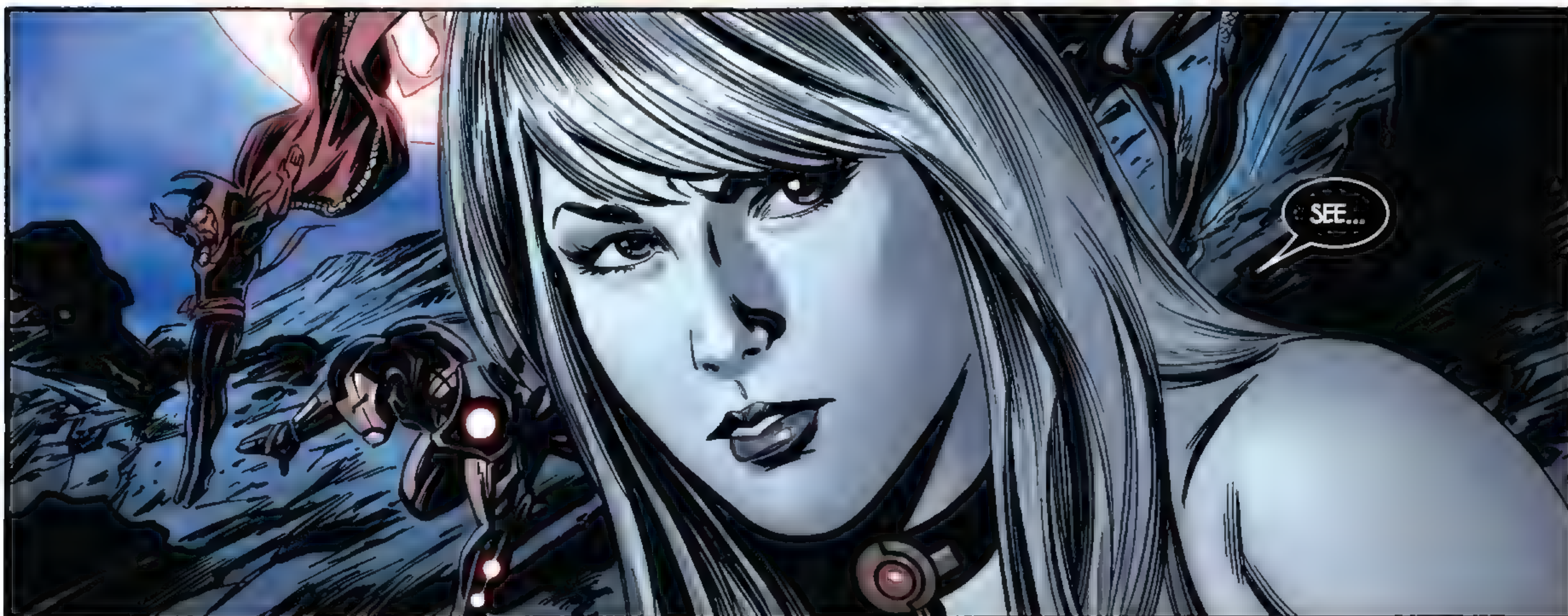
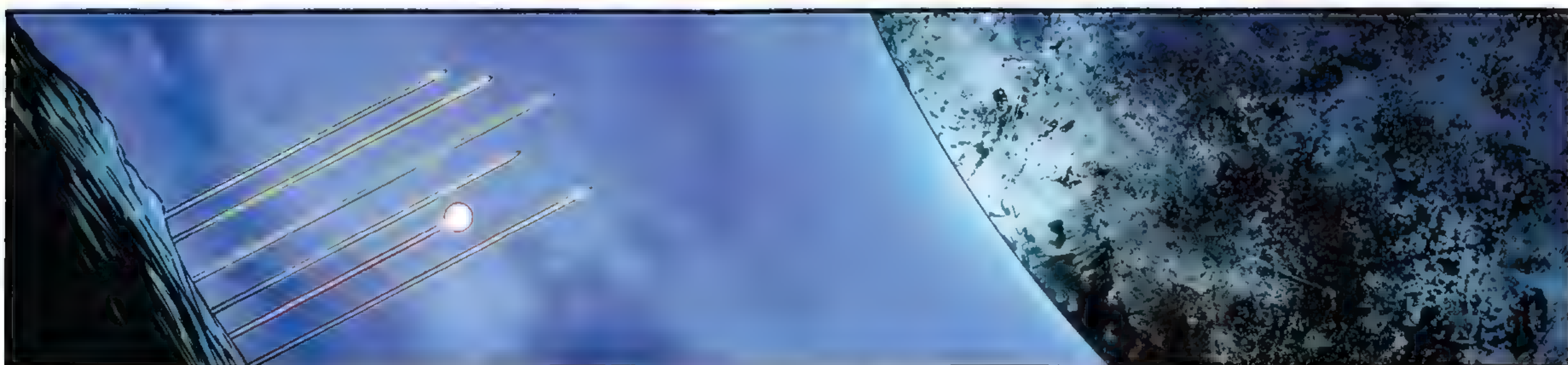
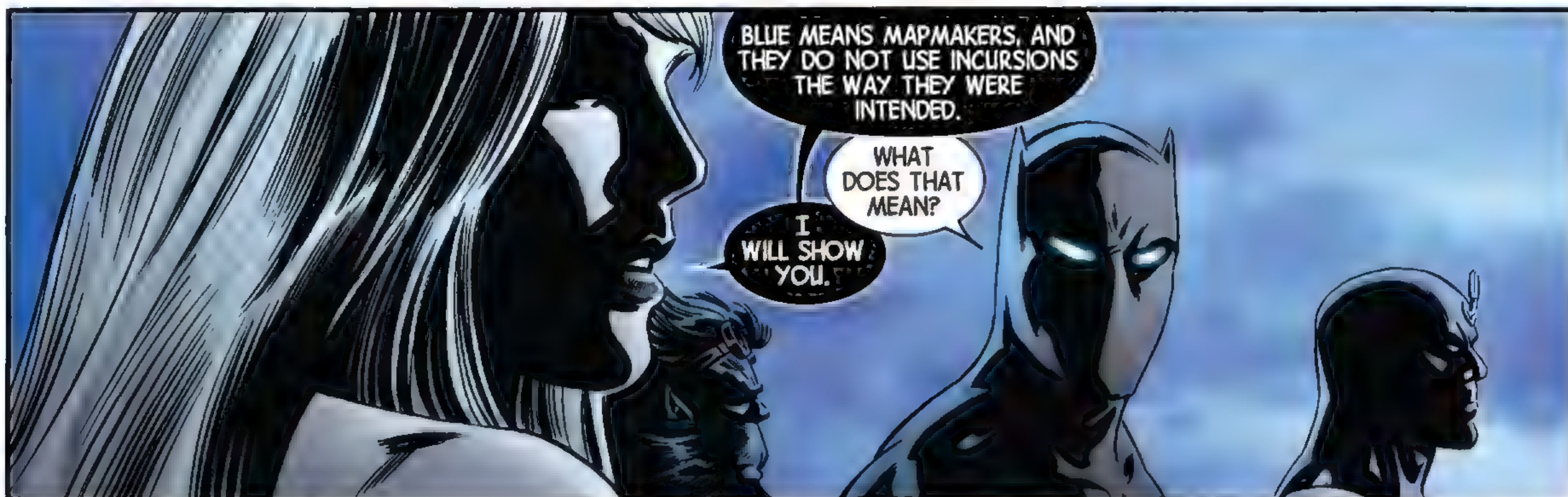
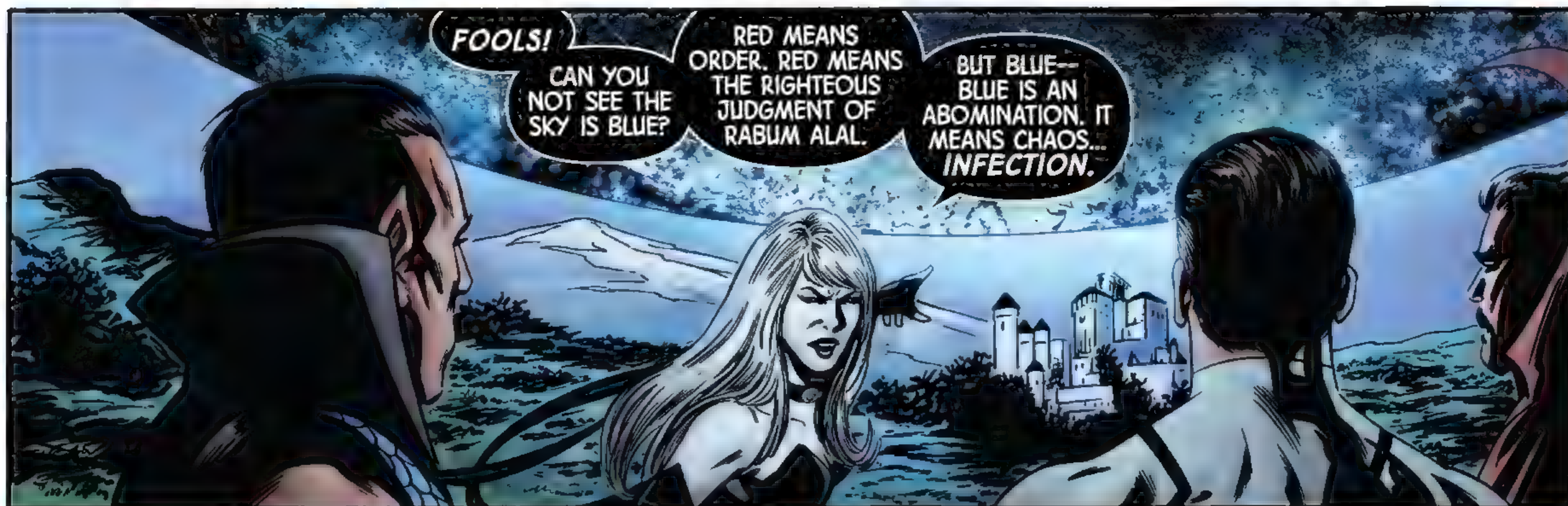


THE VERY
WORST OF
MEN KNOW
BETTER...

GODS
KNOW
BETTER.

WHO IS
BEHIND SUCH
FOLLY?







THIS IS
NOT AN EARTH...
IT IS SOME DEAD
OTHER THING.

IT
USED TO BE
EARTH. IT WAS
EARTH...

BEFORE THE
MAPMAKERS.



I DON'T THINK
THERE'S ANYTHING
LIVING HERE.

YOU'RE NOT
PICKING UP ANY
LIFE...NOTHING
AT ALL?



NO... MINOR ACTIVITY
IN THE CORE,
BUT THAT'S IT.



THEY DEVOUR EVERYTHING
ON THE PLANET. THEY
HARVEST IT...

THEY SUCK THE LIFE FROM EARTH AND
LEAVE JUST ENOUGH OF ITS HEART
BEHIND AS FUEL FOR WHEN THEY
DETONATE THE WORLD.

THEY'RE
GOING TO
BLOW UP THE
PLANET?



"IT'S HOW THE MAPMAKERS MARK NEW TERRITORY."

"THEY WAIT FOR AN INCURSION BETWEEN UNIVERSES, WHEN ONE EARTH TOUCHES ANOTHER."

"THEN THE SIDERA MARIS THEY LEFT BEHIND, THEIR BRIDGE BUILDERS, HOLD THE INCURSION POINT ON THE NEW EARTH."



"THE DEAD WORLD THEY CAME FROM IS INTENTIONALLY DESTABILIZED, AND WHEN AN INCURSION OCCURS...A PIECE OF THE DEAD WORLD IS PULLED FREE..."



"CRASHING DOWN TO THE OTHER EARTH. THIS SERVES AS THE TRIGGER FOR THE DETONATION OF THE DEAD WORLD."

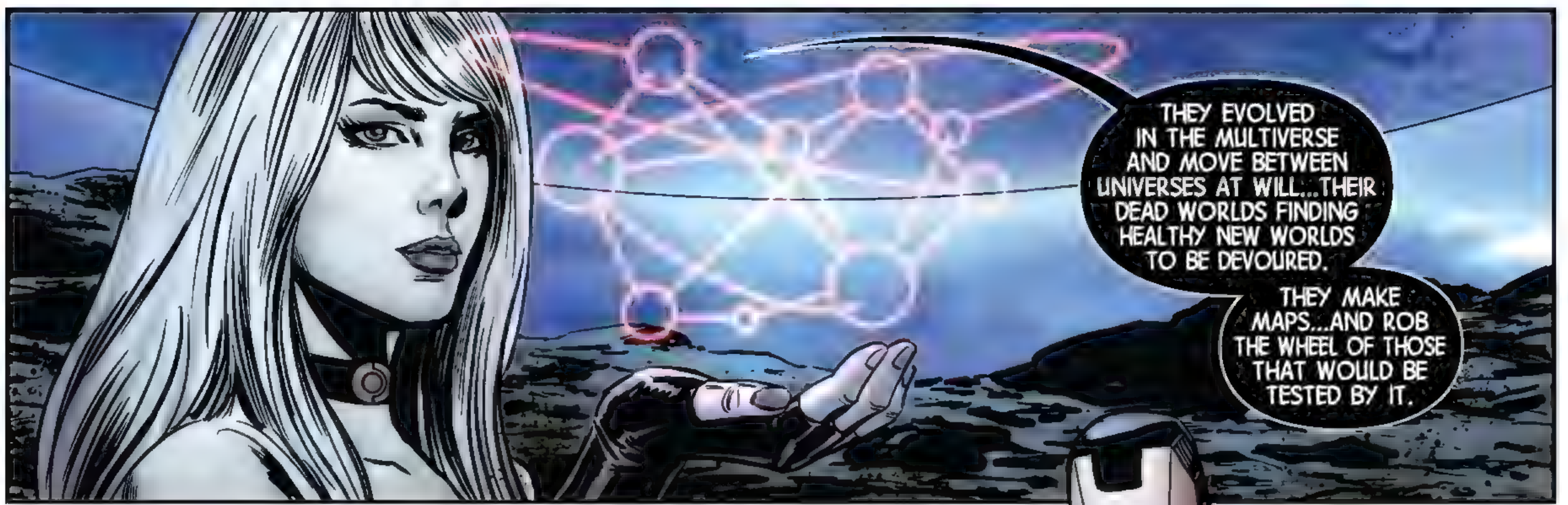
"CAUSING IT TO IGNITE WHAT REMAINS OF THE CORE AND DESTROYING THE PLANET."

"THIS WOULD SEEM TO MEAN THE NEW EARTH IS SAVED..."



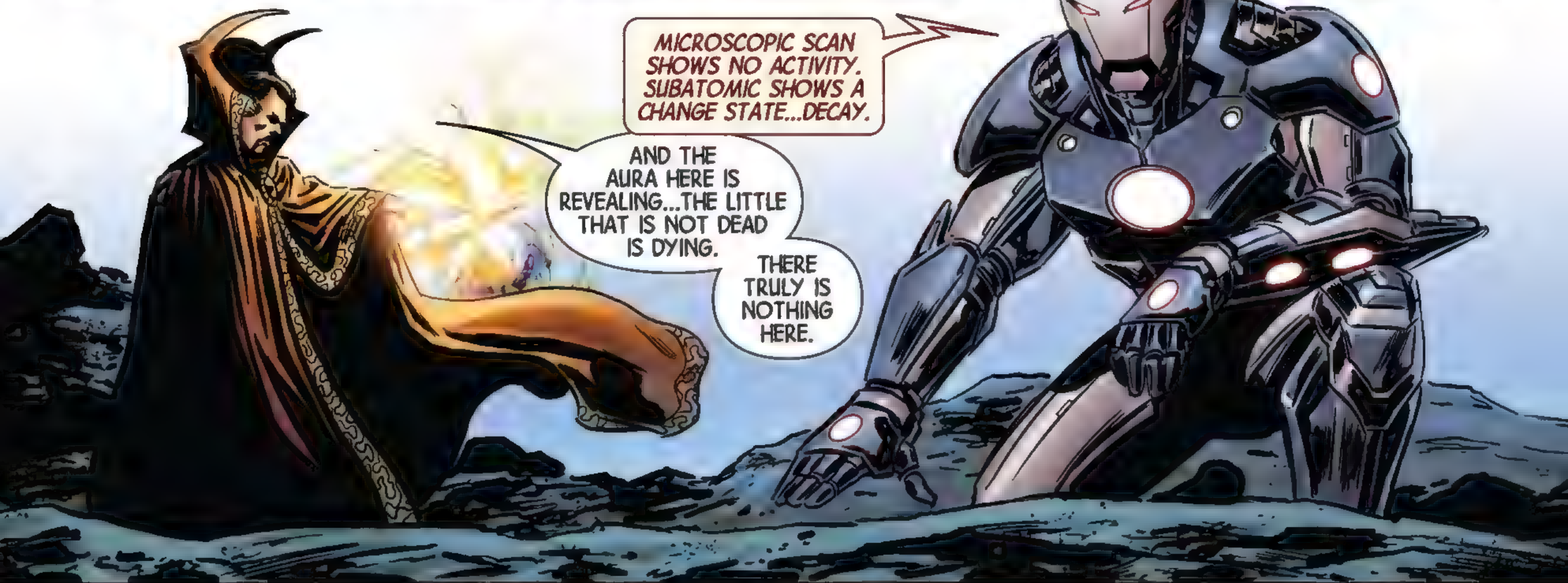
"BUT THE FRAGMENTS OF THE DEAD WORLD ACTUALLY SERVE AS A MARKER."

"AND THEN THE MAPMAKERS COME, HOMING IN ON THOSE MARKERS...NO MATTER HOW LITTLE OF THE REMAINS THERE ARE."



THEY EVOLVED
IN THE MULTIVERSE
AND MOVE BETWEEN
UNIVERSES AT WILL...THEIR
DEAD WORLDS FINDING
HEALTHY NEW WORLDS
TO BE DEVoured.

THEY MAKE
MAPS...AND ROB
THE WHEEL OF THOSE
THAT WOULD BE
TESTED BY IT.



MICROSCOPIC SCAN
SHOWS NO ACTIVITY.
SUBATOMIC SHOWS A
CHANGE STATE...DECAY.

AND THE
AURA HERE IS
REVEALING...THE LITTLE
THAT IS NOT DEAD
IS DYING.

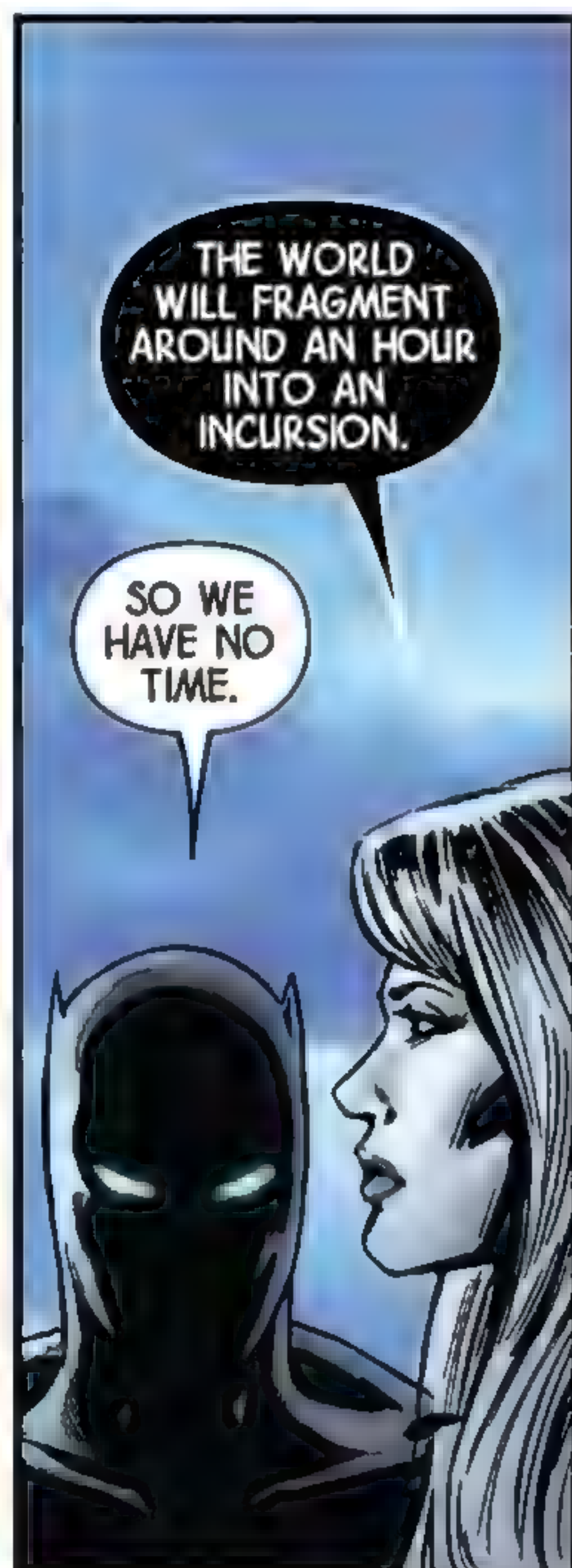
THERE
TRULY IS
NOTHING
HERE.



SO THEN WE DO WHAT
WE MUST DO...AND ALL OF
YOU CAN SLEEP WELL, FOR
YOU WILL HAVE DONE
NOTHING WRONG.

IS IT
THAT SIMPLE?
CAN IT BE THAT
SIMPLE?

HOW
MUCH TIME
DO WE
HAVE?



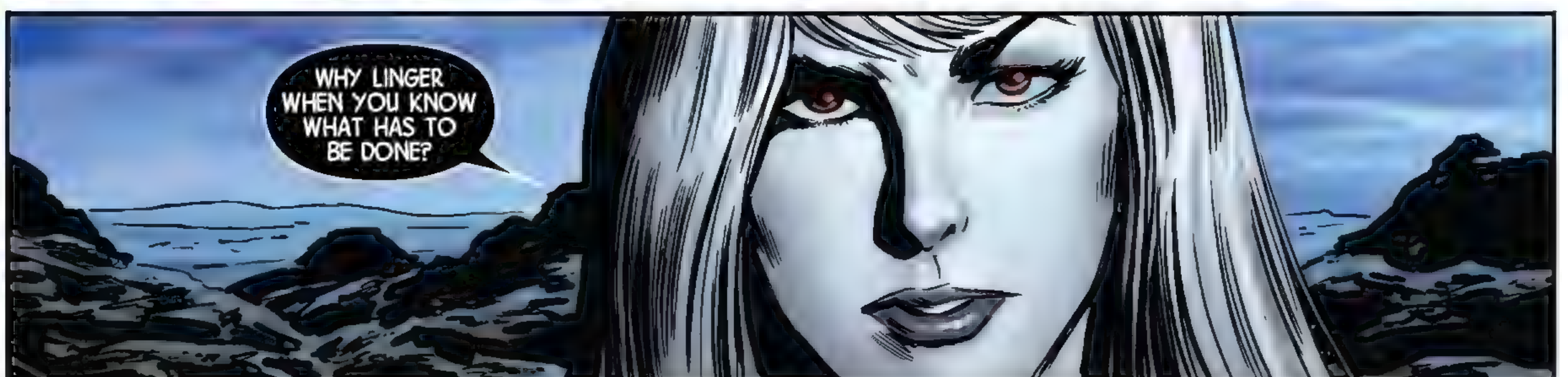
THE WORLD
WILL FRAGMENT
AROUND AN HOUR
INTO AN
INCURSION.

SO WE
HAVE NO
TIME.

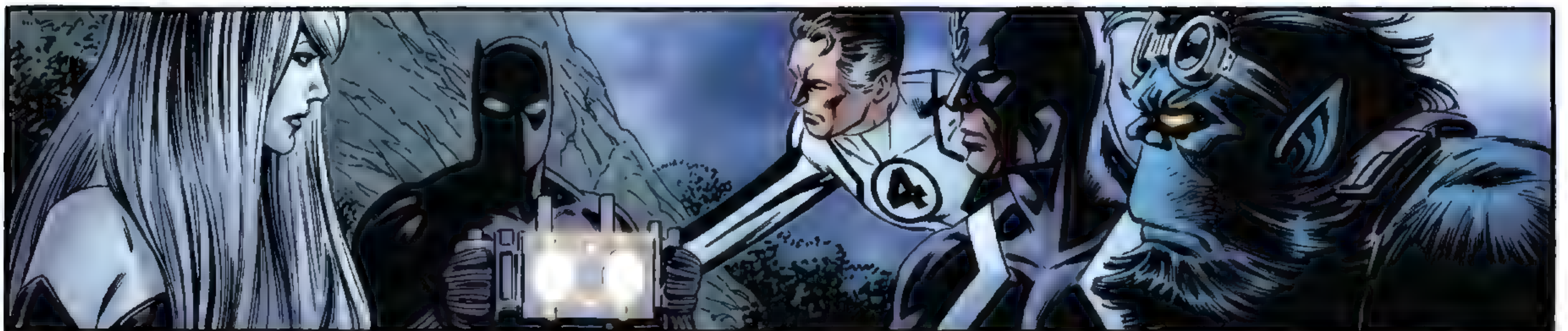


...SHOULD
WE VOTE?

WHY?



WHY LINGER
WHEN YOU KNOW
WHAT HAS TO
BE DONE?

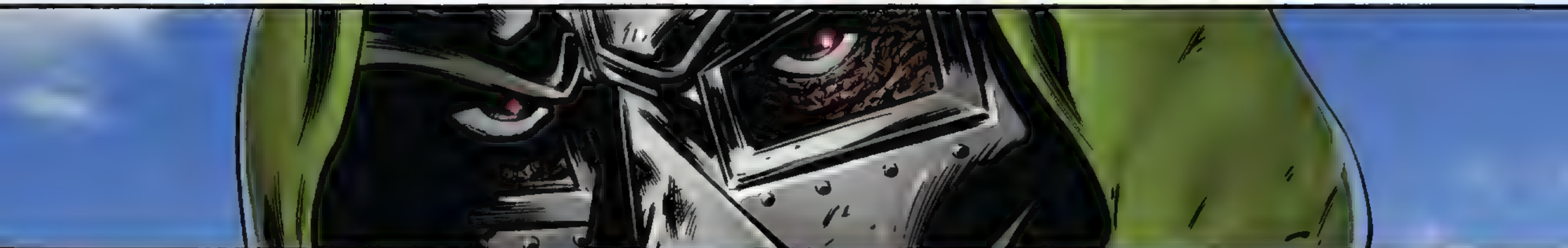
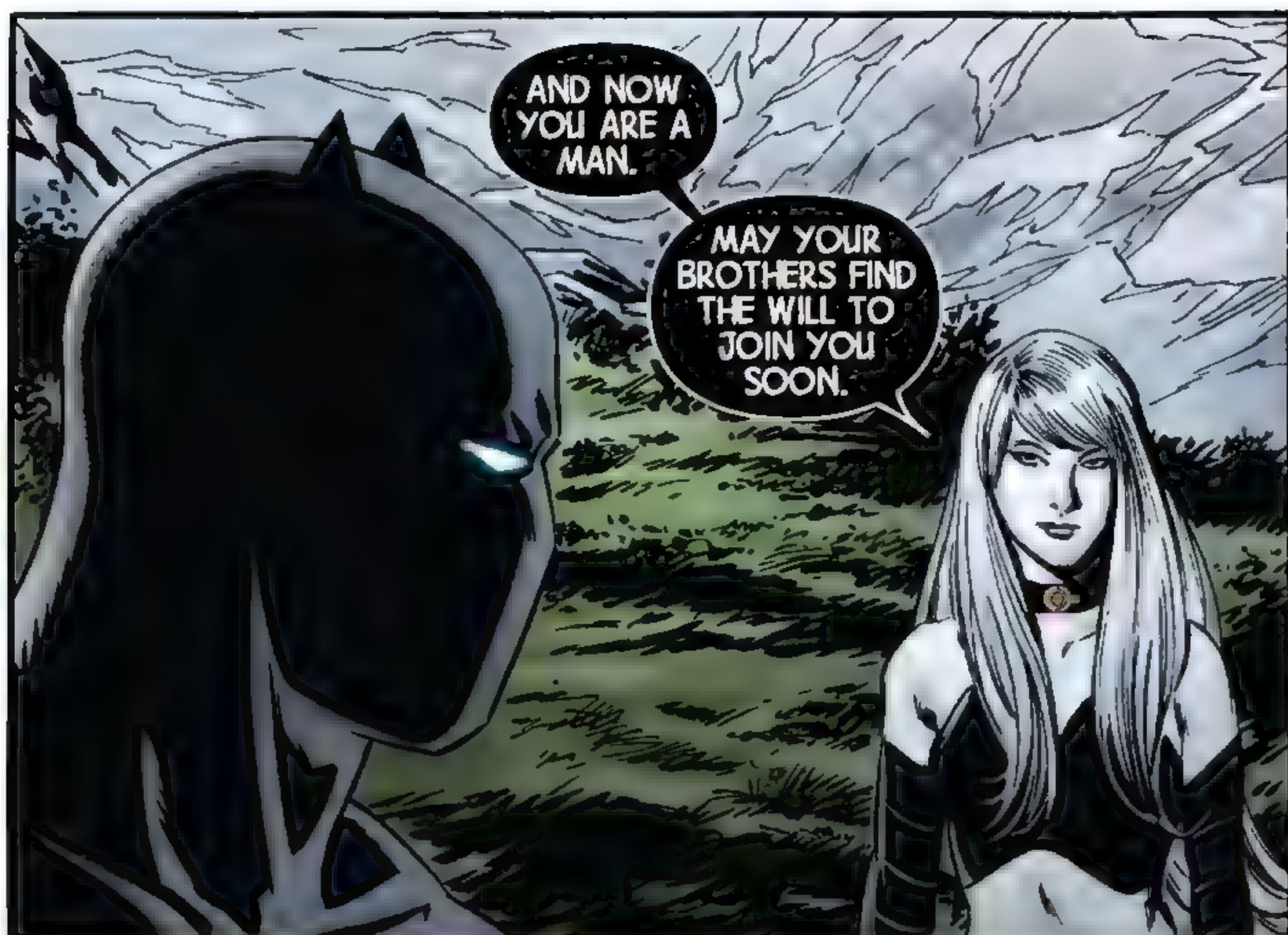


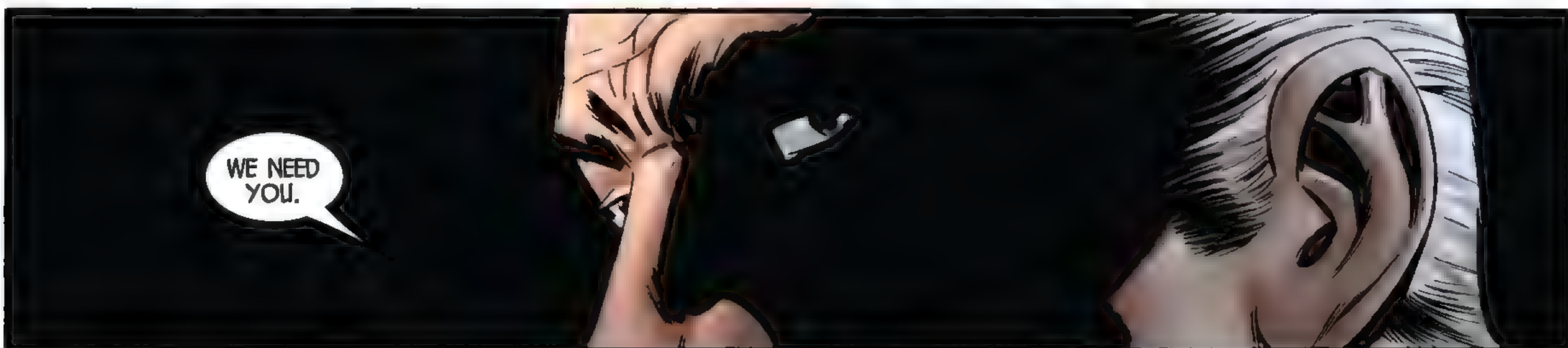


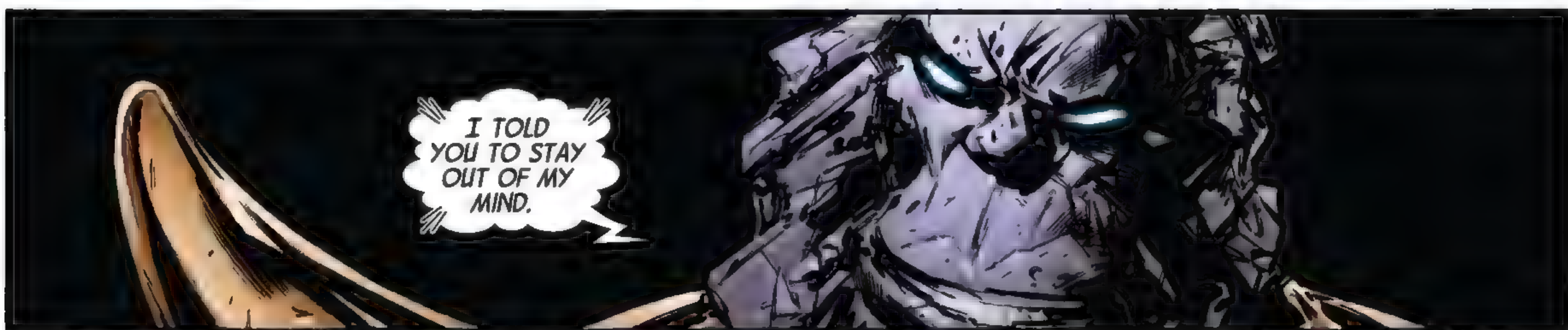
IT WAS AN
AVENGERS
WORLD.

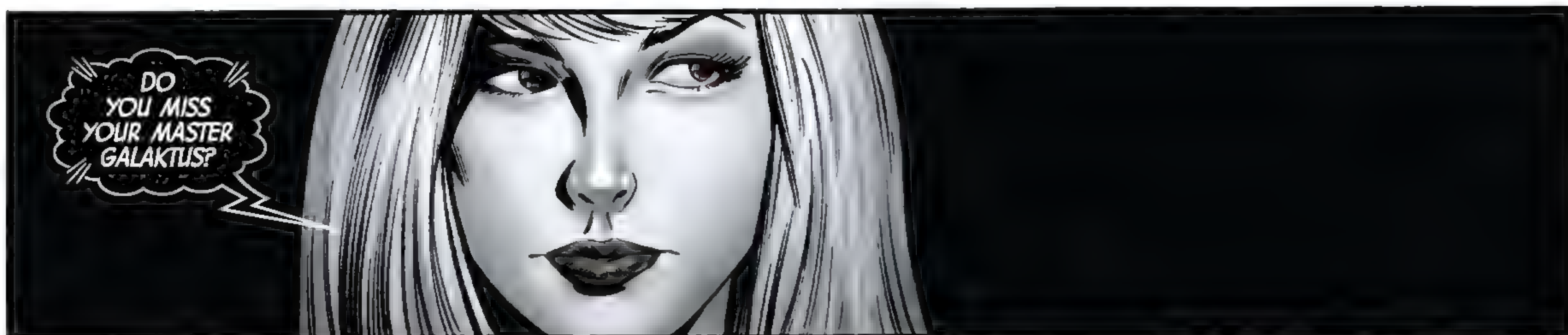


IT WAS THE
FIRST OF
MANY.









DO
YOU MISS
YOUR MASTER
GALAKTUS?



I DO
NOT.



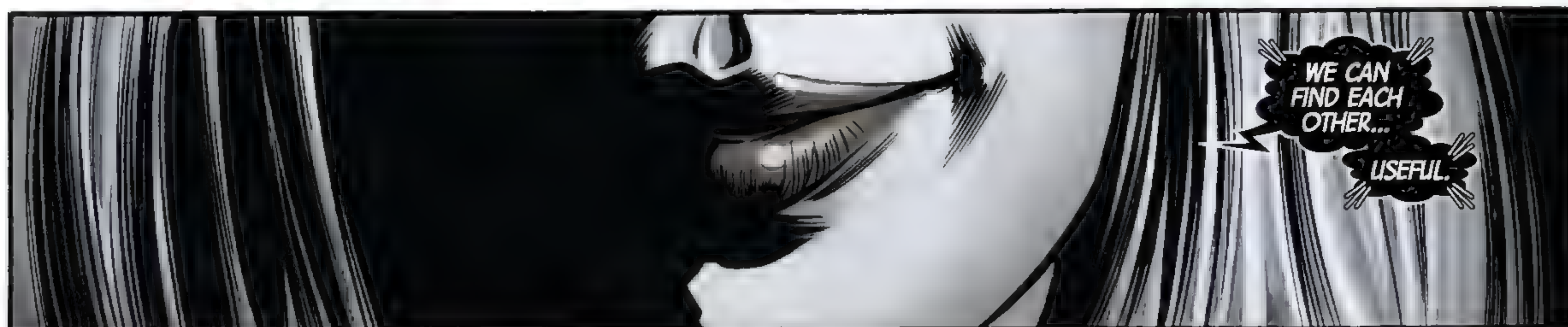
I SEE...
BUT DO
YOU MISS
FINDING WORLDS
TO DESTROY?



MORE THAN
ANYTHING.



A DAY IS
COMING.
SOON,
I THINK...



WE CAN
FIND EACH
OTHER...
USEFUL.

EPILOGUE.
LATVERIA.





“ZEN AND THE ART OF COSMOLOGY”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION

THERE WAS
NOTHING.

FOLLOWED BY
EVERYTHING.

SWIRLING,
BURNING SPECKS
OF CREATION
THAT CIRCLED
LIFE-GIVING
SUNS.

AND
THEN...

WE
RACED TO
THE LIGHT.



THAT IS YOUR
STORY...AND
THEREFORE *MY*
STORY.



AS ALL THE
STORIES ARE THE
SAME, IN THAT ALL
THE STORIES
ARE MINE.

UNDERSTAND?



IN THE MANNER
IN WHICH SUCH THINGS
CAN BE UNDERSTOOD...
I THINK I DO.

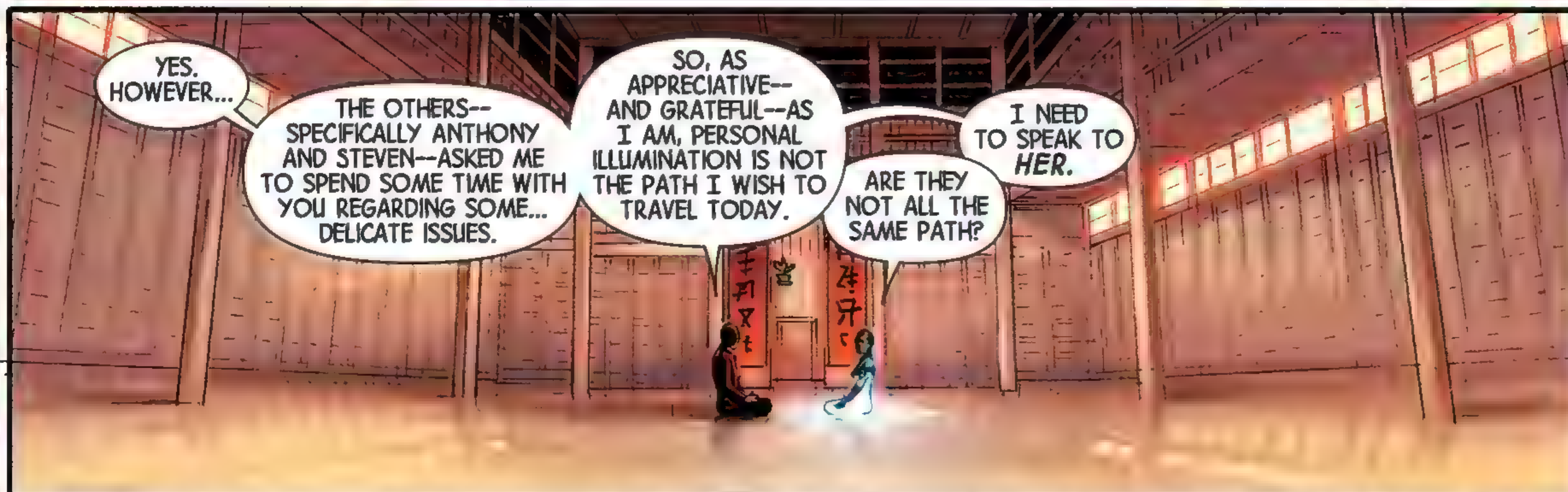
WE ALL HAVE
IN US SOME BITS
OF CELESTIAL
UNIFORMITY.



WE ARE
COMPOSED OF
THE AFTERBIRTH
OF THE
UNIVERSE.

OF YOU--
WHO BORE
US ALL.

I AM
MOTHER.



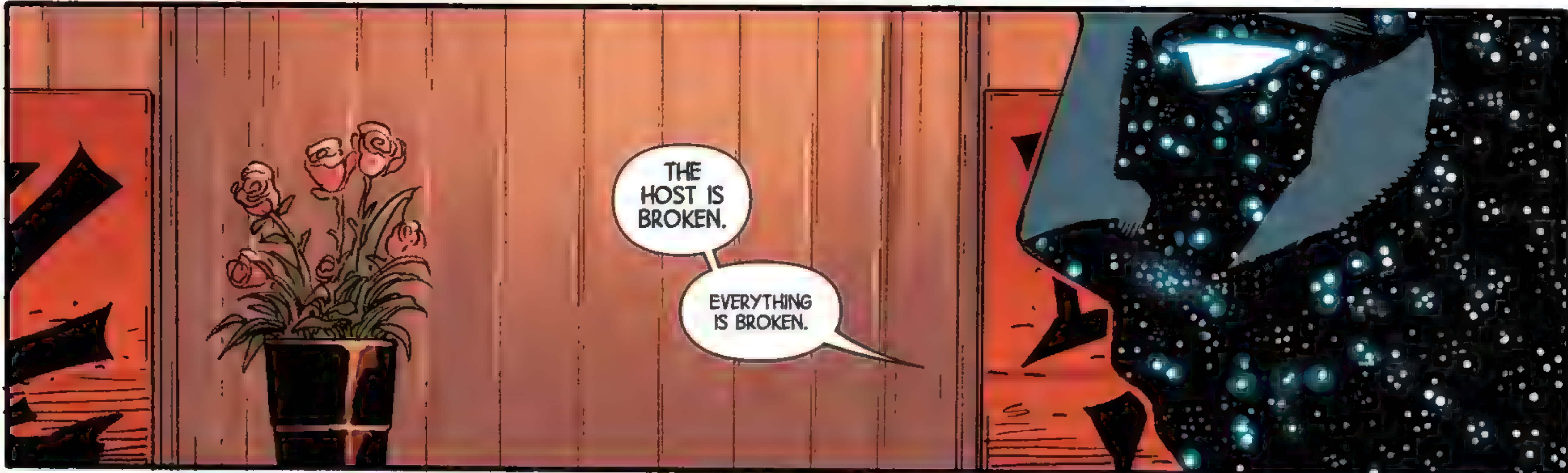
YES.
HOWEVER...

THE OTHERS--
SPECIFICALLY ANTHONY
AND STEVEN--ASKED ME
TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH
YOU REGARDING SOME...
DELICATE ISSUES.

SO, AS
APPRECIATIVE--
AND GRATEFUL--AS
I AM, PERSONAL
ILLUMINATION IS NOT
THE PATH I WISH TO
TRAVEL TODAY.

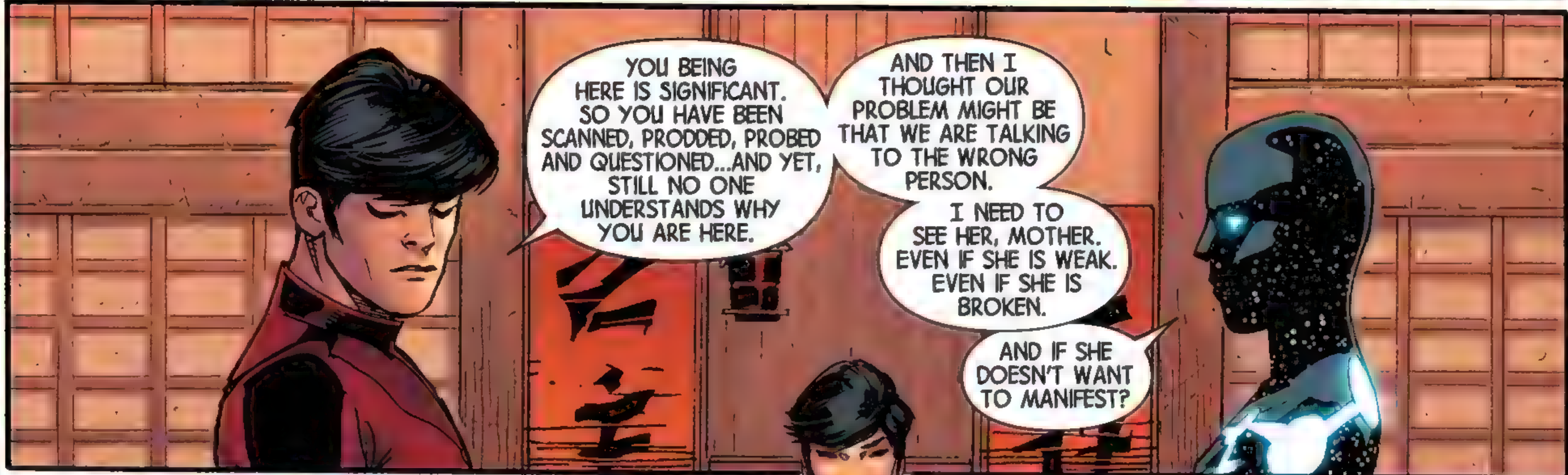
ARE THEY
NOT ALL THE
SAME PATH?

I NEED
TO SPEAK TO
HER.



THE
HOST IS
BROKEN.

EVERYTHING
IS BROKEN.

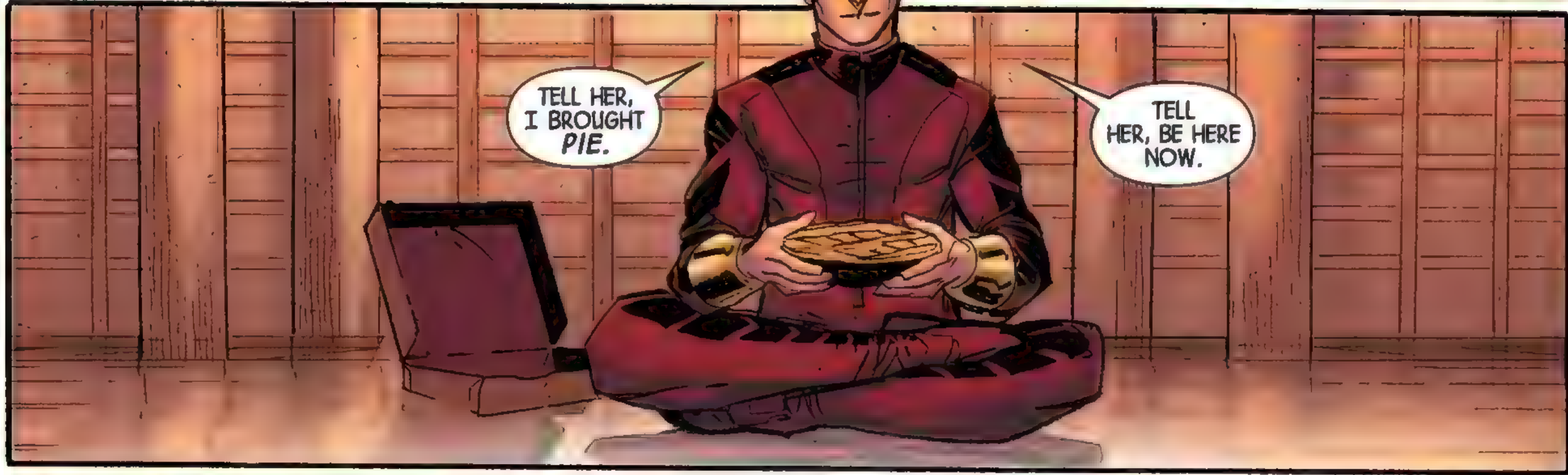


YOU BEING
HERE IS SIGNIFICANT.
SO YOU HAVE BEEN
SCANNED, PRODDED, PROBED
AND QUESTIONED...AND YET,
STILL NO ONE
UNDERSTANDS WHY
YOU ARE HERE.

AND THEN I
THOUGHT OUR
PROBLEM MIGHT BE
THAT WE ARE TALKING
TO THE WRONG
PERSON.

I NEED TO
SEE HER, MOTHER.
EVEN IF SHE IS WEAK.
EVEN IF SHE IS
BROKEN.

AND IF SHE
DOESN'T WANT
TO MANIFEST?



TELL HER,
I BROUGHT
PIE.

TELL
HER, BE HERE
NOW.

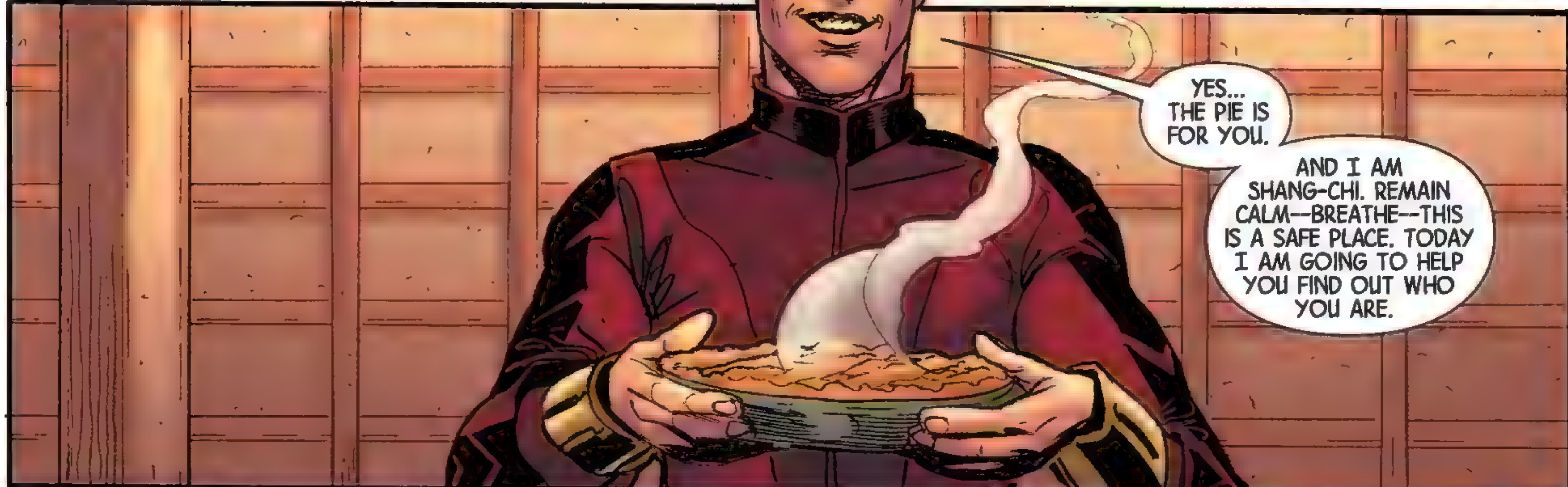


OH!

WHERE...
WHERE
AM I?

I BLACKED
OUT AGAIN...
LOST TIME.
WHO...WHO
ARE YOU?

IS
THAT FOR
ME?



YES...
THE PIE IS
FOR YOU.

AND I AM
SHANG-CHI. REMAIN
CALM--BREATHE--THIS
IS A SAFE PLACE. TODAY
I AM GOING TO HELP
YOU FIND OUT WHO
YOU ARE.



WELL, I
DON'T REMEMBER
NOTHING. NOTHING
AT ALL.

I...I CAN'T
EVEN REMEMBER
MY NAME.

THIS SMELLS
WONDERFUL.



WE KNOW
YOUR NAME.
IT'S TAMARA
DEVOUX.

HERE.
YOU'RE GOING
TO WANT
THIS.



HOW DO
YOU KNOW
THAT?

TAMARA.
DOESN'T FEEL
RIGHT.

YOU
SURE?

YES. WE'RE
SURE. BUT YOUR
NAME NOT FEELING
RIGHT IS NO
SURPRISE.

SOMETIMES
WHO WE HAVE
BEEN OUR ENTIRE
LIVES GETS WIPED
OUT IN A SINGLE
DAY. OR BY A
SINGLE EVENT.

SO IT'S
REALLY NOT
IMPORTANT TO
RECALL ALL THE
SUBTLETIES OF WHO
YOU USED TO BE--
WE SHOULD START
WITH WHAT
WAS LEFT.

CAN YOU
TELL ME YOUR
EARLIEST
MEMORY?



I REMEMBER
A LIGHT.

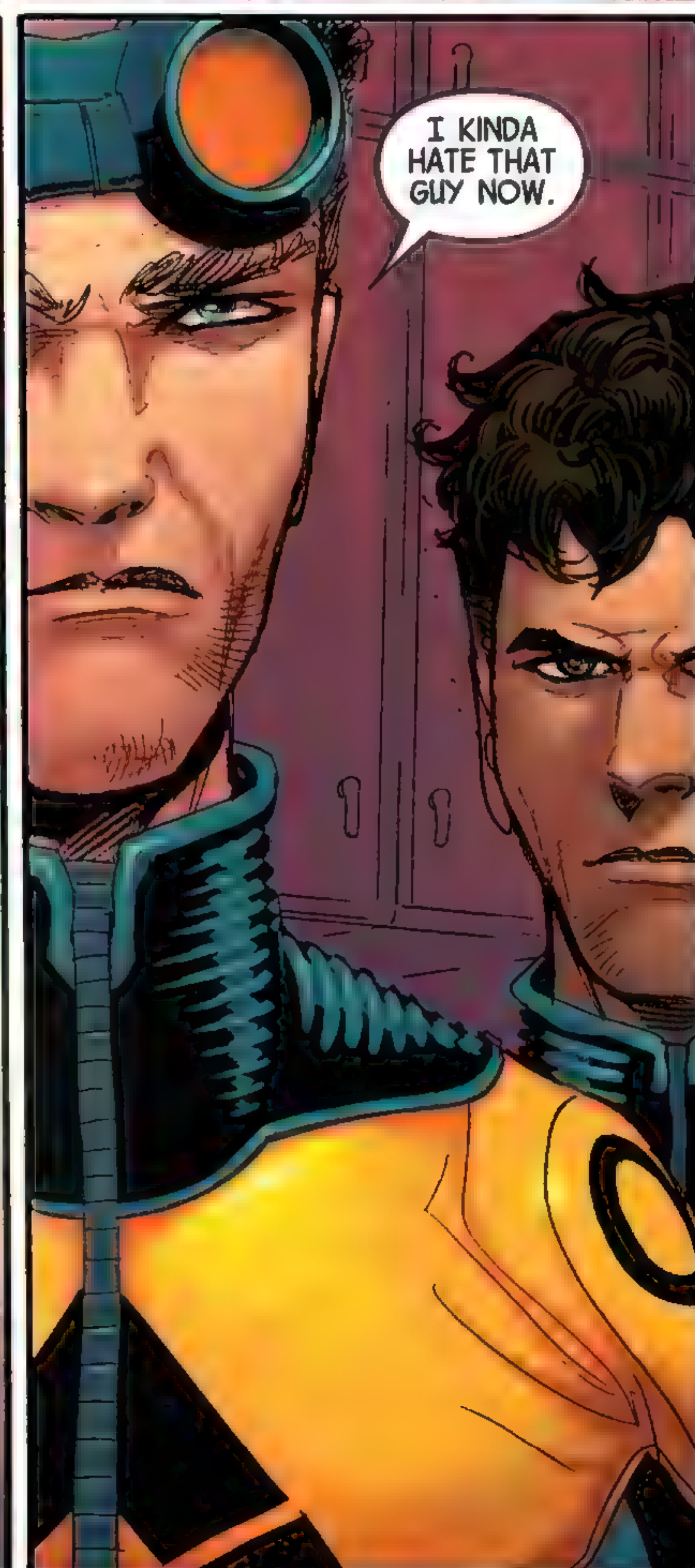
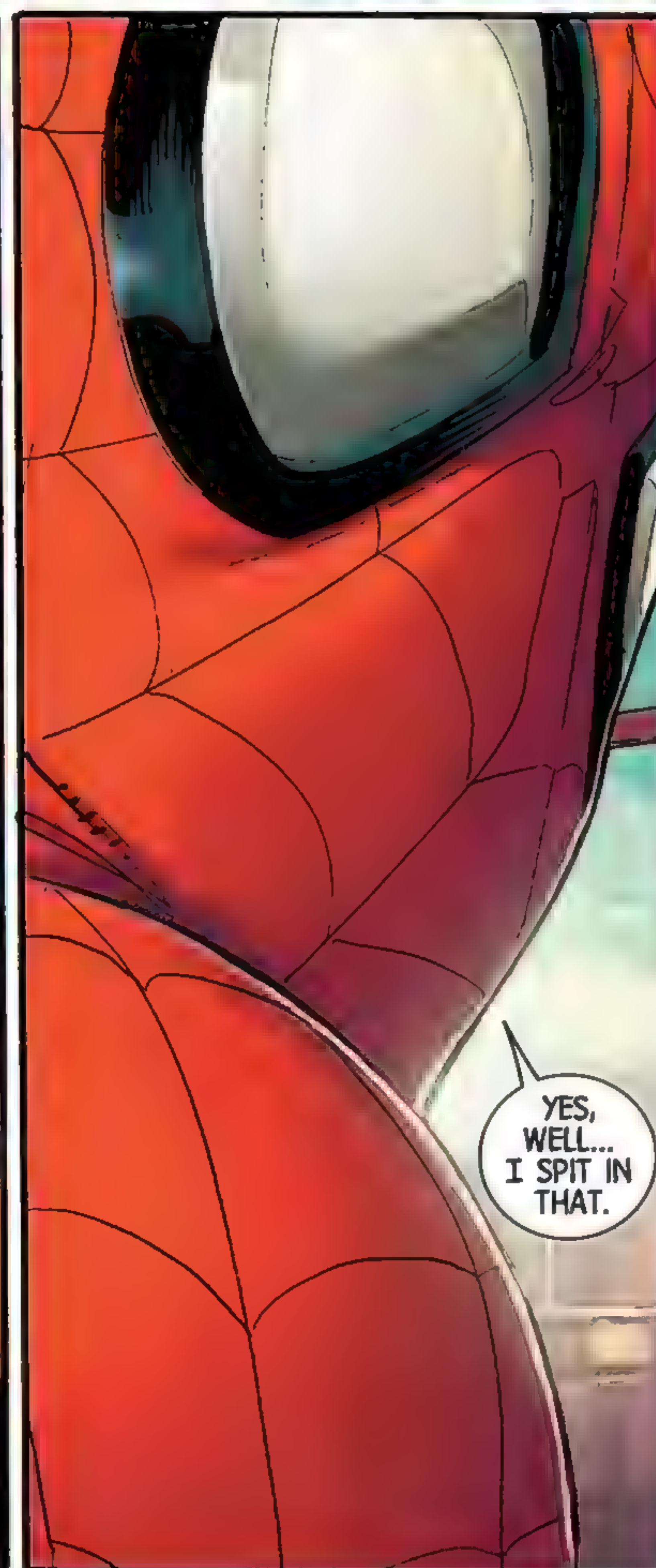
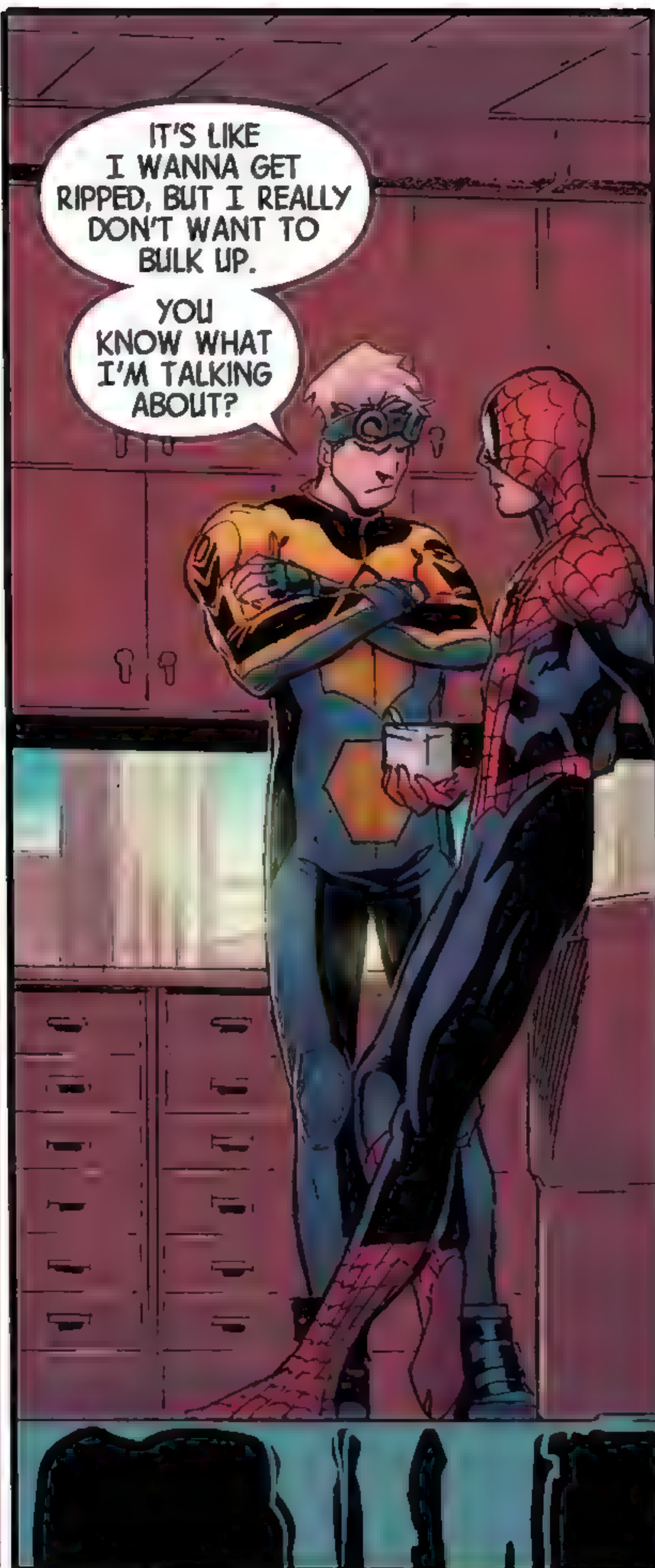
AND
THEN A
CRASH.



SHAKING...
VIOLENCE...

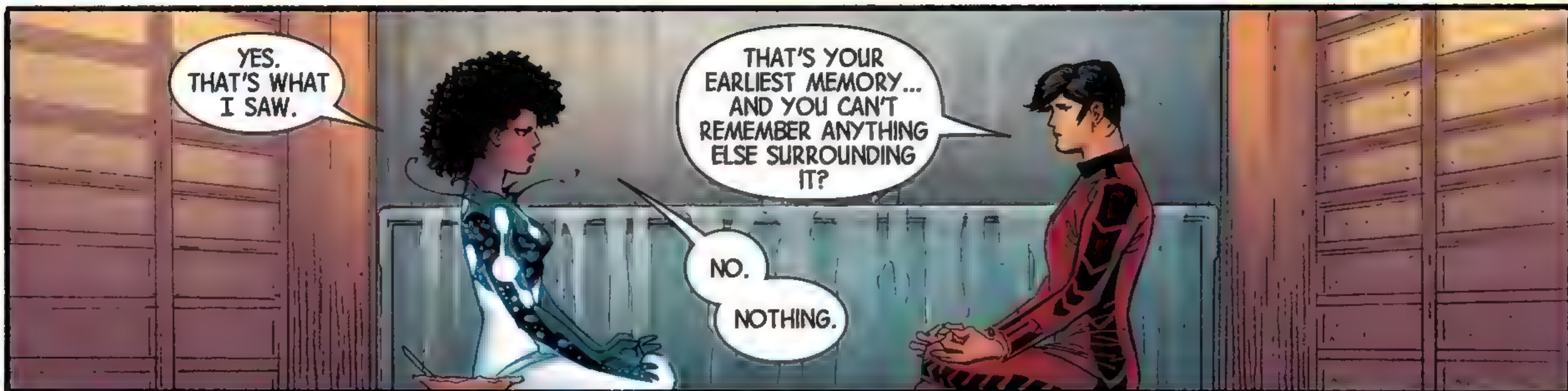
AND THEN
NOTHING.







A LIGHT
AND THEN A
CRASH?



YES.
THAT'S WHAT
I SAW.

THAT'S YOUR
EARLIEST MEMORY...
AND YOU CAN'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
ELSE SURROUNDING
IT?

NO.
NOTHING.

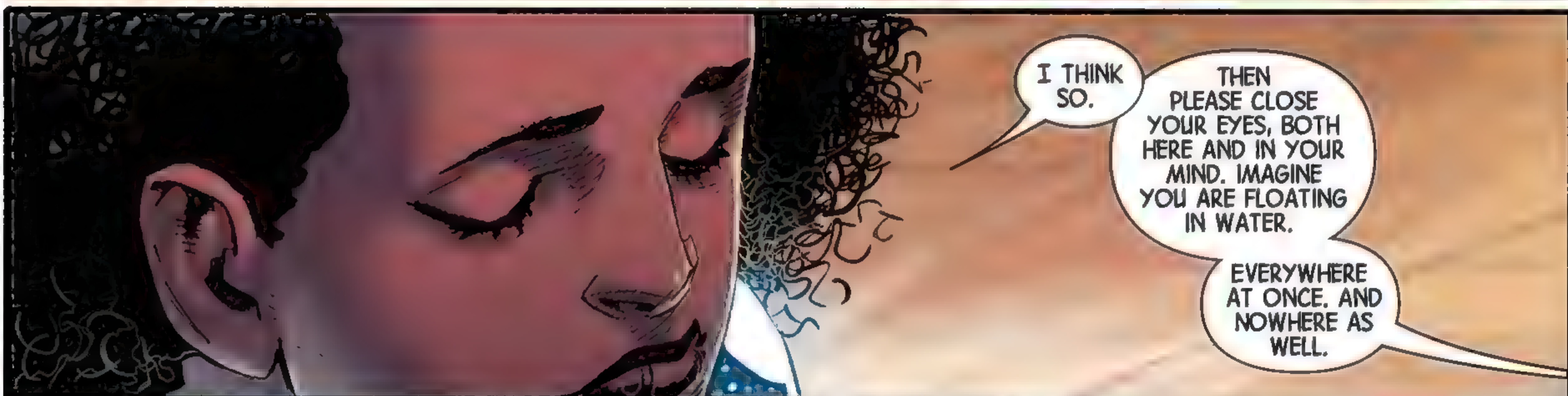


THAT'S
OKAY...THAT'S
FINE.

IF IT'S
ACCEPTABLE TO
YOU, I'D LIKE TO TRY
SOME ASSOCIATIVE RECALL--
THE TWO OF US NOT
FOCUSING ON WHAT YOU
SAW, BUT ON THE OTHER
THINGS THAT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN HAPPENING AT
THE SAME TIME.

THIS, IN TURN,
SHOULD HOPEFULLY
UNLOCK OTHER
THINGS IN YOUR
MEMORY.

WOULD
THAT BE
OKAY?



I THINK
SO.

THEN
PLEASE CLOSE
YOUR EYES, BOTH
HERE AND IN YOUR
MIND. IMAGINE
YOU ARE FLOATING
IN WATER.

EVERYWHERE
AT ONCE. AND
NOWHERE AS
WELL.



SAFE.
SERENE.
PERFECTLY
CALM.

NOW, OPEN
YOUR EYES IN
YOUR MIND--YOU
SEE THE EARLIEST
MEMORY YOU HAVE--
LOCK THAT IMAGE
IN, AND STEP
OUTSIDE OF IT.

FOCUS
ON THE
LIGHT, AND
THEN--



NO.
LIGHTS.

THERE
WERE TWO
LIGHTS.

GOOD. OKAY,
WITH THAT FIXED IN YOUR
MIND, I WANT YOU TO STOP
SEEING AND FOCUS ON YOUR
OTHER SENSES. THINK BACK AND
SEE IF YOU REMEMBER FEELING
ANYTHING OR HEARING
ANY SOUNDS...

CAN
YOU DO
THAT?

YES. MY
HANDS WERE
HOLDING SOMETHING
TIGHT. SQUEEZIN'
SOMETHING.

I
HEAR...

I HEAR...TIRES
SQUEALING.

WERE
YOU IN A CAR,
TAMARA?

YES.
OH, GOD...

OH, GOD,
WE'RE GONNA
CRASH!

NO.
EVERYTHING IS
FINE. YOU ARE
OUTSIDE OF THIS
MOMENT.

YOU
CONTROL WHETHER
WE STAY IN THIS
MOMENT OR IF WE MOVE
FORWARD INTO
ANOTHER ONE.

STAY
HERE. IN **THIS**
MOMENT.

CAN WE
DO THAT,
TAMARA?

I...I'LL
TRY.

GOOD. NOW,
CONCENTRATE. IS
THERE ANYTHING ELSE
YOU CAN MAKE
OUT?

I THINK
I CAN HEAR
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING
ELSE.

I
THINK I HEAR
CRYING.

LISTEN
TO WHAT YOU
HEAR CLOSELY...IS
THERE SOMEONE
ELSE THERE WITH
YOU?

IS THERE
SOMEONE ELSE
IN THE CAR?

IT'S COMING FROM BEHIND ME, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD AT THE LIGHTS.

I CAN'T SEE IT.

OF COURSE YOU CAN. JUST TURN YOUR HEAD.



CAN YOU SEE, TAMARA?

WAS THERE SOMEONE ELSE IN THE CAR?



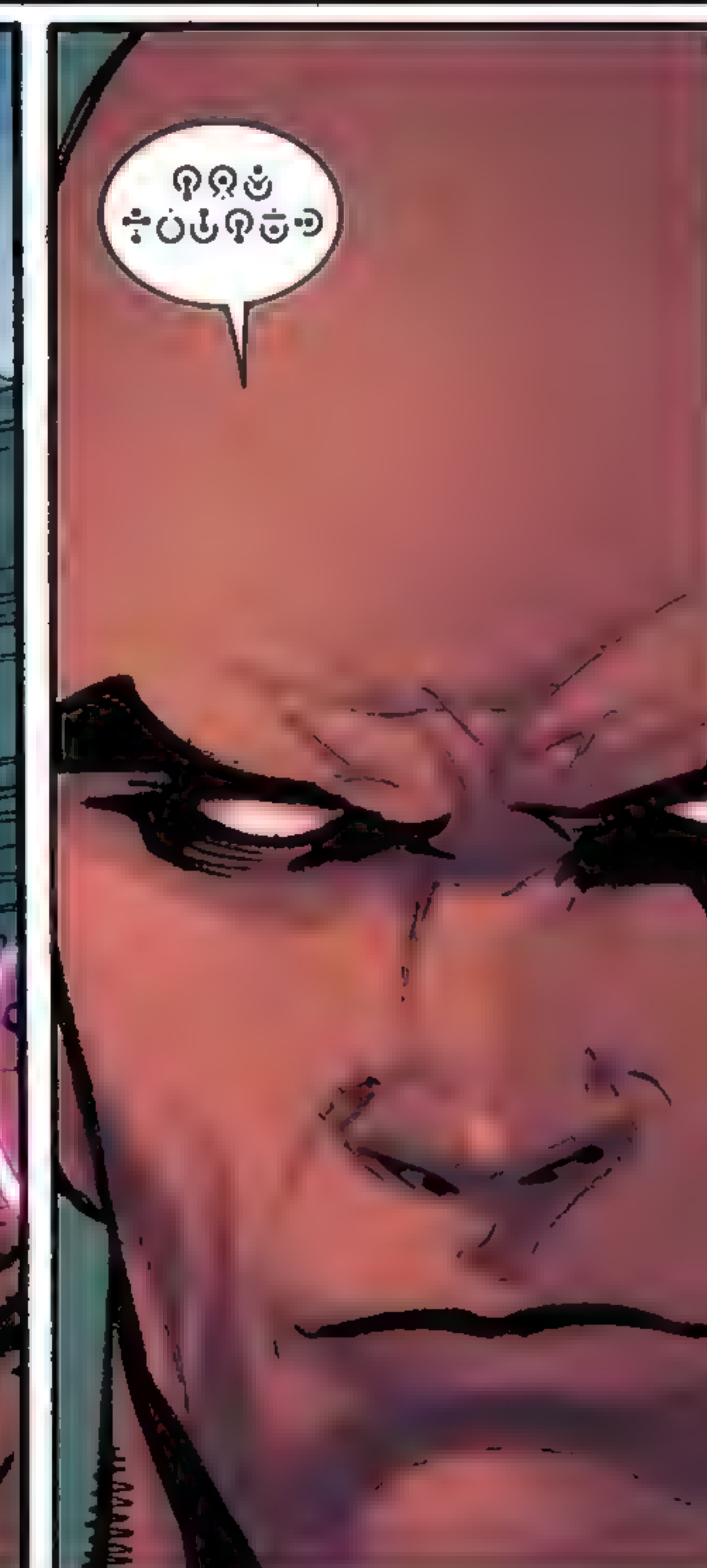
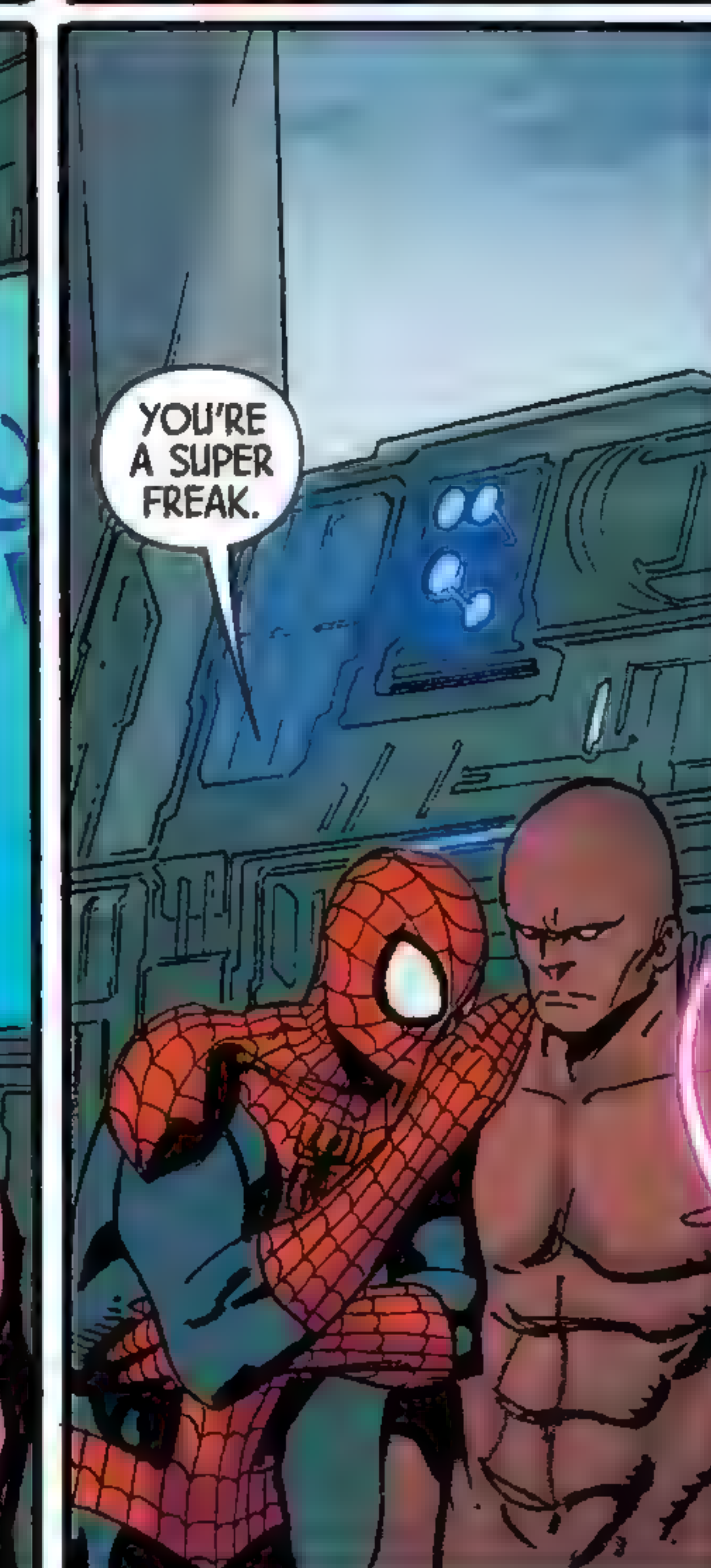
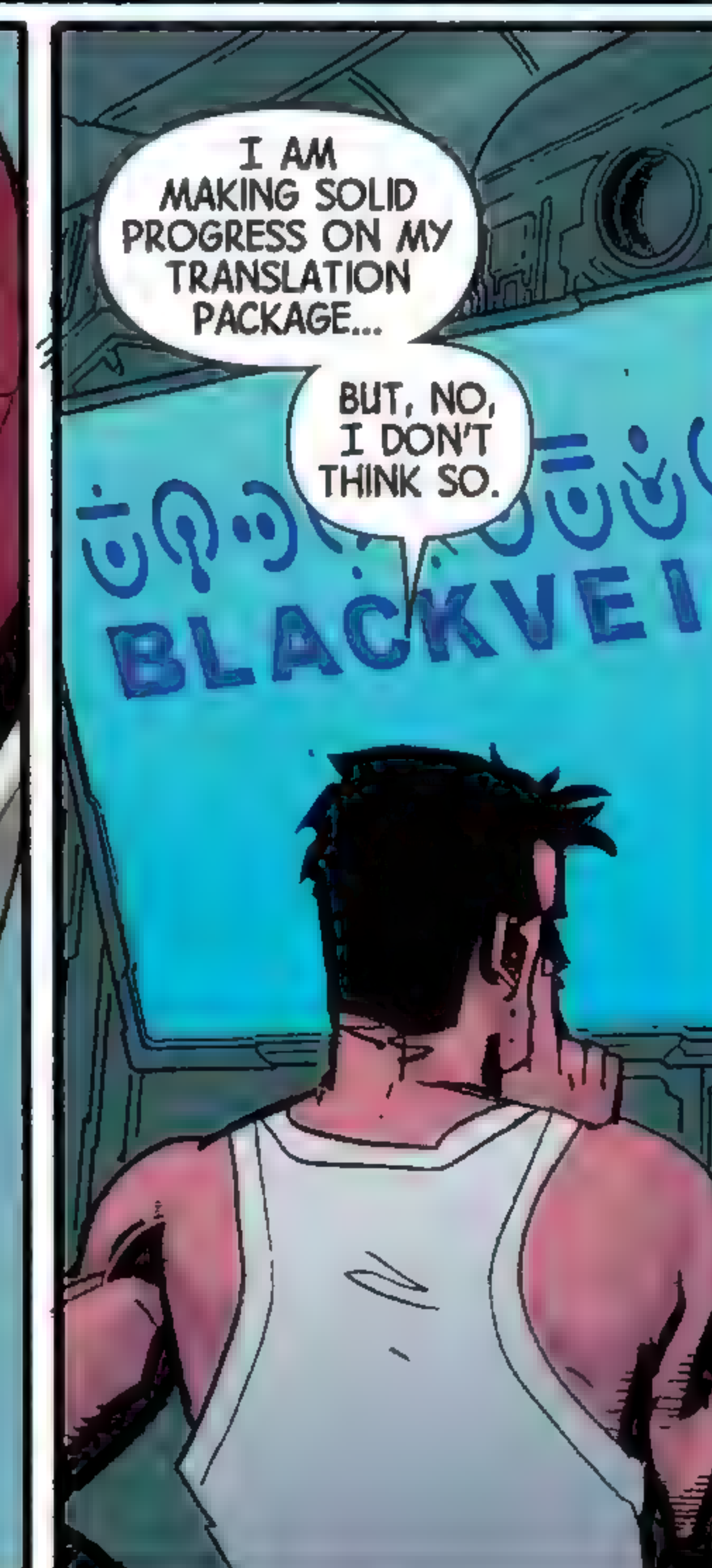
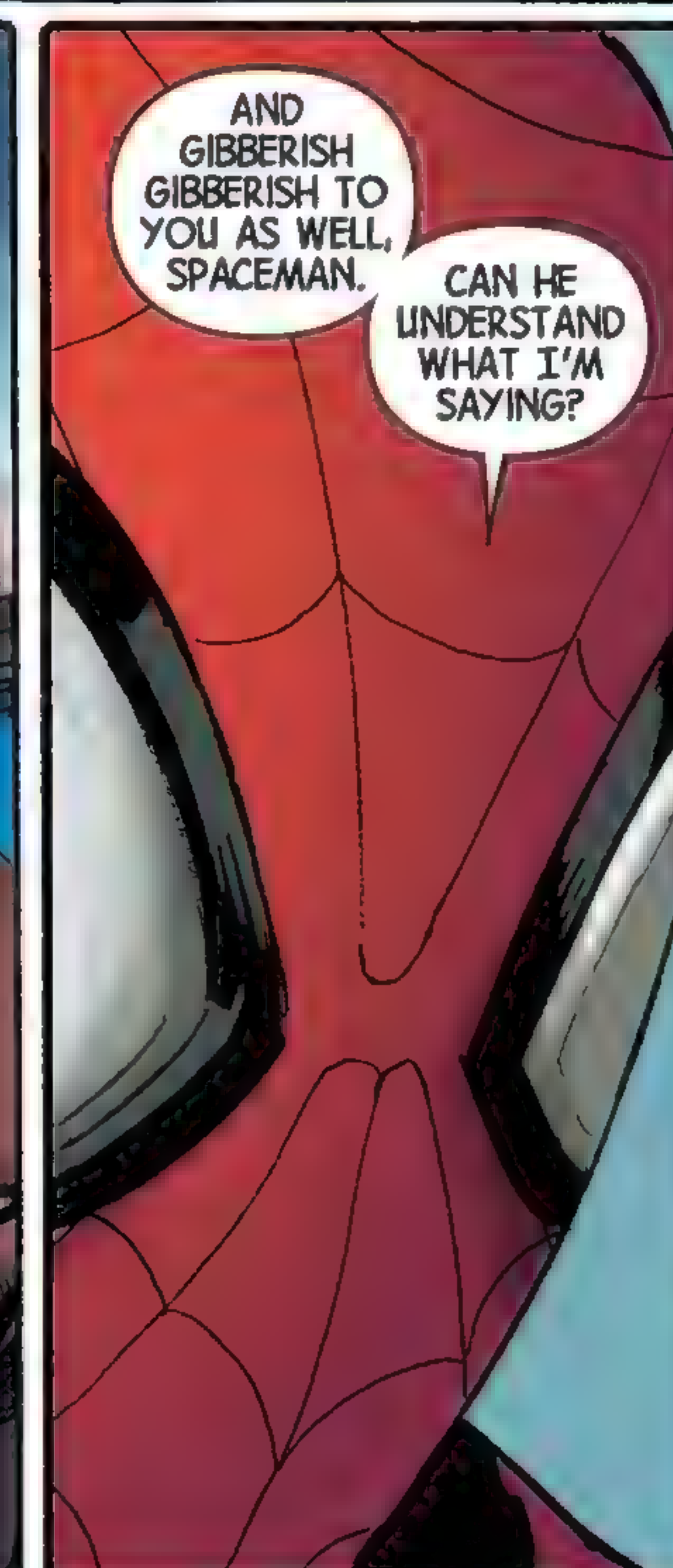
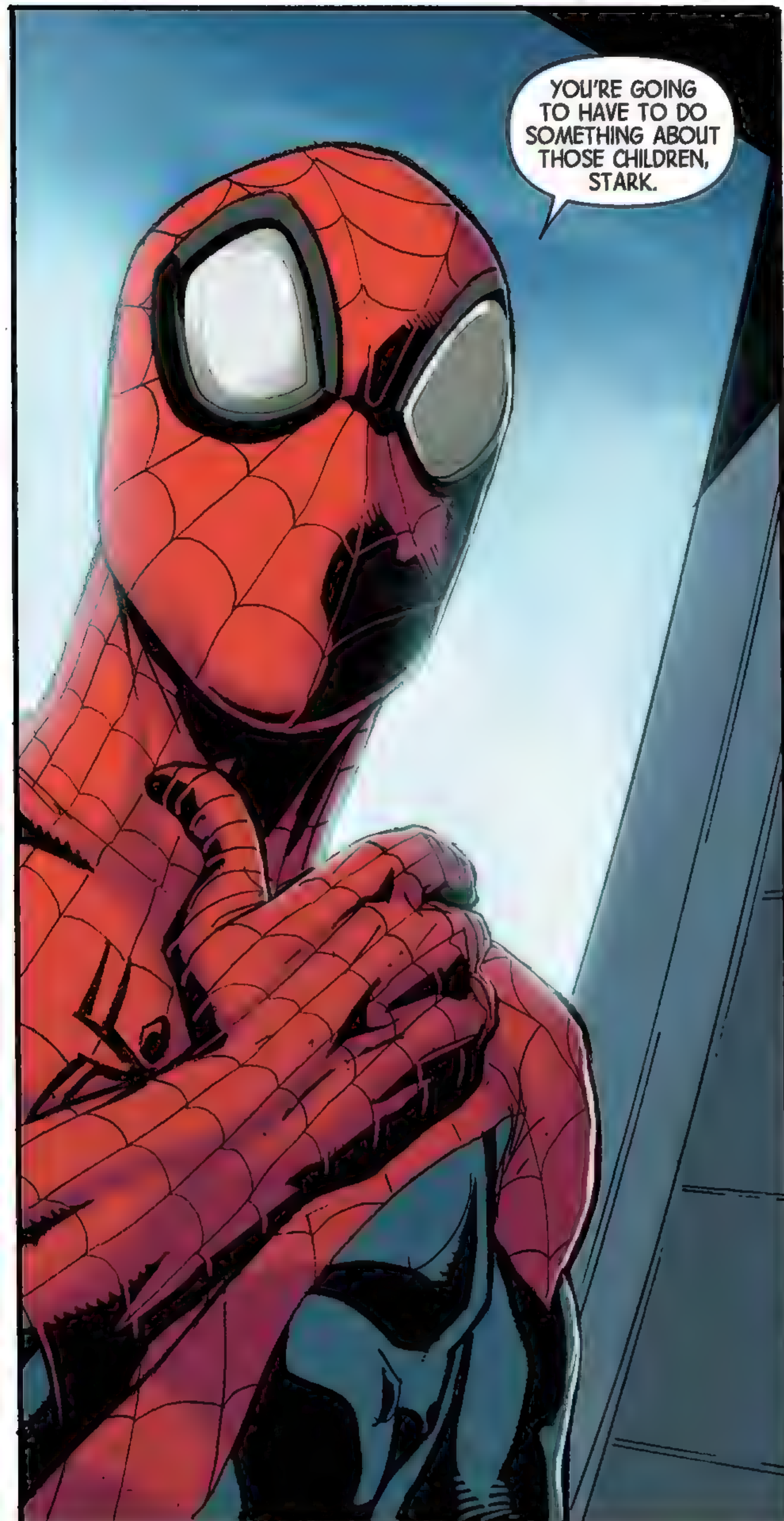
OHI

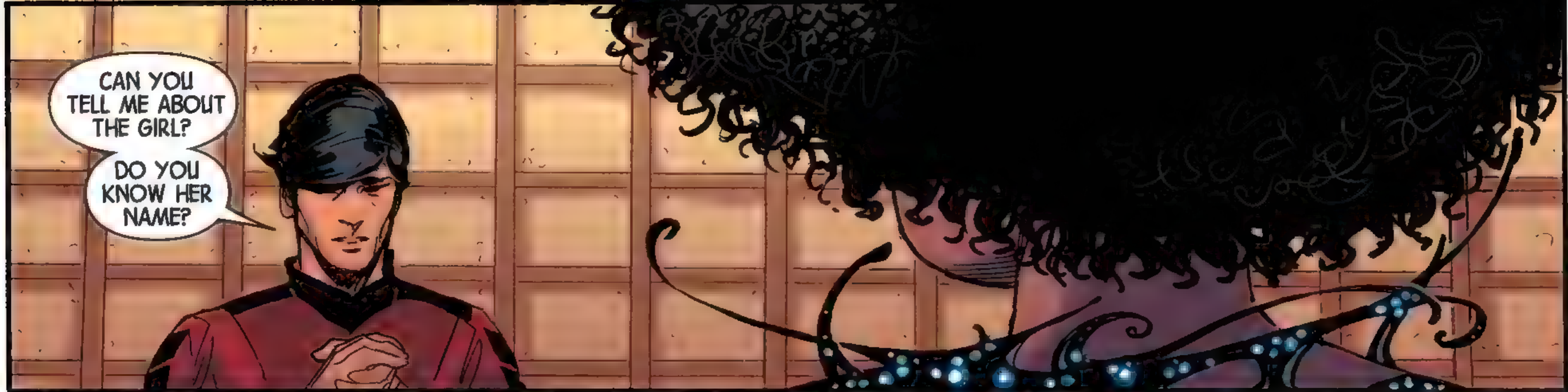


YES.

A LITTLE GIRL.

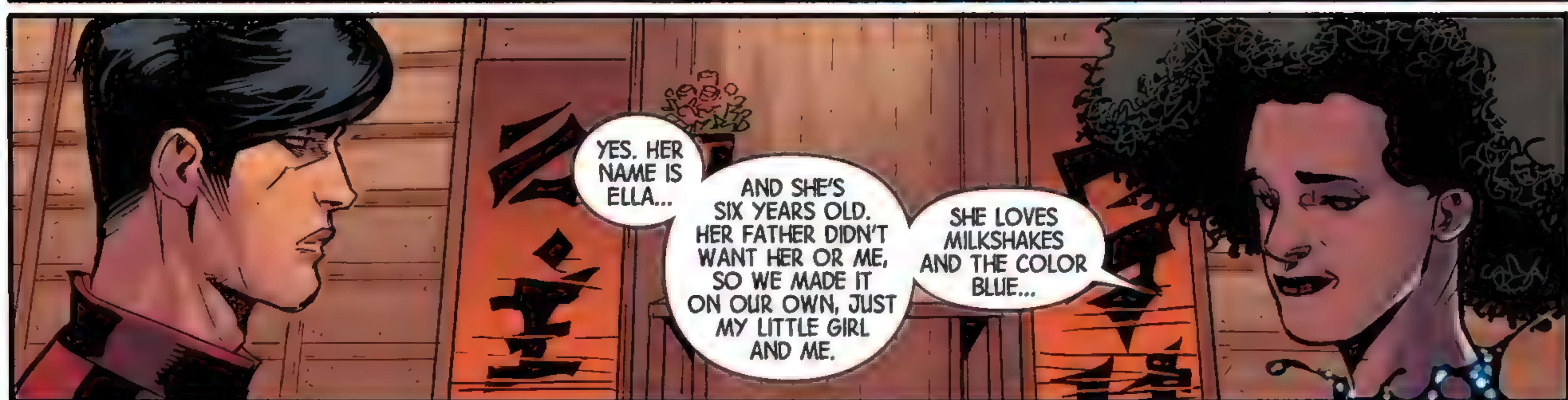
MY LITTLE GIRL.





CAN YOU
TELL ME ABOUT
THE GIRL?

DO YOU
KNOW HER
NAME?



YES. HER
NAME IS
ELLA...

AND SHE'S
SIX YEARS OLD.
HER FATHER DIDN'T
WANT HER OR ME,
SO WE MADE IT
ON OUR OWN, JUST
MY LITTLE GIRL
AND ME.

SHE LOVES
MILKSHAKES
AND THE COLOR
BLUE...



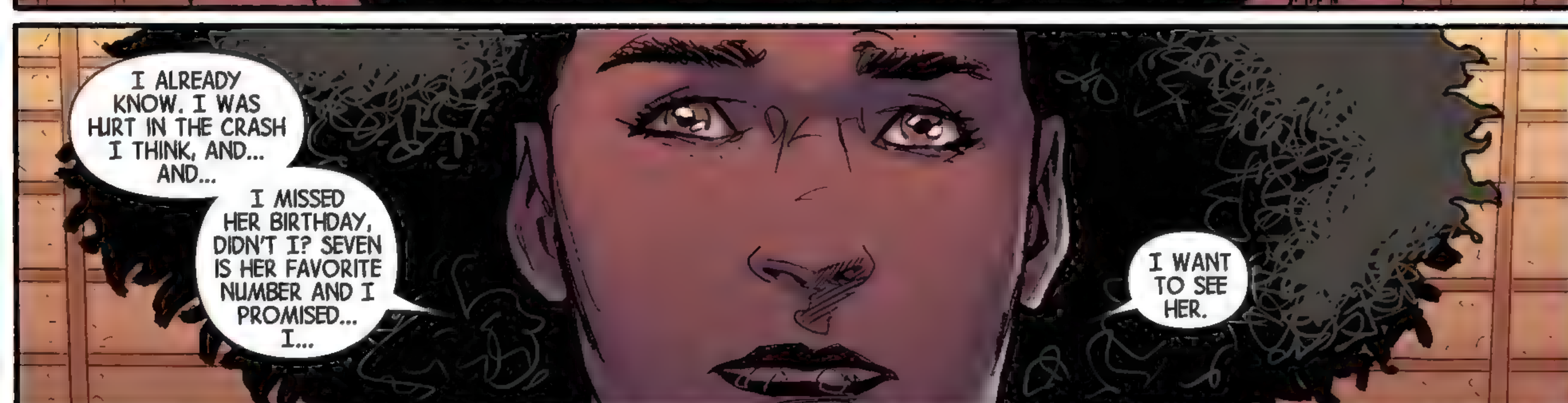
I...
REMEMBER.

CAN I
SEE HER
NOW?



TAMARA, I
NEED TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING AND I
WANT YOU TO TRY
AND REMAIN
CALM.

LISTEN...
AND TRY TO
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I'M
SAYING.



I ALREADY
KNOW. I WAS
HURT IN THE CRASH
I THINK, AND...
AND...

I MISSED
HER BIRTHDAY,
DIDN'T I? SEVEN
IS HER FAVORITE
NUMBER AND I
PROMISED...
I...

I WANT
TO SEE
HER.

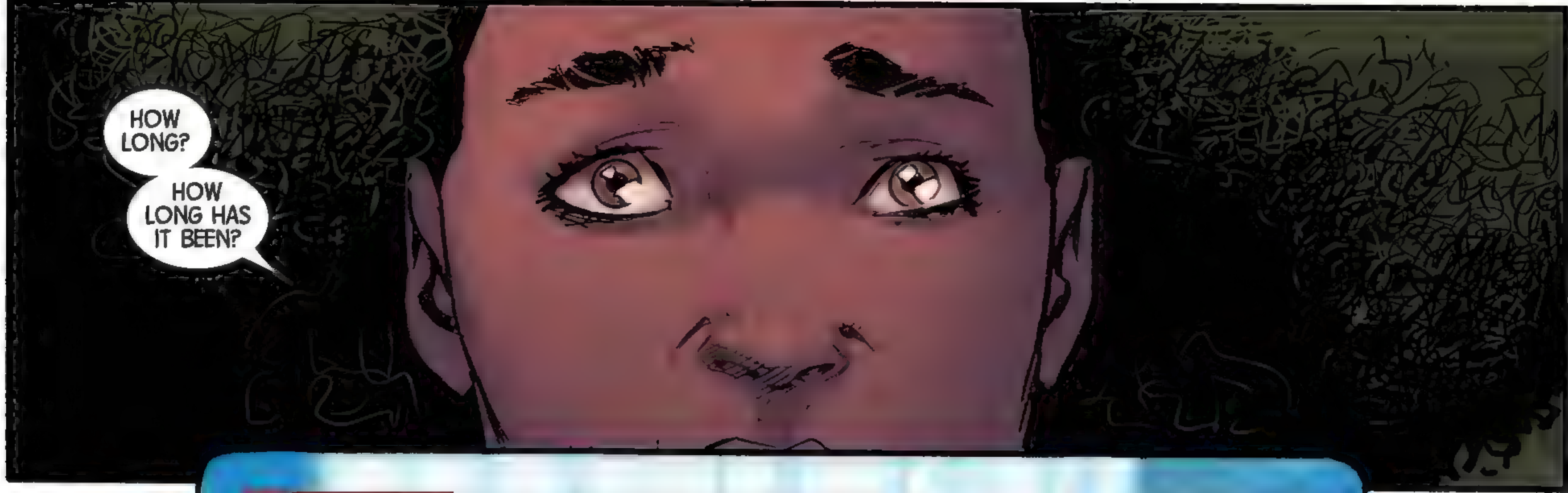


YES, YOU
WERE HURT AND IN
THE HOSPITAL WHEN
YOU GAINED...WHEN
YOU BECAME...THE
UNIVERSE.

AND AS
OF RIGHT NOW,
WE DON'T KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR
DAUGHTER.

IT SEEMS
THE RECORDS
DON'T...

TAMARA...



HOW LONG?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?



"TEN YEARS."



YOU WERE IN A COMA FOR TEN YEARS.

NO. NO. NO NO NO NO...



TAMARA! DON'T!



AAAAAAAAAAAA!



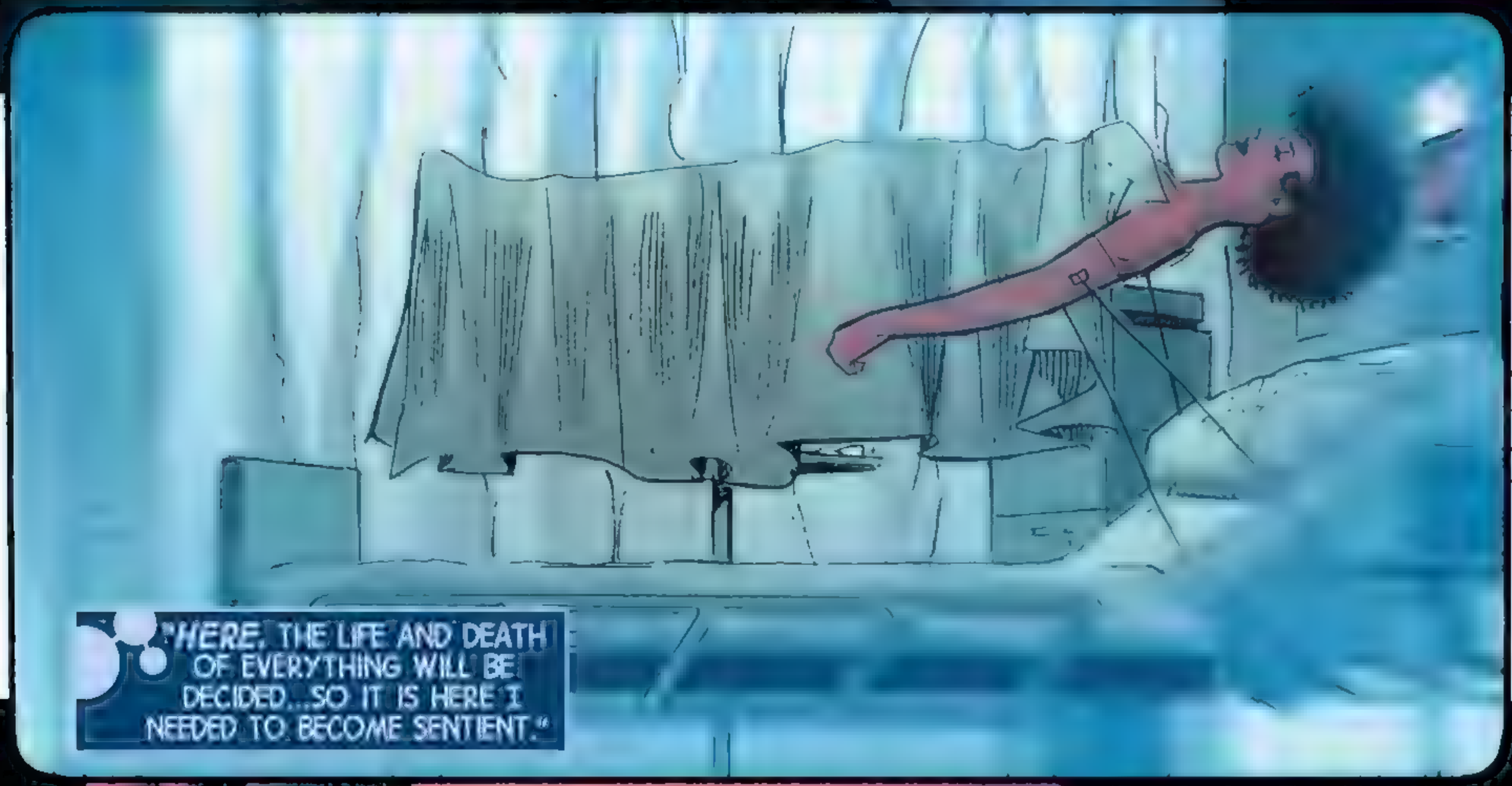


THE
HOST IS
BROKEN.
EVERYTHING
IS BROKEN.

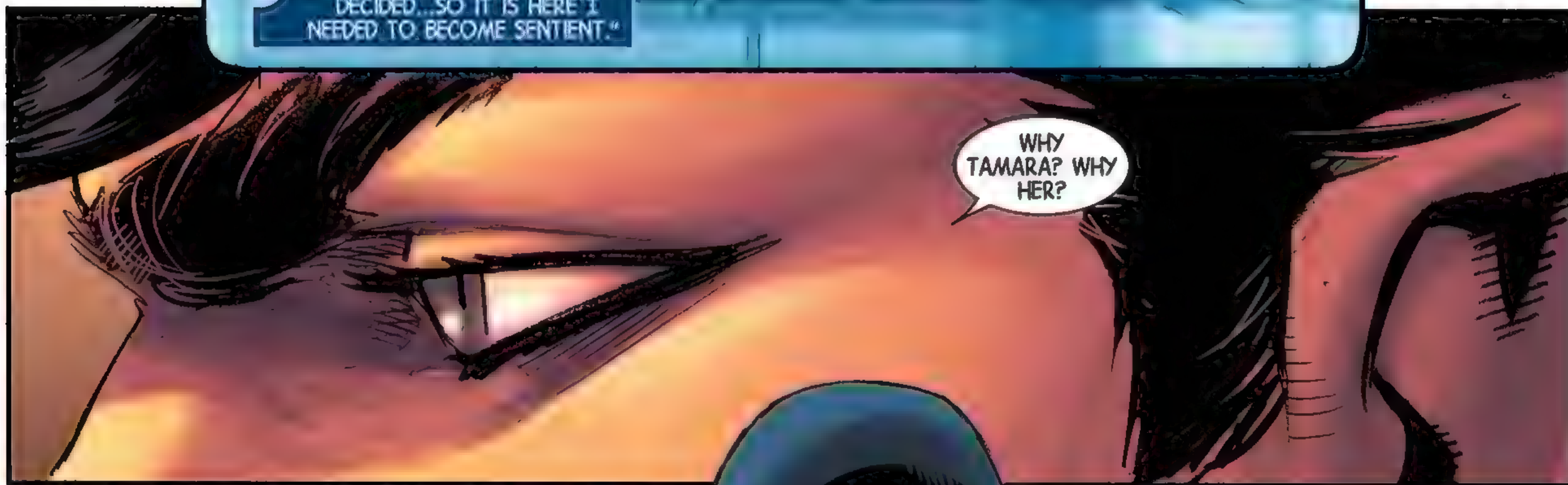
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.



THIS PLACE,
EARTH, IS SIGNIFICANT...
AND THE AXIS AROUND
WHICH THE MULTIVERSE
SPINS.



"HERE, THE LIFE AND DEATH
OF EVERYTHING WILL BE
DECIDED...SO IT IS HERE I
NEEDED TO BECOME SENTIENT."



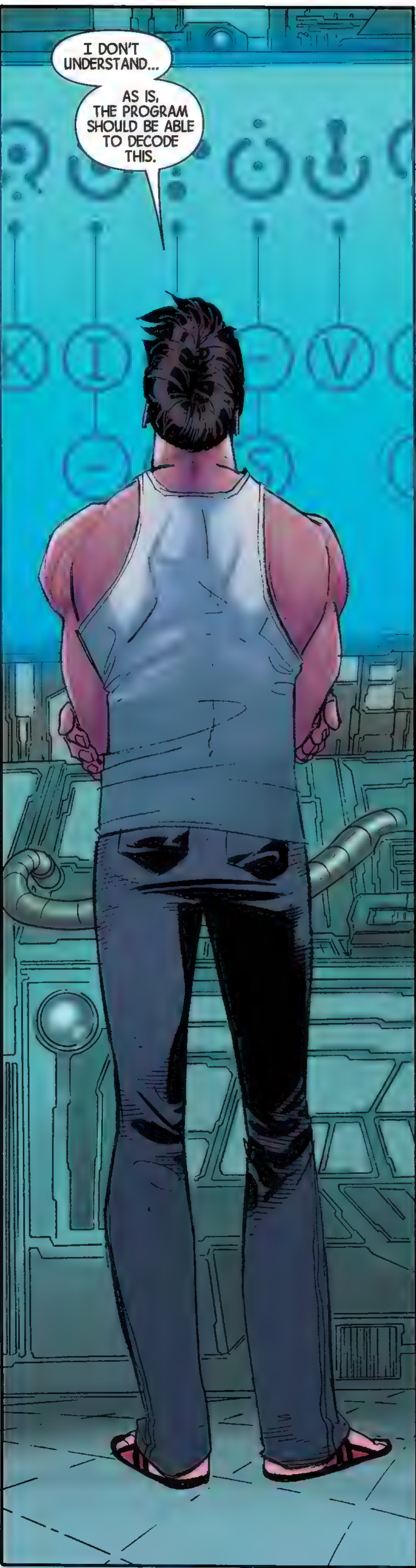
WHY
TAMARA? WHY
HER?



BECAUSE
SHE IS
BROKEN.

BECAUSE
SHE IS
DYING...

JUST AS
I AM.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

AS IS, THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECODE THIS.



ANTHONY!

I HAVE SOMETHING WE NEED TO--

JUST A SECOND...



I'M RIGHT ON THE VERGE OF FIGURING OUT--

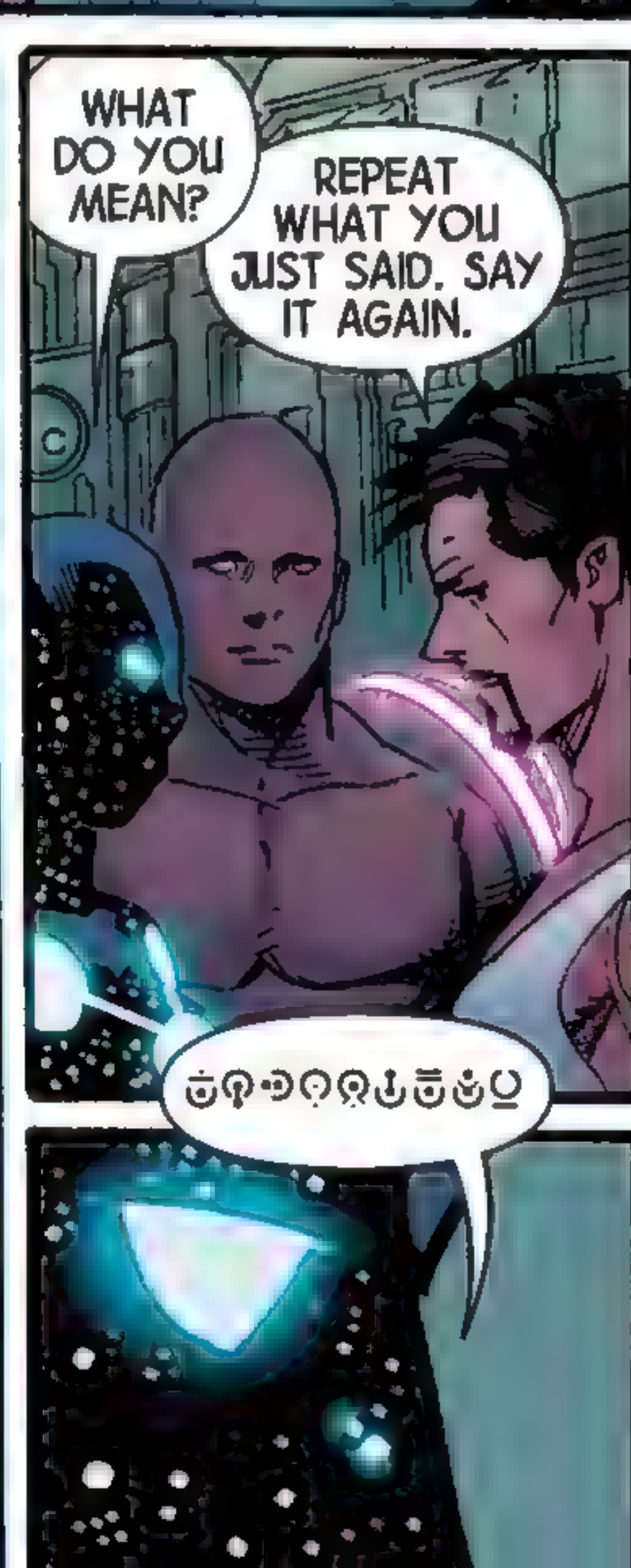
00110
1000000

001100010010010



HEY!

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIM. DO IT AGAIN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

REPEAT WHAT YOU JUST SAID. SAY IT AGAIN.

001100010010010



RIGHT.
THAT'S
IT.

YOU
UNDERSTAND
HIM...

YOU
KNOW HIS
NAME.



BLACKVEIL.

ᠪᠢᠯᠠᠭᠪᠡᠢᠯ

RIGHT.
BLACKVEIL.

ᠪᠢᠯᠠᠭᠪᠡᠢᠯ



YES, ANTHONY
STARK...I KNOW
HIS NAME. BUT
CLEARLY YOU, AND
YOUR MACHINES,
DO NOT.



HIS
NAME IS NOT
BLACKVEIL.



IT'S
NIGHTMASK.



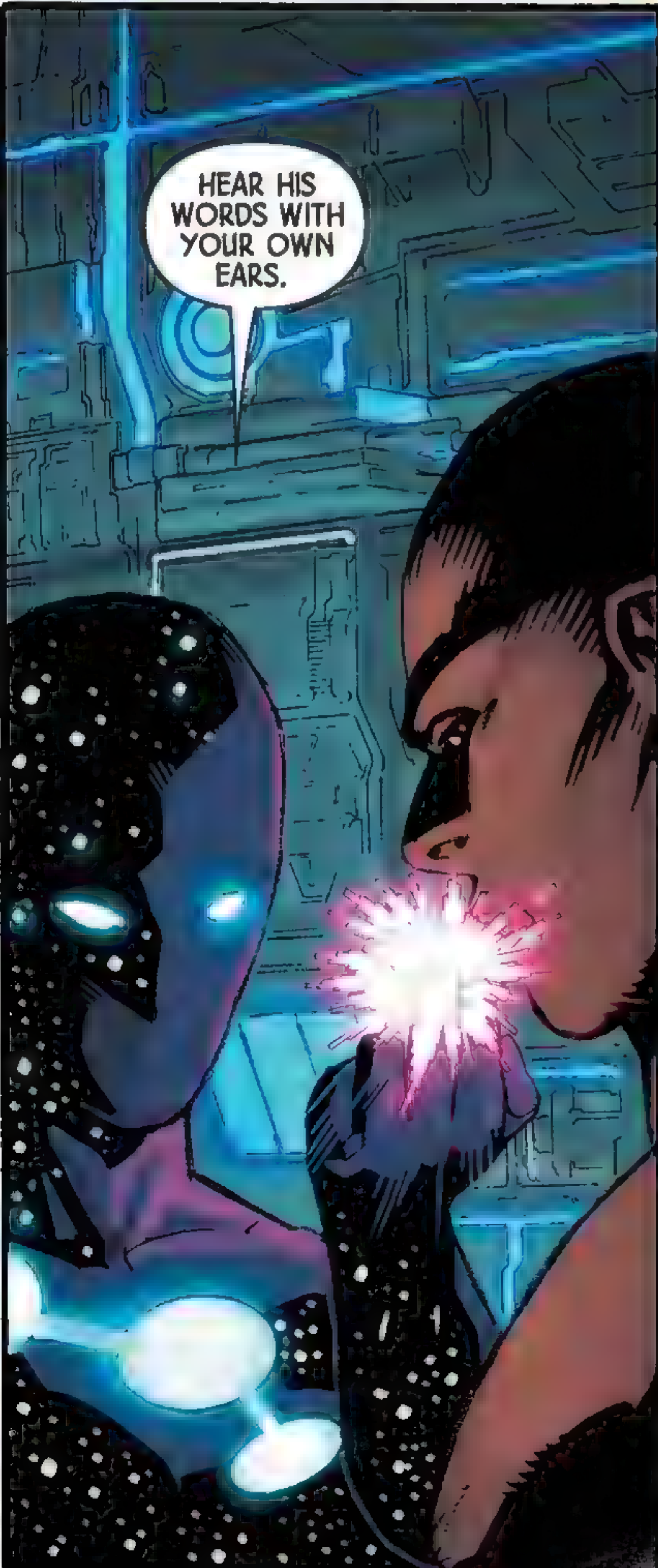
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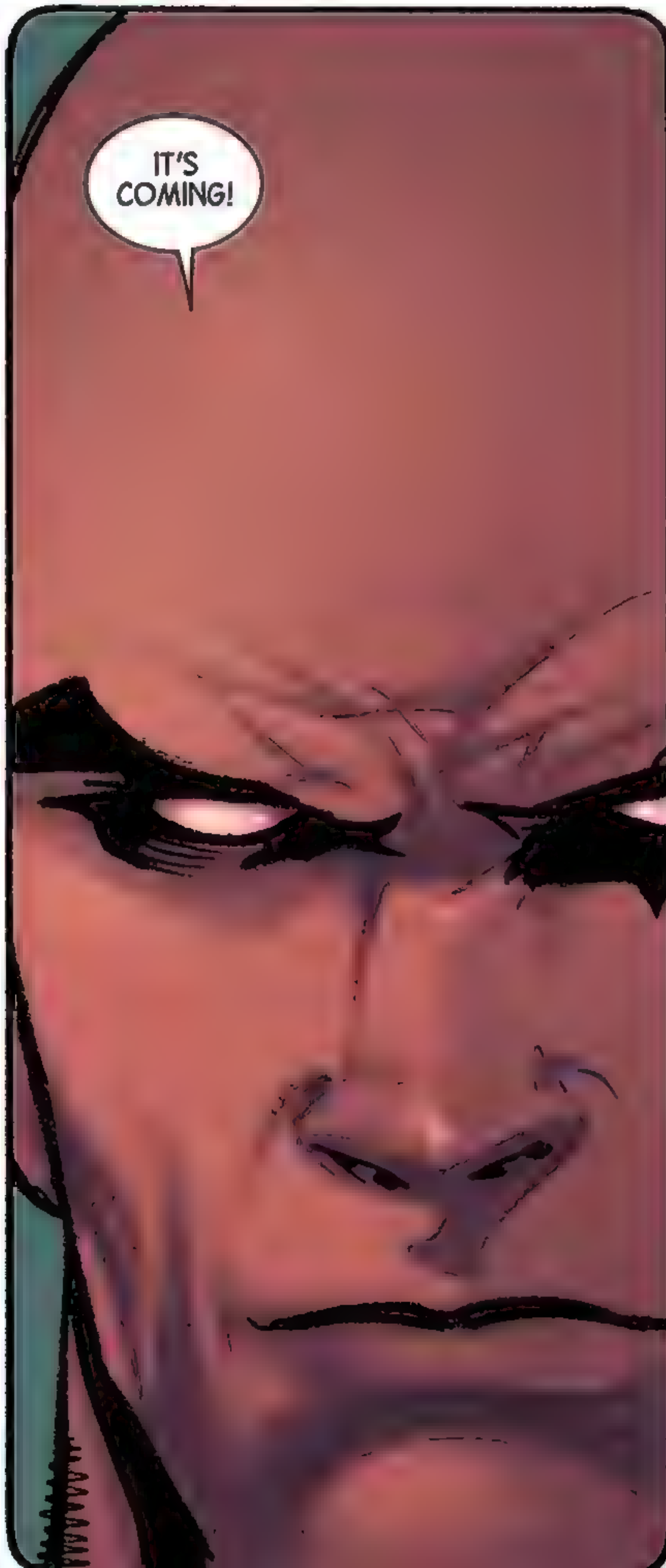
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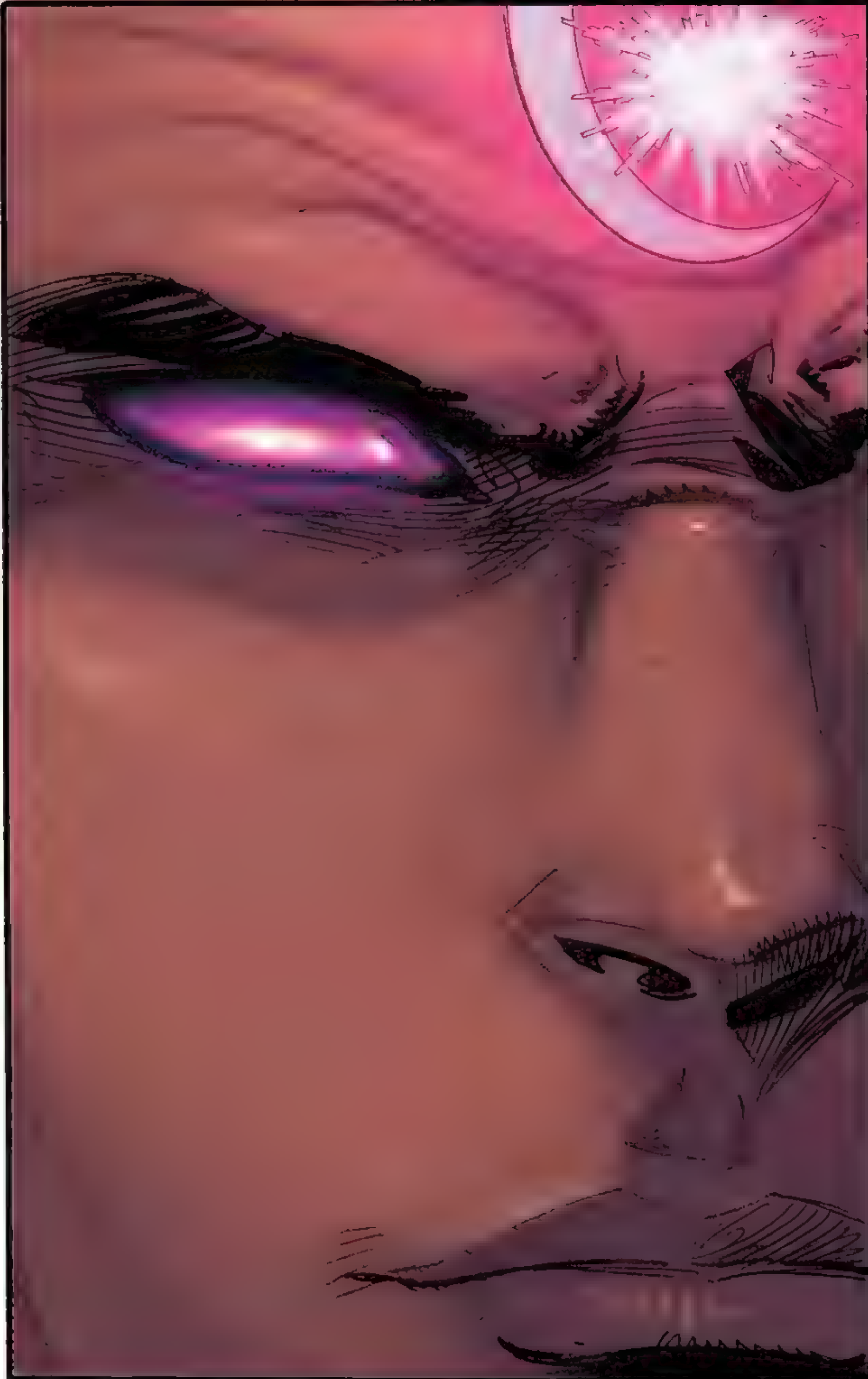
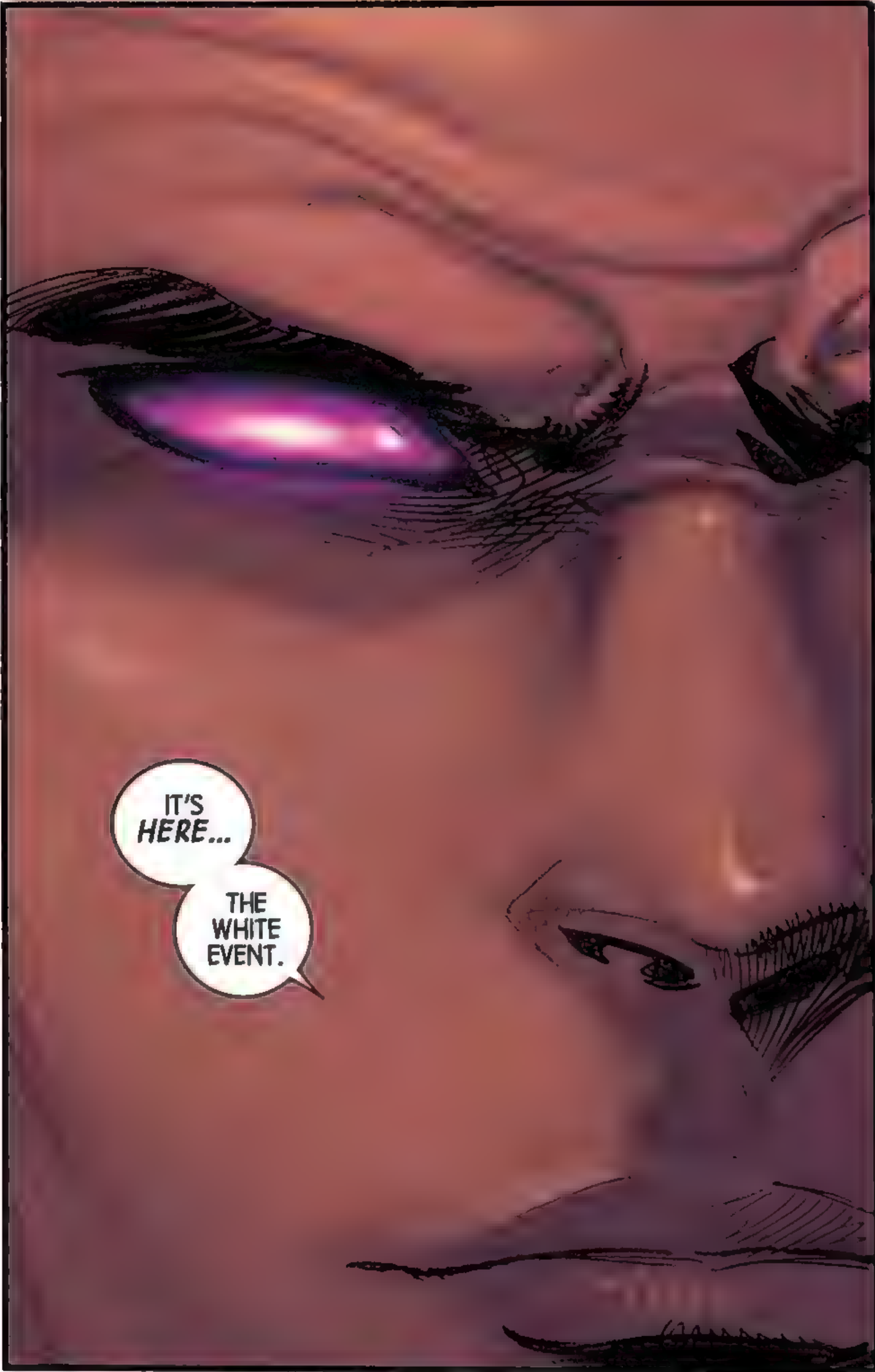
HEAR HIS
WORDS WITH
YOUR OWN
EARS.



THE
SYSTEM IS
BROKEN.



IT'S
COMING!



THE WHITE
EVENT.



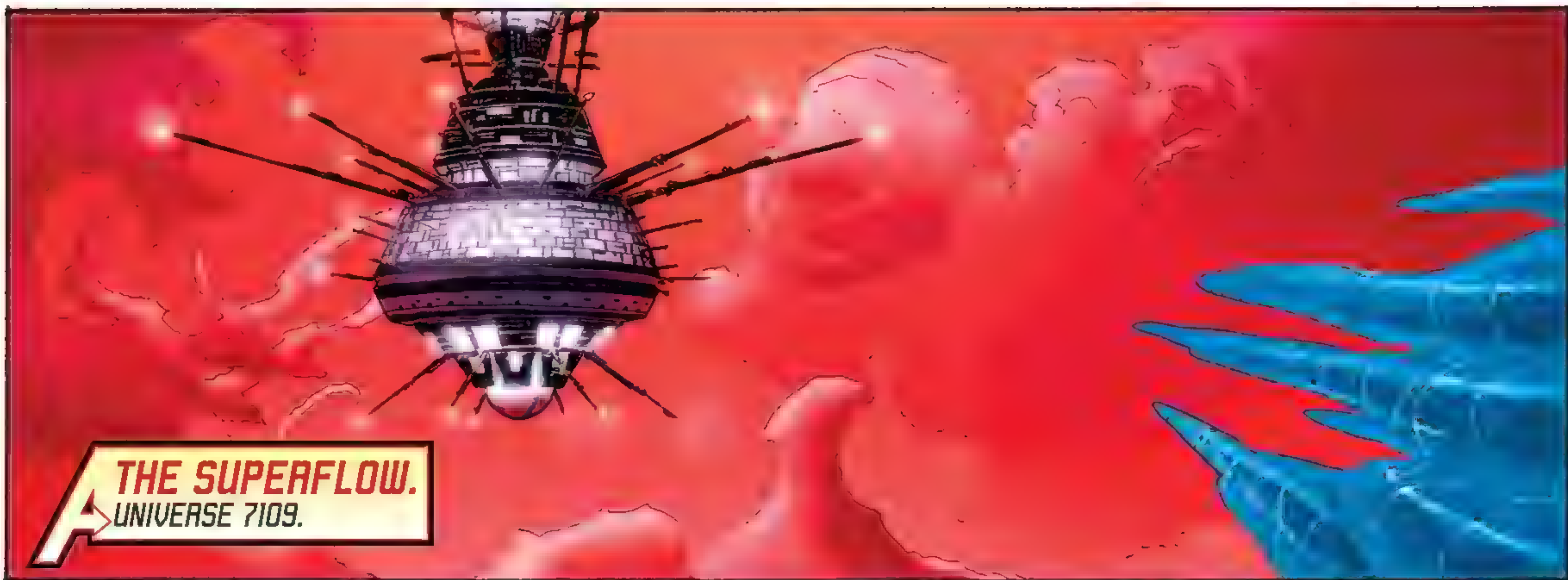


“THE LAST WHITE EVENT”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

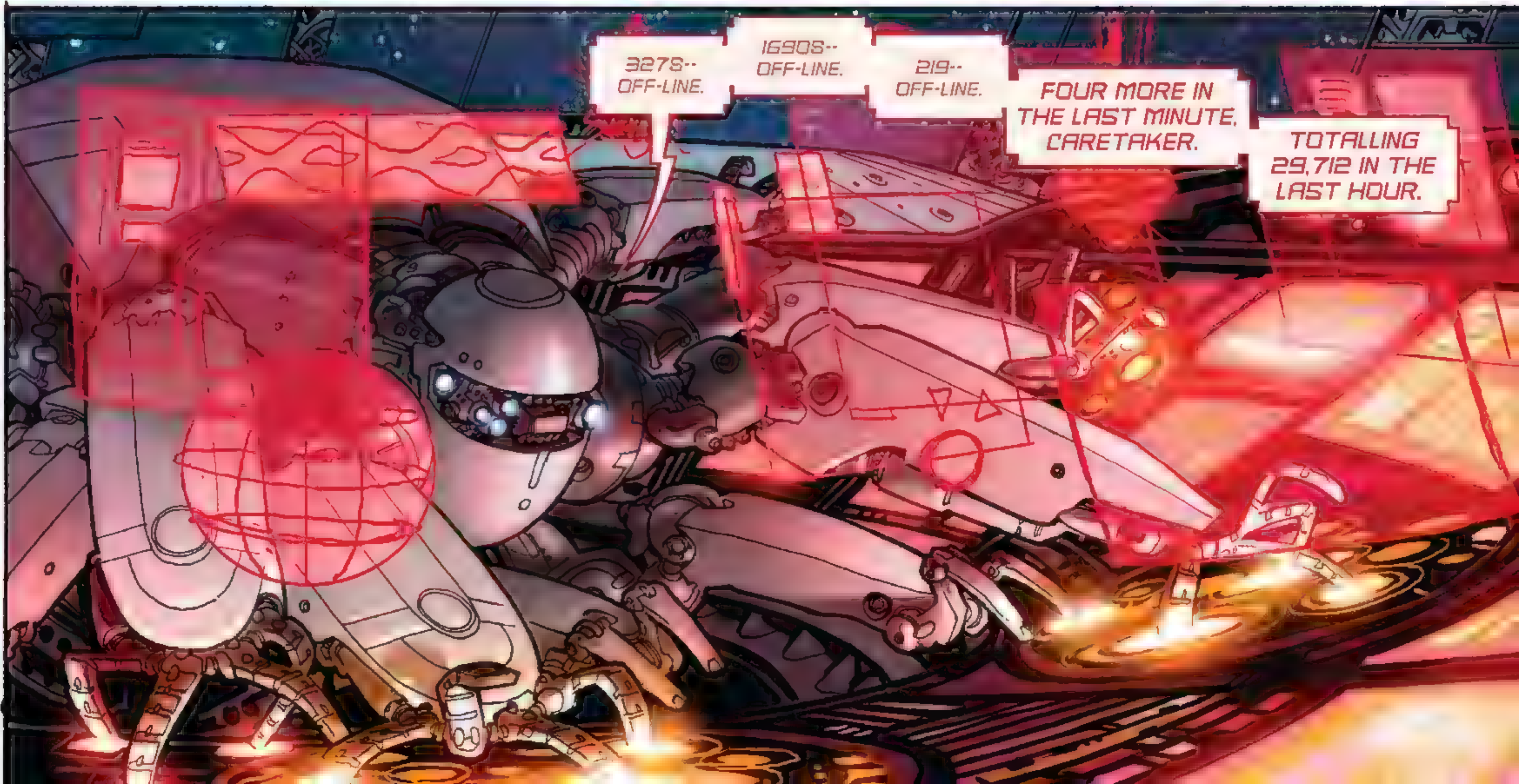
CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPITTER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SONSPOT • CANNIBAL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



THE SUPERFLOW.
UNIVERSE 7109.



COMMUNICATION/
ASCENSION STATION
7109--OFF-LINE



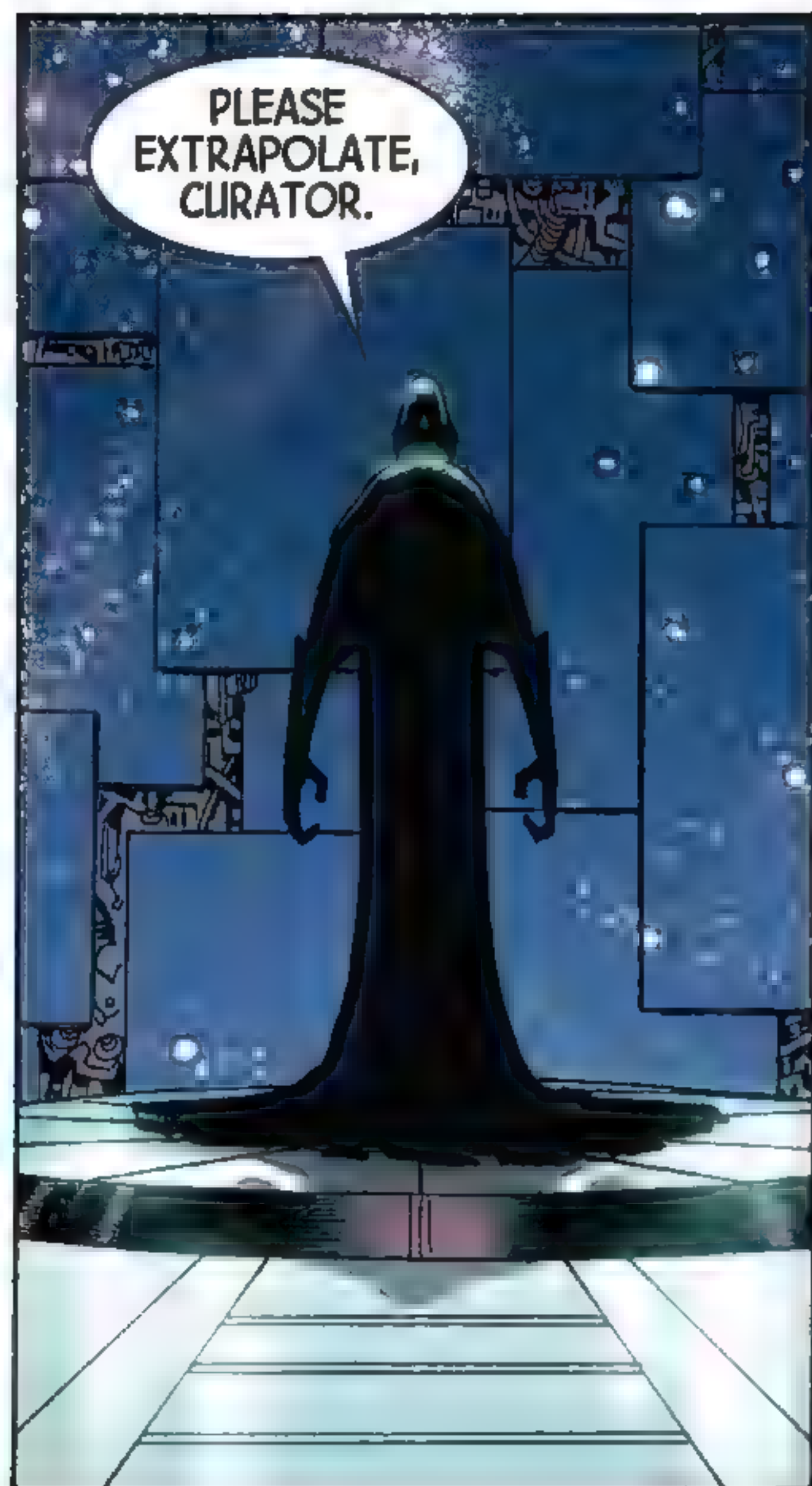
3278--
OFF-LINE.

16908--
OFF-LINE.

219--
OFF-LINE.

FOUR MORE IN
THE LAST MINUTE,
CARETAKER.

TOTALLING
29,712 IN THE
LAST HOUR.



PLEASE
EXTRAPOLATE,
CURATOR.



3367--
OFF-LINE.

IF THE RATE OF
ACCELERATION REMAINS CONSTANT,
WE WILL LOSE THE ENTIRE
COMMUNICATION/ASCENSION FLEET
IN THE NEXT HALF-TRIAD.

OUTSIDE OF THE WEB, IT IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE
WHETHER OR NOT THE
SUPERSTRUCTURE WILL
MAINTAIN INTEGRITY.

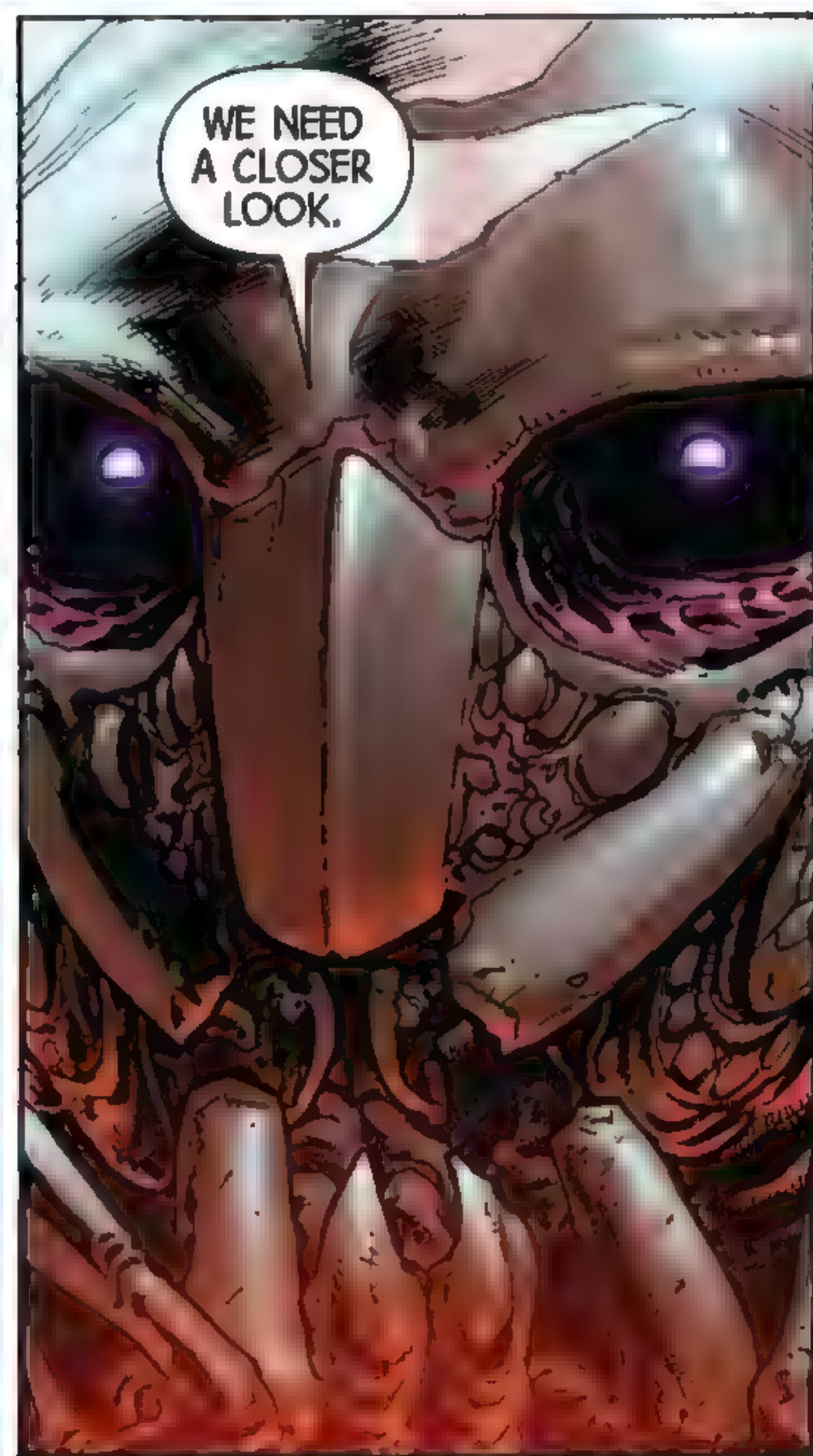
2187--
OFF-LINE.

27861--
OFF-LINE.

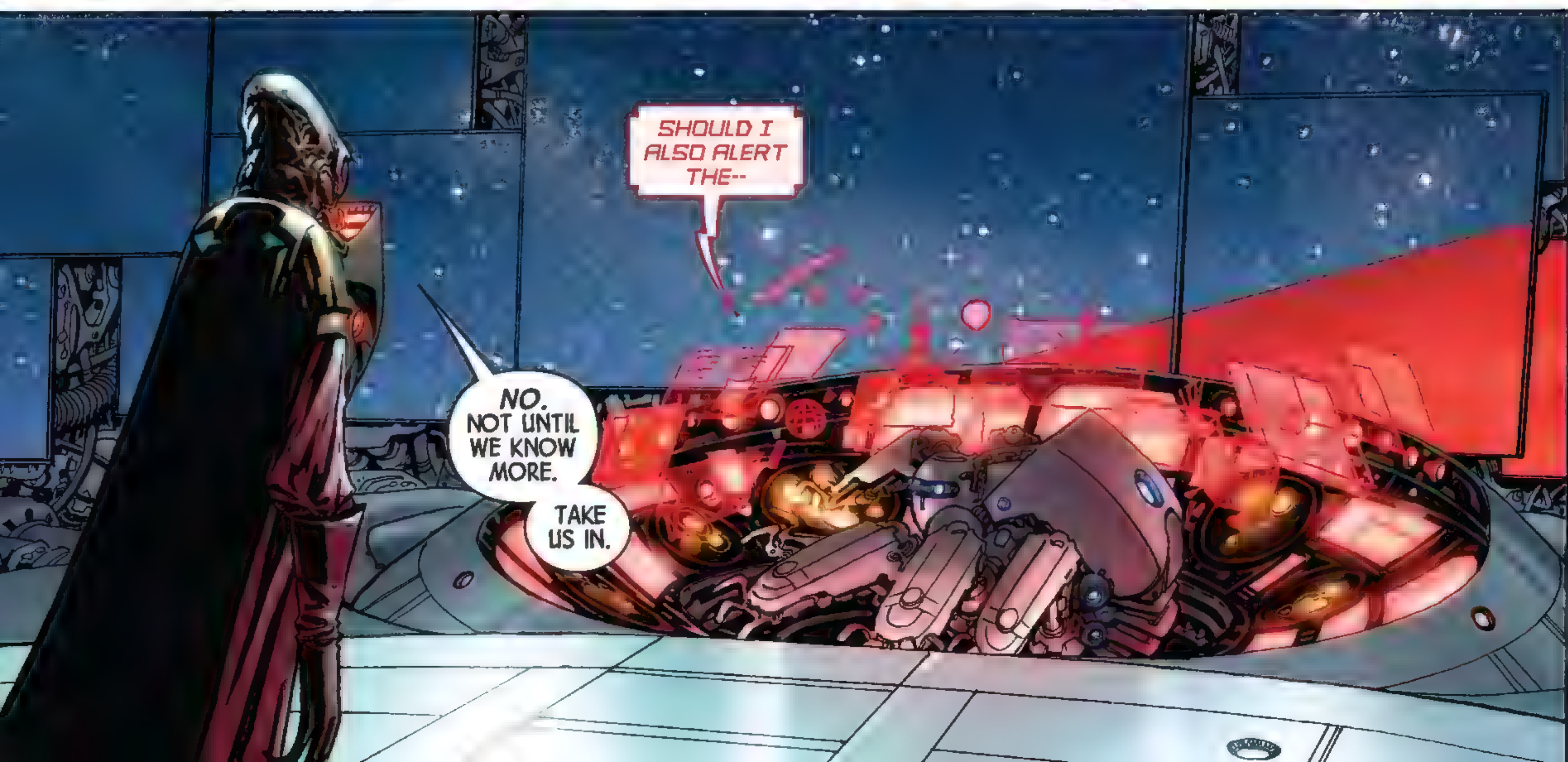


TOTAL
COLLAPSE OF THE
SUPERFLOW.

ALMOST
UNTHINKABLE.



WE NEED
A CLOSER
LOOK.



SHOULD I
ALSO ALERT
THE--

NO.
NOT UNTIL
WE KNOW
MORE.

TAKE
US IN.

DROPPING
INTO
DREAMSPACE.

THE NEXUS OF ALL
SUPERFLOWS.
THE CENTRAL WEB.



IS WHAT
I'M SEEING
REAL?

4380--
OFF-LINE.

24913--
OFF-LINE.

YES, CARETAKER.
THE STRUCTURE
IS COLLAPSING.





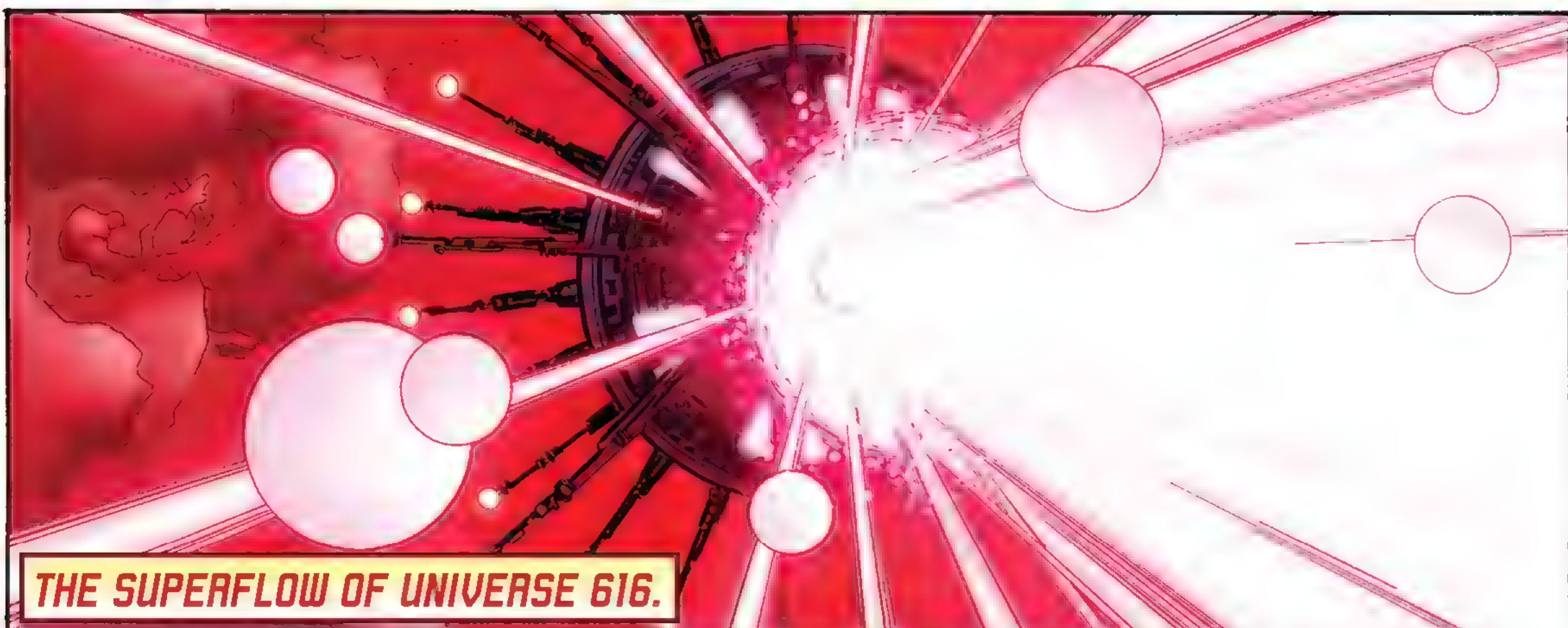
THE SUPERFLOW OF UNIVERSE 69001.



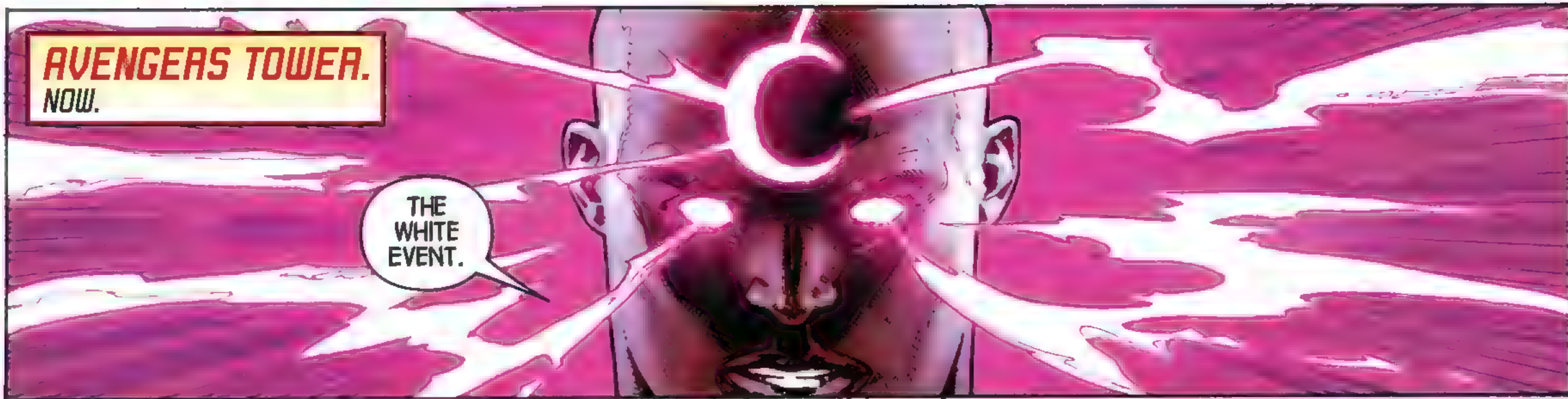
THE SUPERFLOW OF UNIVERSE 2091.



THE SUPERFLOW OF UNIVERSE 3281809.



THE SUPERFLOW OF UNIVERSE 616.



AVENGERS TOWER.
NOW.

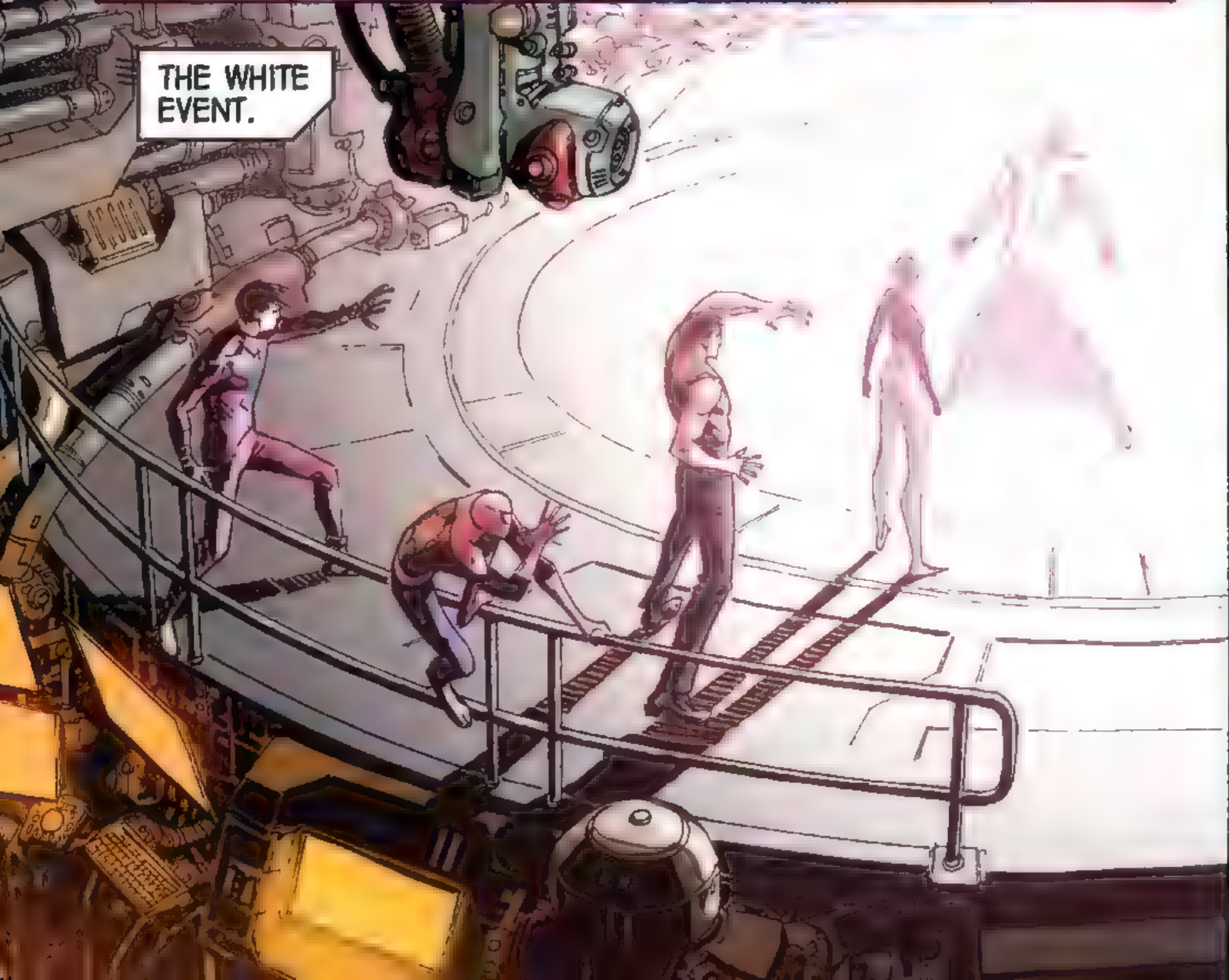
THE
WHITE
EVENT.



WHAT?
WHAT
DID HE
SAY?



THE
WHITE
EVENT.



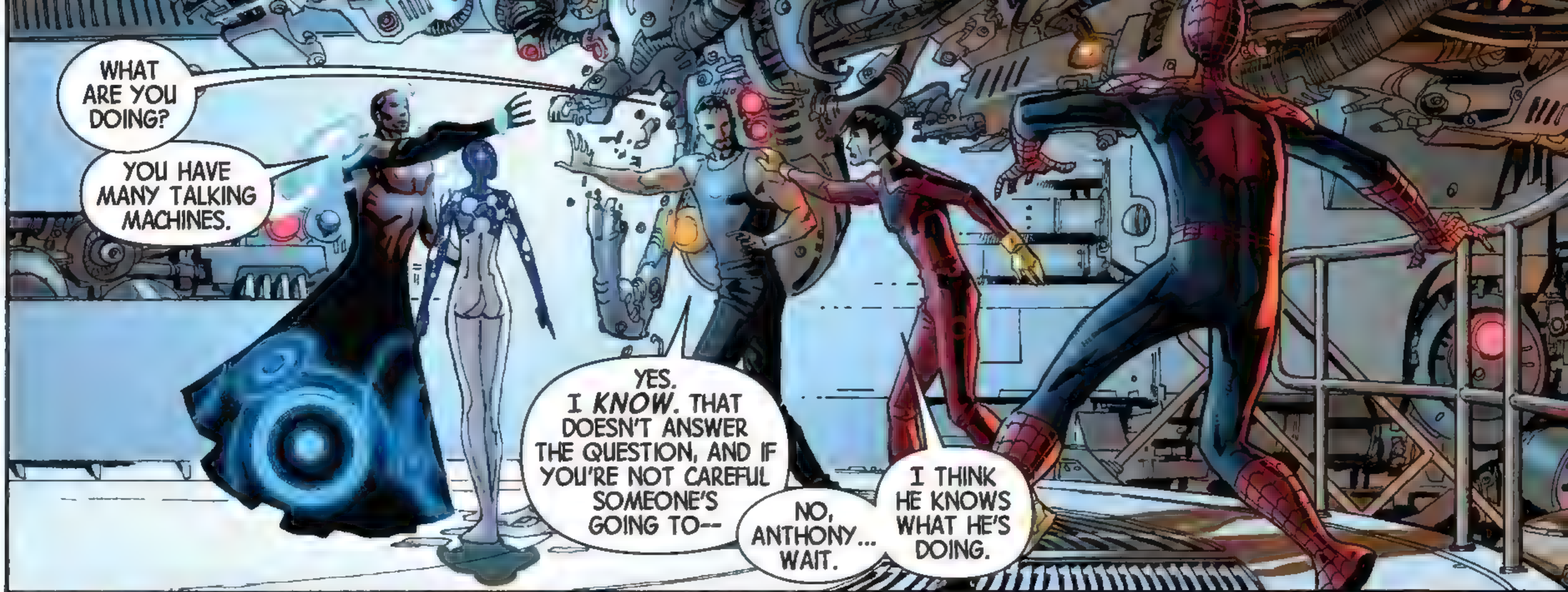
THE
WHITE
EVENT.



MY
GOD.







WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU HAVE MANY TALKING MACHINES.

YES. I KNOW. THAT DOESN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION, AND IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL SOMEONE'S GOING TO--

NO, ANTHONY... WAIT.

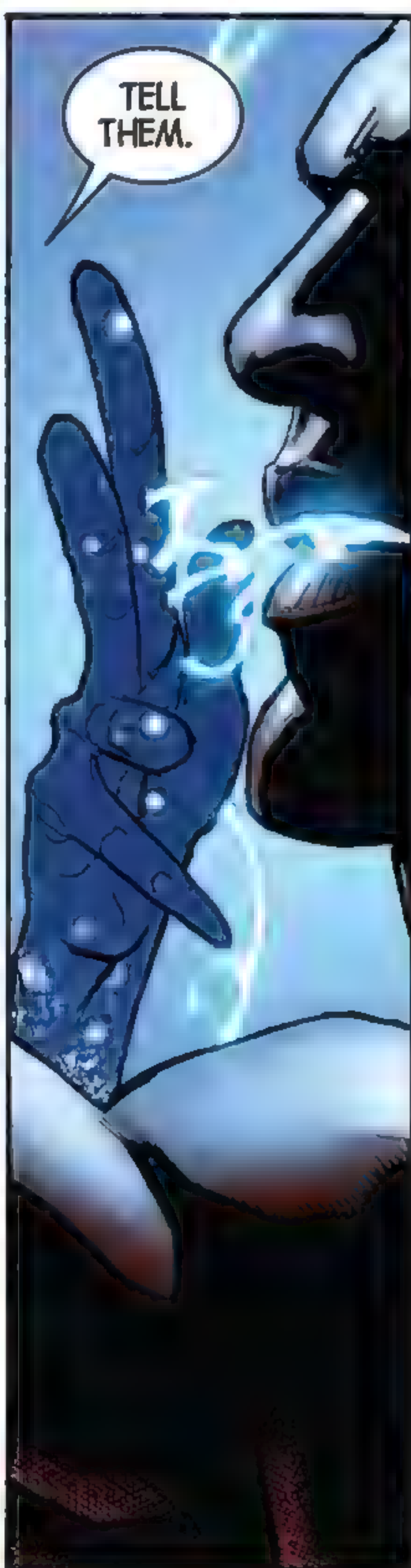
I THINK HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.



IS THAT RIGHT?

HE WAS MADE TO BE ONE THING...

AND BECAME SOMETHING ELSE.



TELL THEM.

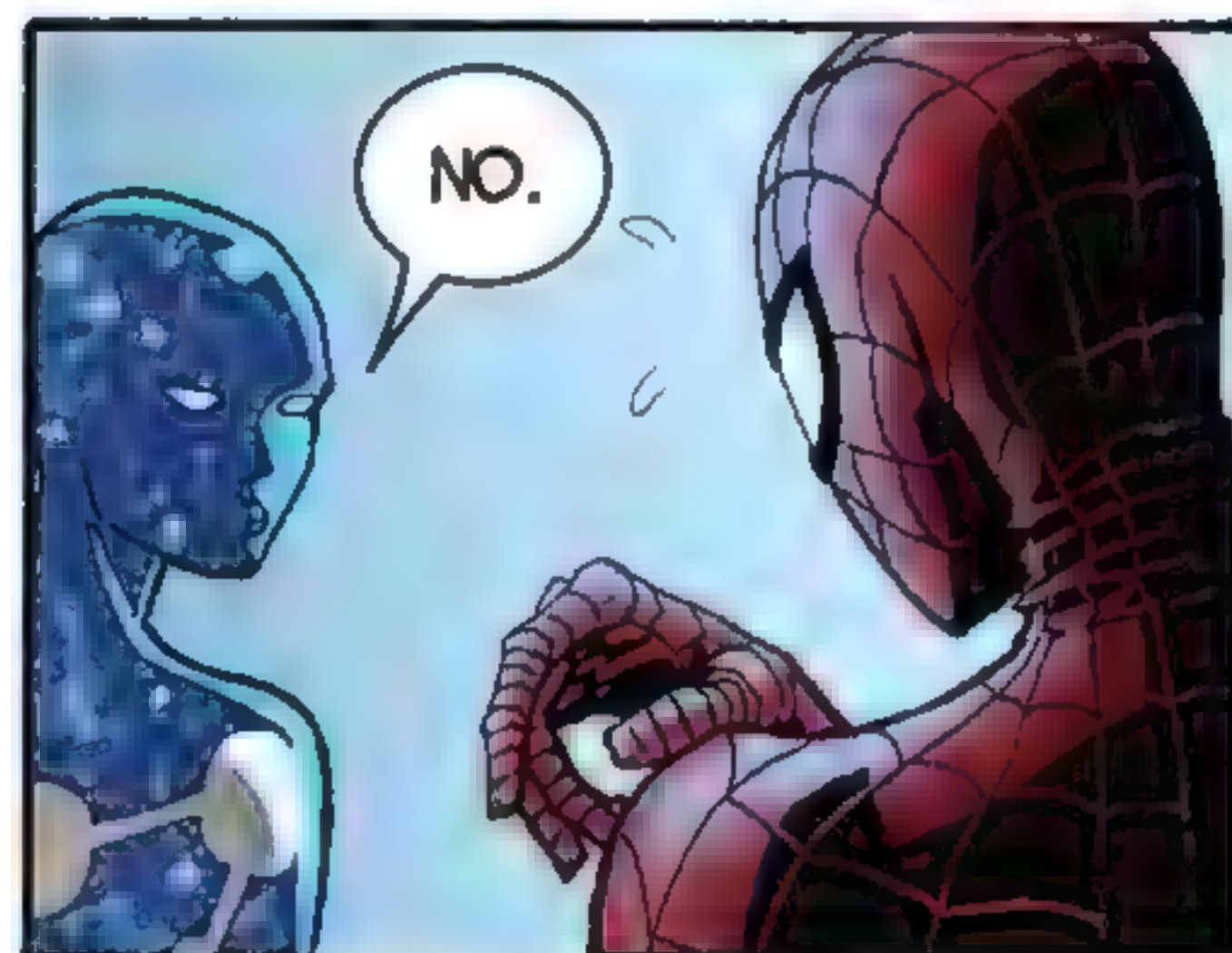


YOU HAVE MANY TALKING MACHINES. I CAN HEAR THEM.

THIS IS HELPFUL AS I MOLD THEM INTO WHAT I NEED.



IS IT POSSIBLE WE'RE EXTENDING TOO MUCH GOOD WILL TO THE OVERLY AMBIGUOUS, HALF-NAKED, SUPER-BEING?



NO.



YOU HAVE TO TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

MAYBE WE CAN HELP?



I HAVE TO FIND THE OTHERS.

FIVE HOURS AGO.

OH GOD,
I JUST THOUGHT
OF SOMETHING.

WHEN ARE
WE GOING TO
TELL THEM?

I
ALREADY
HAVE.

WHAT?

YOU KNOW
THAT RECRUITER
I WENT TO
MEET?

YEAH...

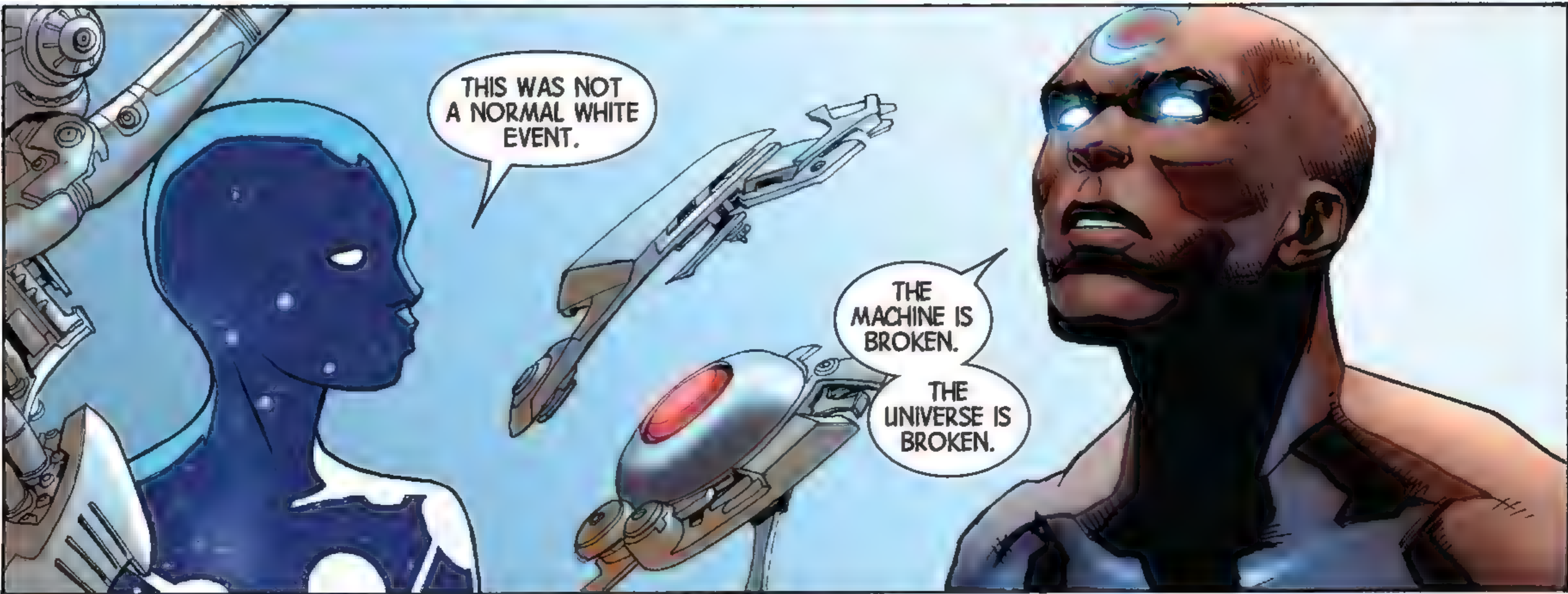
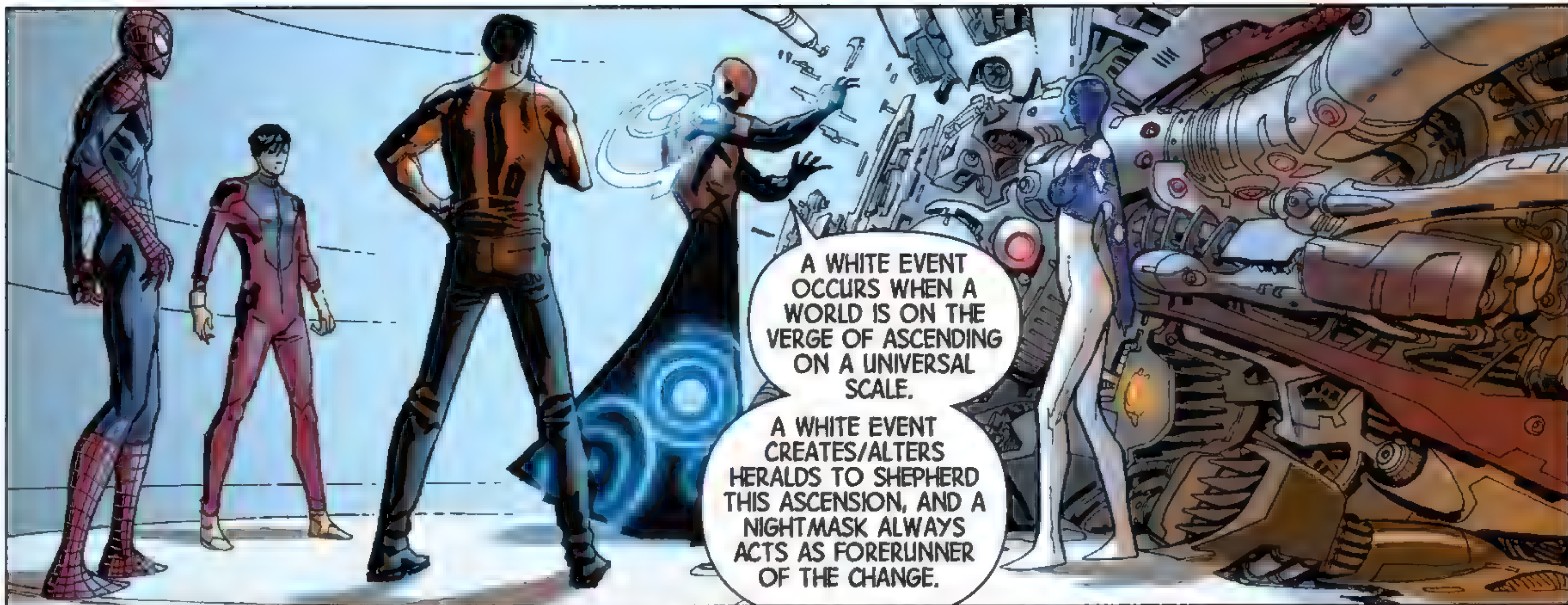
I ACTUALLY
WENT TO SEE YOUR
PARENTS. WHEN I ASKED
THEM IF I COULD MARRY
YOU, YOUR FATHER
GOT A LITTLE MISTY.

IT WAS
KIND OF
PERFECT.

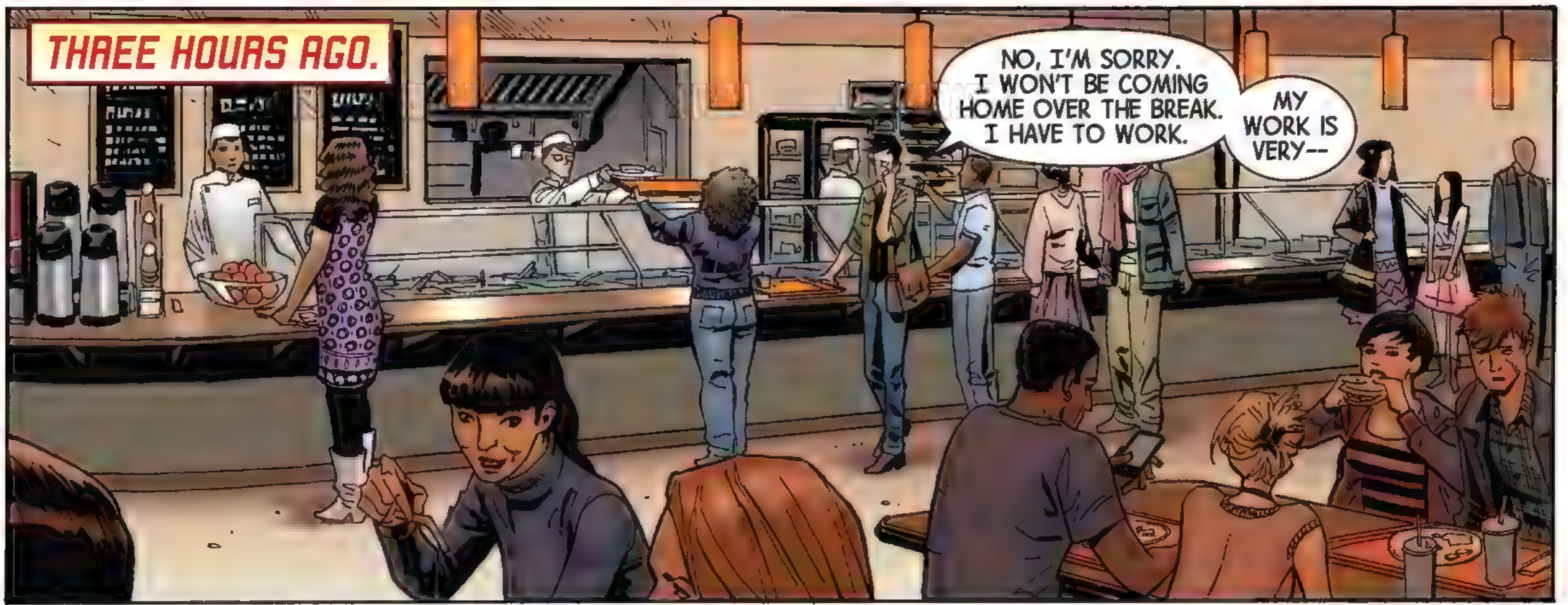
IT WAS
PERFECT.

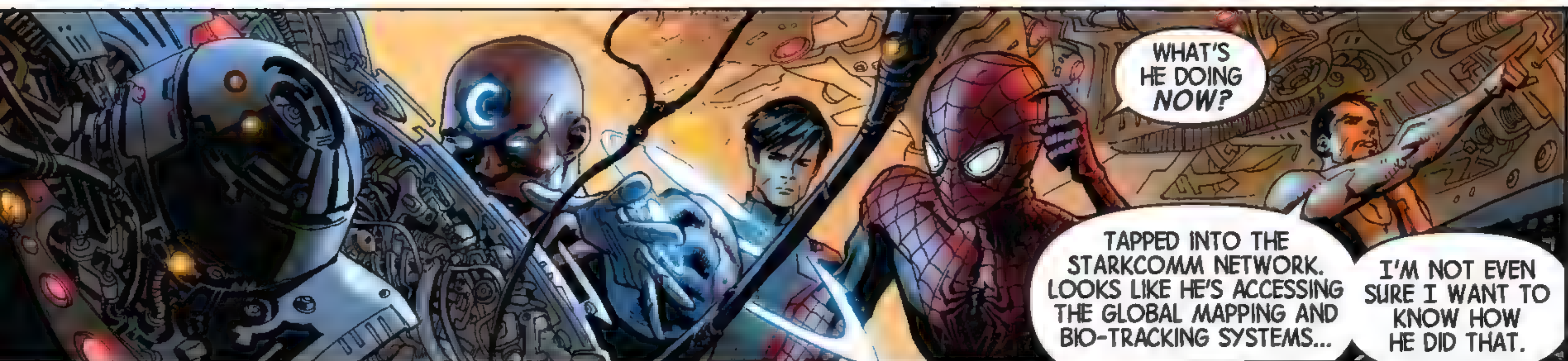
THIS...IS
PERFECT.

WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE
TOGETHER.









WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?

TAPPED INTO THE STARKCOMM NETWORK. LOOKS LIKE HE'S ACCESSING THE GLOBAL MAPPING AND BIO-TRACKING SYSTEMS...

I'M NOT EVEN SURE I WANT TO KNOW HOW HE DID THAT.



THE MACHINES LIKE TO TALK TO EACH OTHER--THEY WANT TO HELP ME FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

THERE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JUSTICE. A CIPHER. A STARBRAND. SOMETIMES THERE IS A SPITFIRE...

OTHERS.

YES.

HERE!



WE MUST GO HERE.

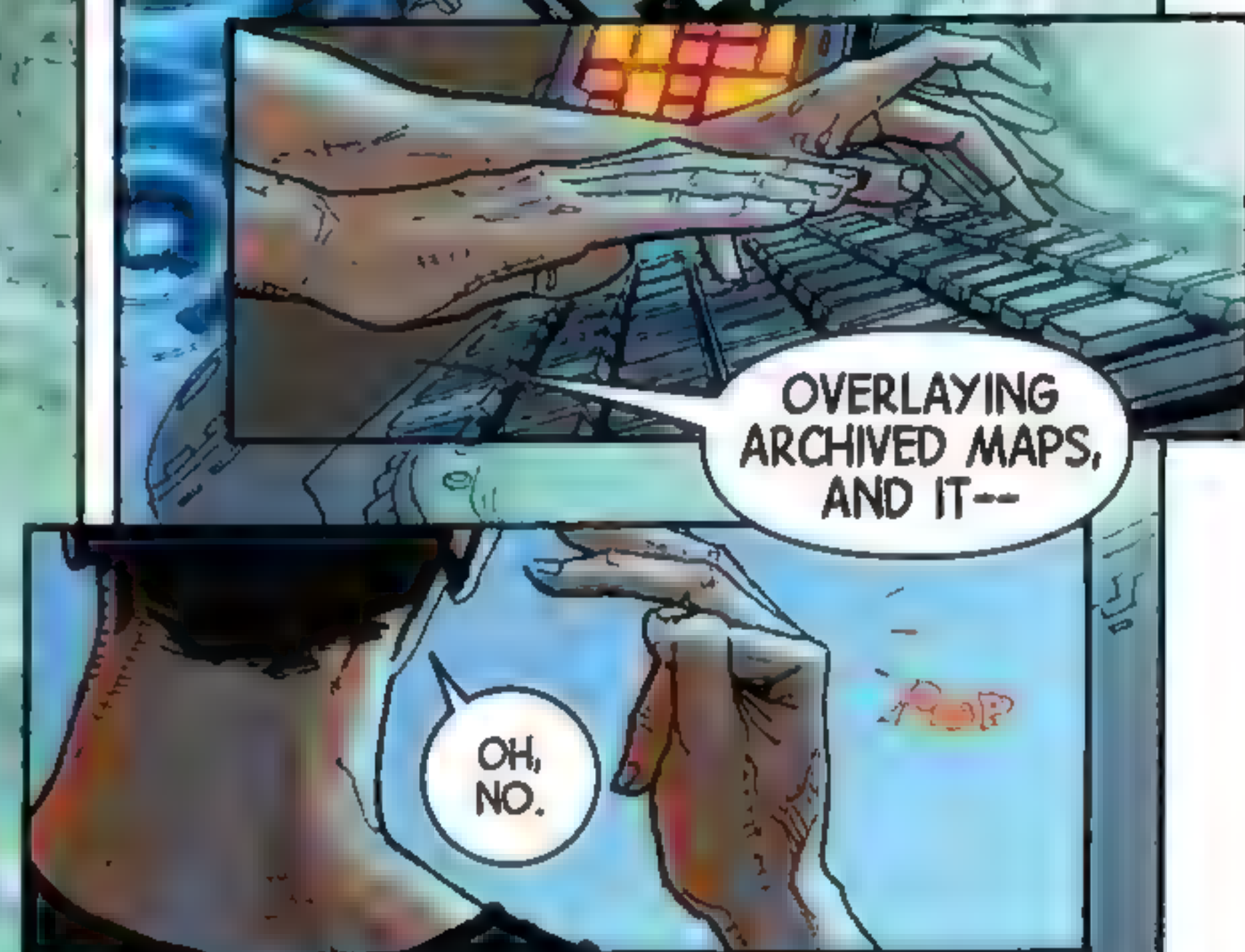
THERE WAS AN EVENT.



OKAY.

IT'S UNRECOGNIZABLE FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT. DEFINITELY SUBURBAN.

PULLING BACK AND ACCESSING STARKCOMM DATABASE.



OVERLAYING ARCHIVED MAPS, AND IT--

OH, NO.



SOUND THE ALARM-- ASSEMBLE THE TEAM.

IT WAS A COLLEGE.

TWO HOURS AGO.

ANYONE WANT
TO EXPLAIN THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF
THIS THEORY?

ALAN?



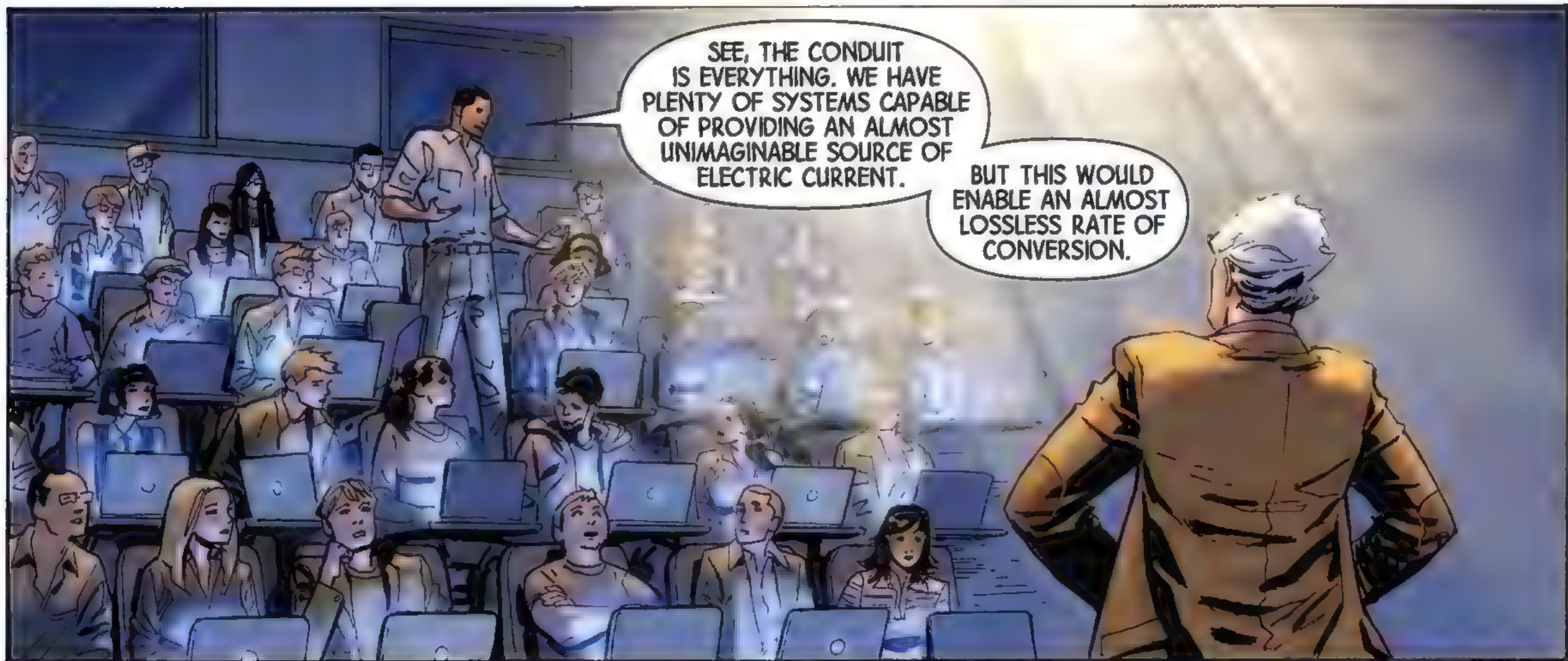
SURE,
PROFESSOR.

IT'S REALLY
ALL ABOUT
CONTROLLING
THE TRANSFER.

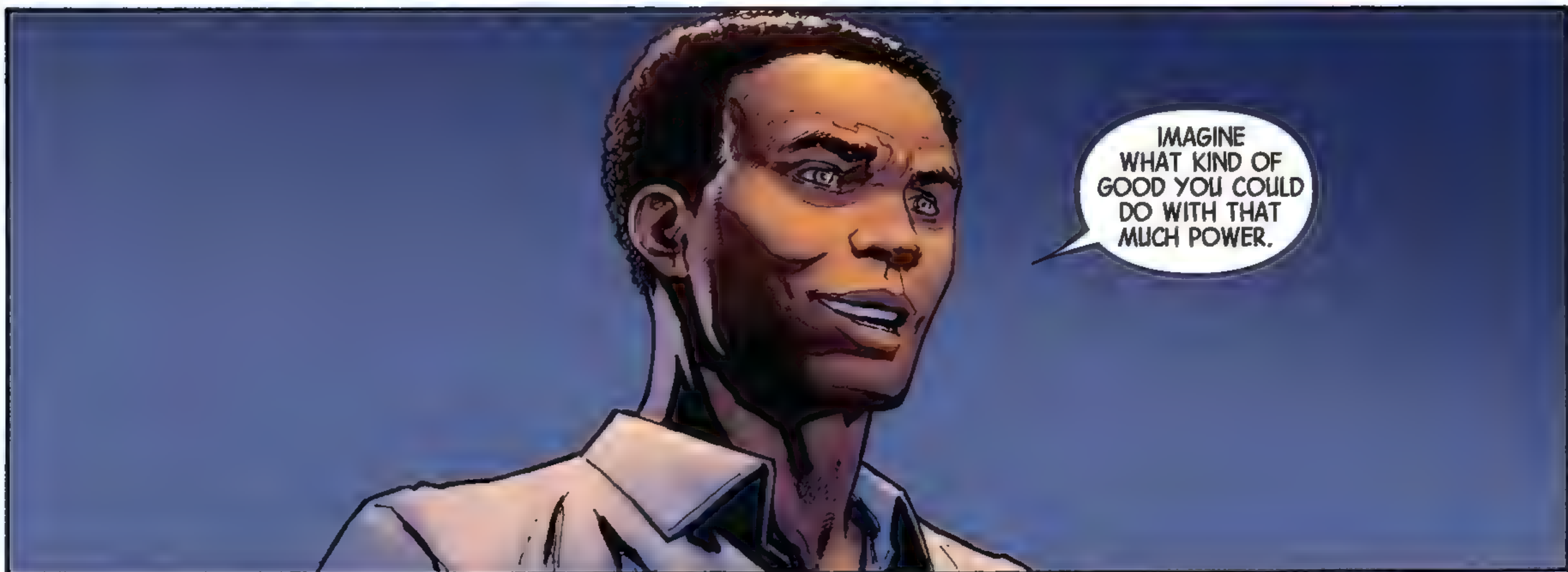


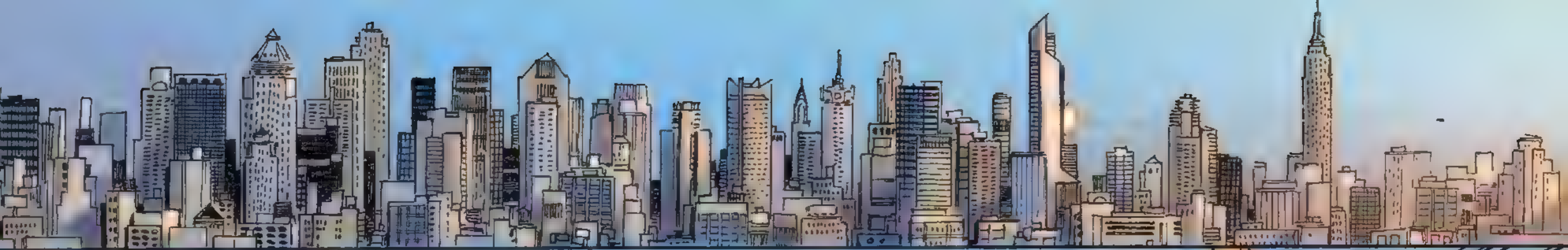
SEE, THE CONDUIT
IS EVERYTHING. WE HAVE
PLENTY OF SYSTEMS CAPABLE
OF PROVIDING AN ALMOST
UNIMAGINABLE SOURCE OF
ELECTRIC CURRENT.

BUT THIS WOULD
ENABLE AN ALMOST
LOSSLESS RATE OF
CONVERSION.



IMAGINE
WHAT KIND OF
GOOD YOU COULD
DO WITH THAT
MUCH POWER.





HE SAYS
IT'S CALLED A
STARBRAND.



BOTH THE SHAPE
OF THE IMPACT SITE
AS WELL AS THE HERALD
IT'S SUPPOSED TO
PRODUCE...

A
STARBRAND.

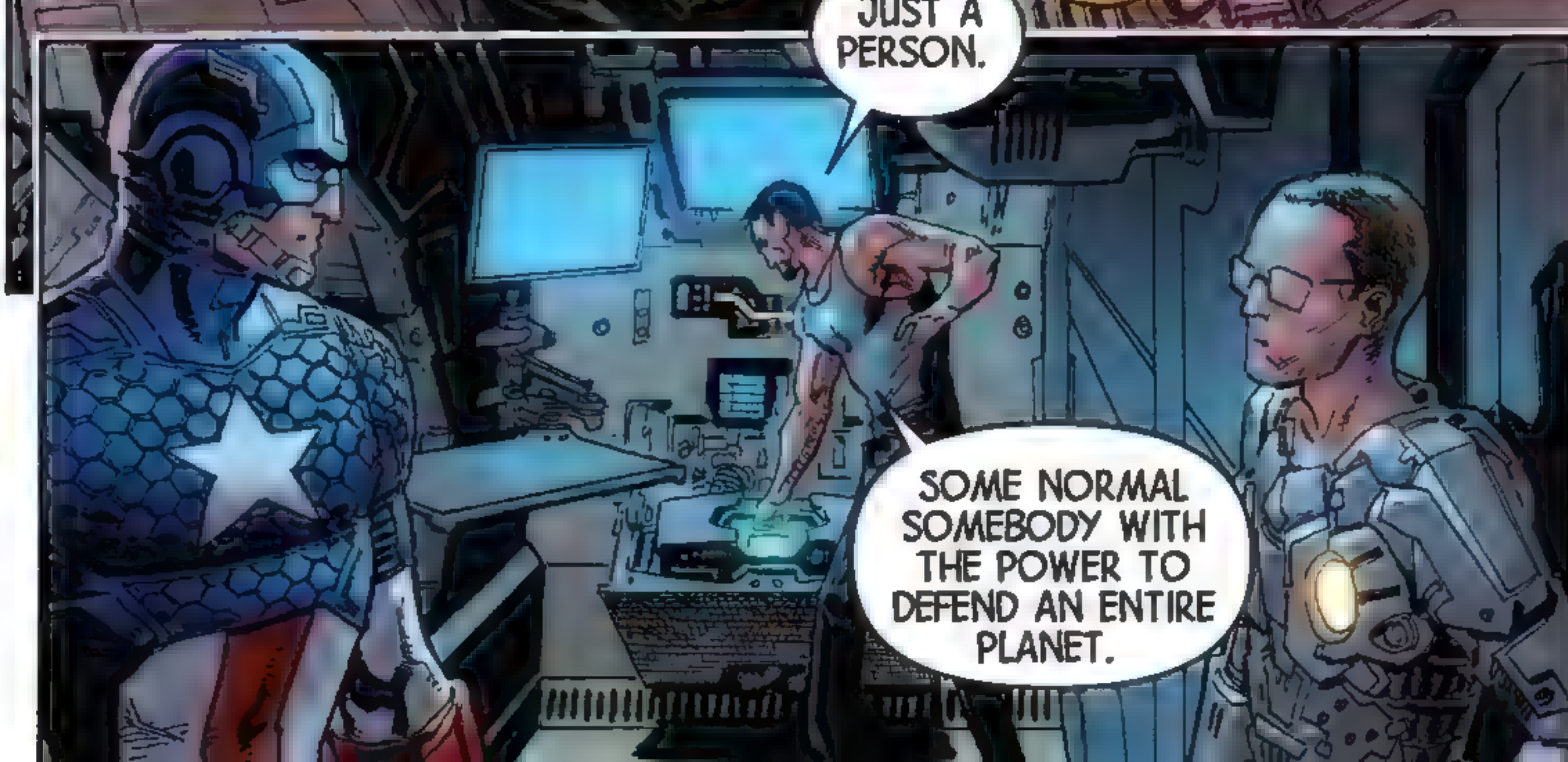


SO WHAT'S
IT DO BESIDE
BLOW UP
SCHOOLS?

IT'S SUPPOSED
TO BE SOME KIND OF
PLANETARY DEFENSE
MECHANISM.

SO IT'S A
MACHINE...A
DELIVERY SYSTEM
OF SOME
KIND?

JUST A
PERSON.



SOME NORMAL
SOMEBODY WITH
THE POWER TO
DEFEND AN ENTIRE
PLANET.



SCARY,
RIGHT?

WAIT UNTIL
YOU HEAR THE
BAD NEWS.

WHICH
IS?

THIS WAS
NOT A NORMAL
WHITE EVENT.

THE
MACHINE IS
BROKEN.

I CAN'T BE THE
ONLY ONE *HERE*
THAT FINDS THEM
UNBELIEVABLY
IRRITATING.

APPARENTLY, THERE
IS SUPPOSED TO
BE A SYSTEM IN
PLACE FOR SELECTING
A STARBRAND...

AND IT'S POSSIBLE,
BECAUSE SOMETHING
WENT WRONG, THOSE
PROTOCOLS WEREN'T
FOLLOWED.



IT TURNS OUT THERE WAS
A VERY GOOD REASON FOR
THESE SYSTEMS EXISTING.



NO OTHER LIFE
SIGNS WITHIN A
100 METER RADIUS--
NOTHING.
EXTENDING THE--

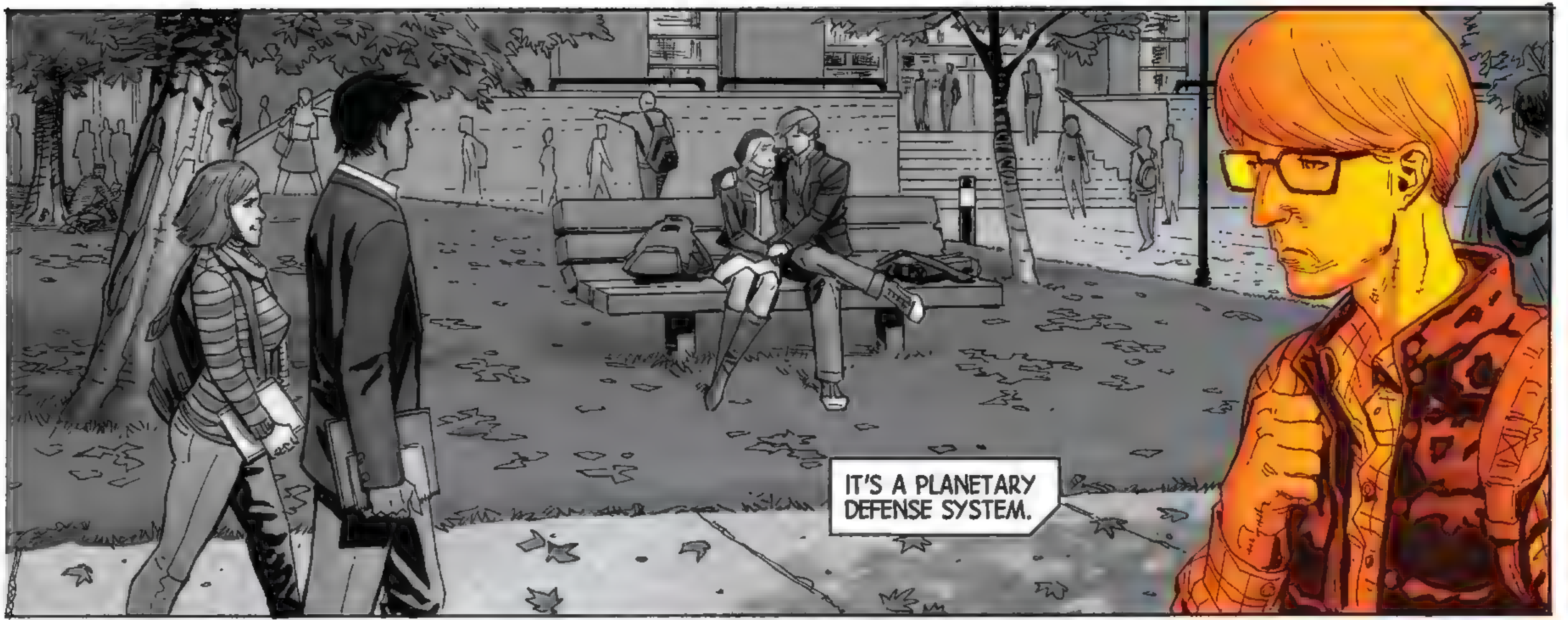
GOT
A HIT.



THERE.



WHY THERE WERE ONLY CERTAIN
TYPES OF PEOPLE THAT WERE
EVER GIVEN THE STARBRAND.



NOW IMAGINE THAT KIND
OF POWER IN THE HANDS
OF SOMEONE WHO HAS
SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE
BEING IGNORED.





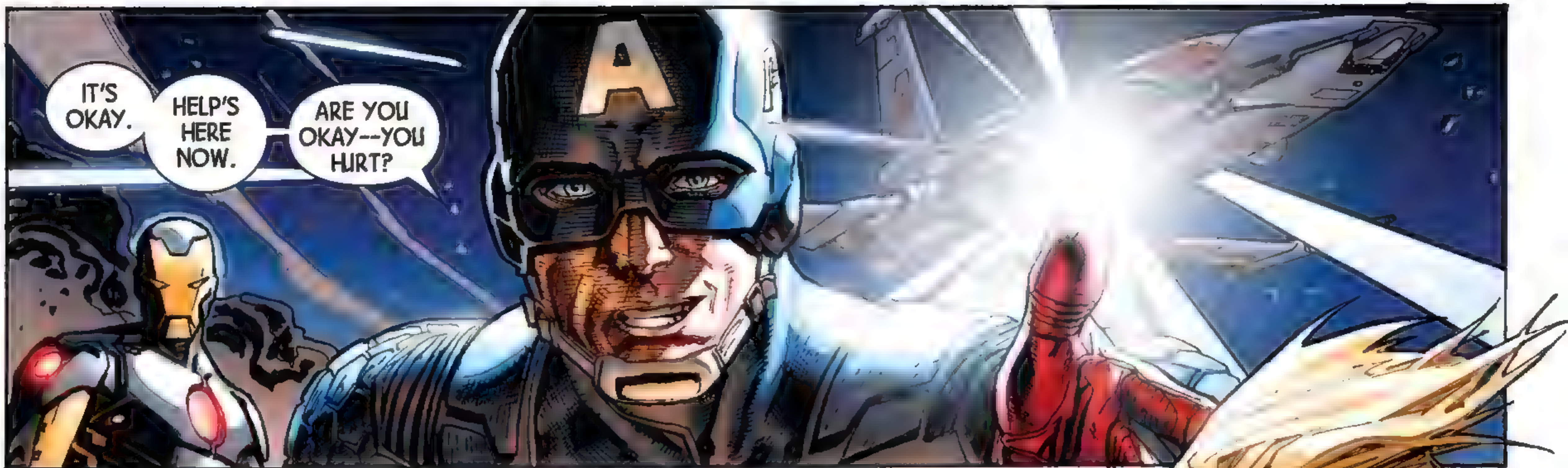
“STARBRANDED”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SONSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION





IT'S
OKAY.

HELP'S
HERE
NOW.

ARE YOU
OKAY--YOU
HURT?



I DON'T...
I MEAN...

YOU'RE
CAPTAIN
AMERICA...

WHY
AM I...

WHY AM
I TALKING TO
CAPTAIN AMERICA...
WHAT...

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?



BZZTT

YOU'RE
SITTING IN A
SMOKING CRATER,
KID. NAKED.

WE'VE ALL
GATHERED HERE
TODAY TO BRING
YOU PANTS.

QUINJET'S
PICKING UP LOTS
OF ACTIVITY NOW.
MILITARY INBOUND--
ESTIMATING 10
MINUTES OUT.

THING'S ARE
GETTING READY TO
ESCALATE, CAP.



IT'S
OKAY...

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
SON?

KEVIN...

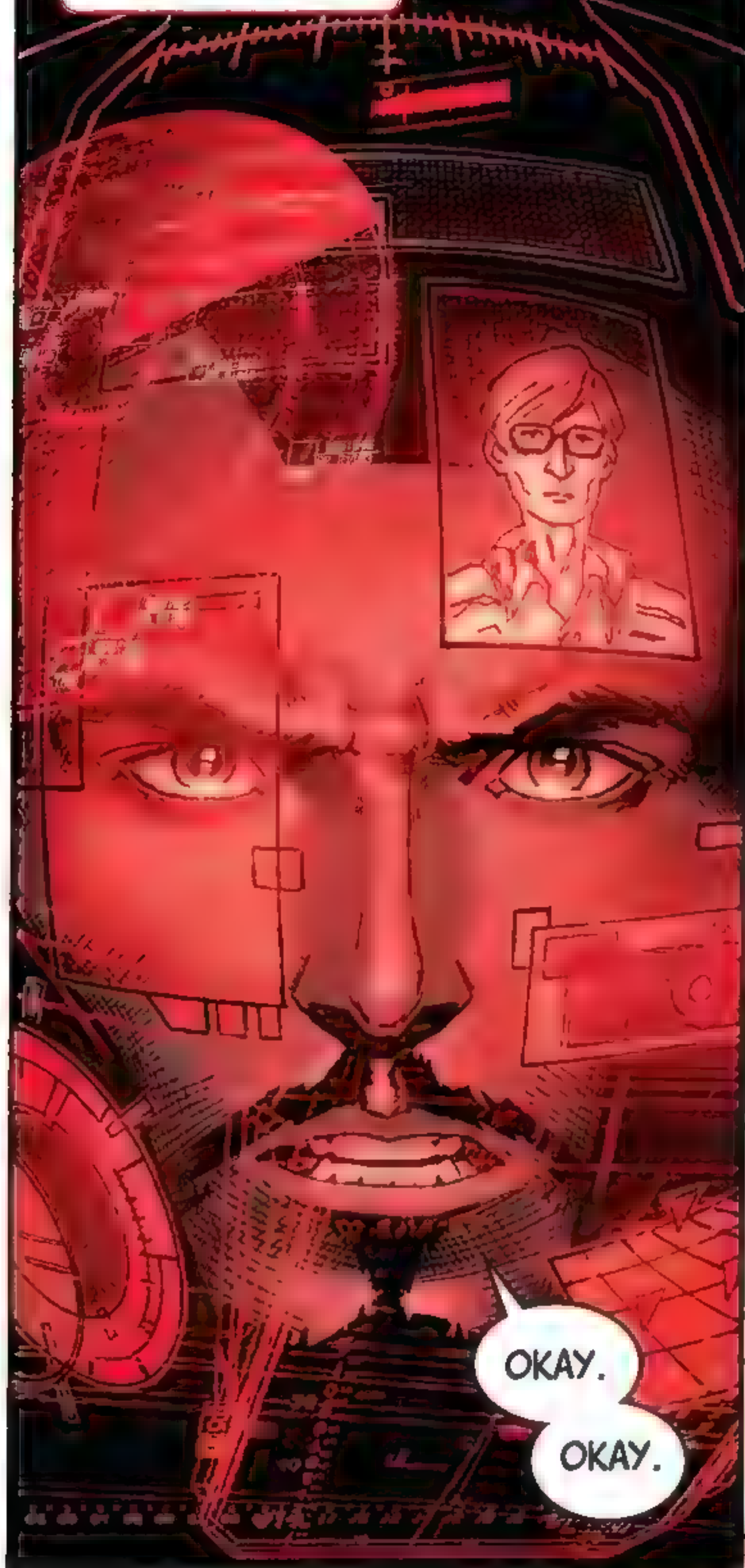


IT'S KEVIN
CONNOR.

GET ME
SOMETHING.

SEARCHING...

SUBJECT FOUND:
CONNOR,
KEVIN KALE



OKAY.

OKAY.



KID'S CLEAN,
STEVE.

GOOD GRADES. NO
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.
NO LEGAL TROUBLE OF
ANY KIND--NOTHING'S
BEEN SCRUBBED FROM
HIS RECORD.

AS FAR AS I CAN TELL,
THE ONLY THING WRONG
IS HE'S PAST DUE FOR A
BOOSTER SHOT.

TETANUS.

ALL
RIGHT.

LET'S GET
READY TO
MOVE OUT.

OKAY, KEVIN.
WE'RE GOING TO
GET YOU AWAY
FROM HERE.

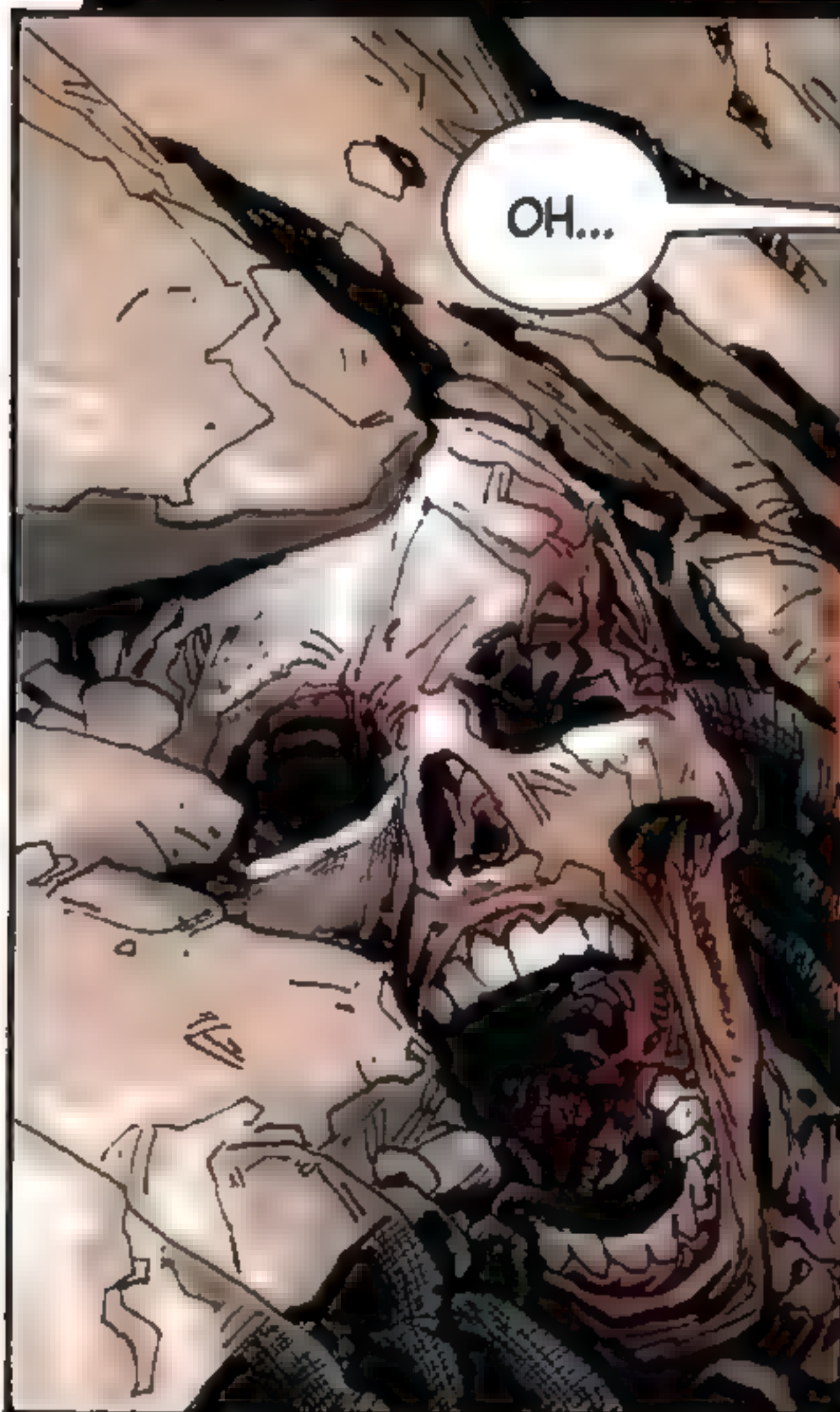
WE NEED TO
HAVE SOME PEOPLE
LOOK AT YOU--HAVE
THEM RUN SOME TESTS--
TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT
WHAT HAPPENED
HERE TODAY.

HOW'S THAT
SOUND?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN BY
TESTS?

I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT...

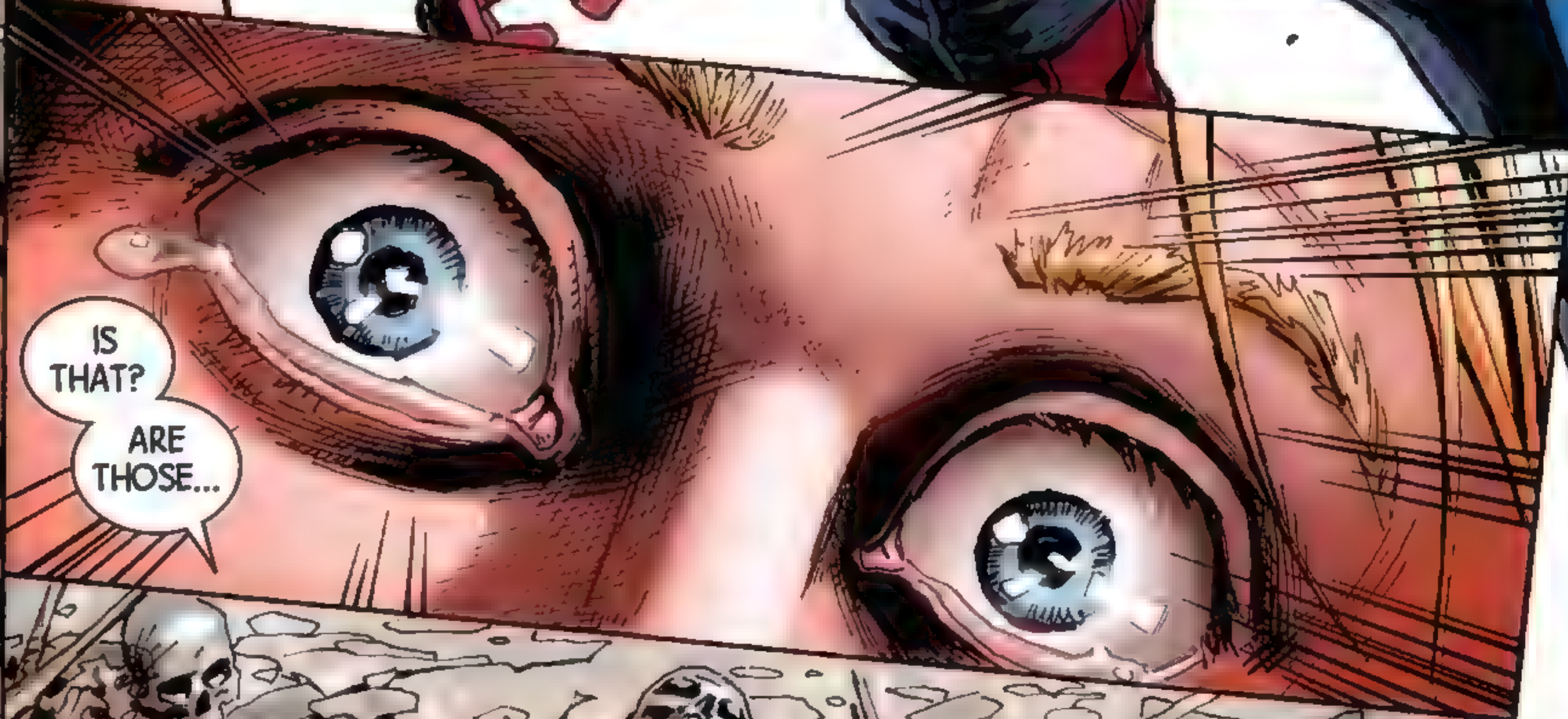
OH...



OH...

IS
THAT?

ARE
THOSE...



DEAD...

DEAD.



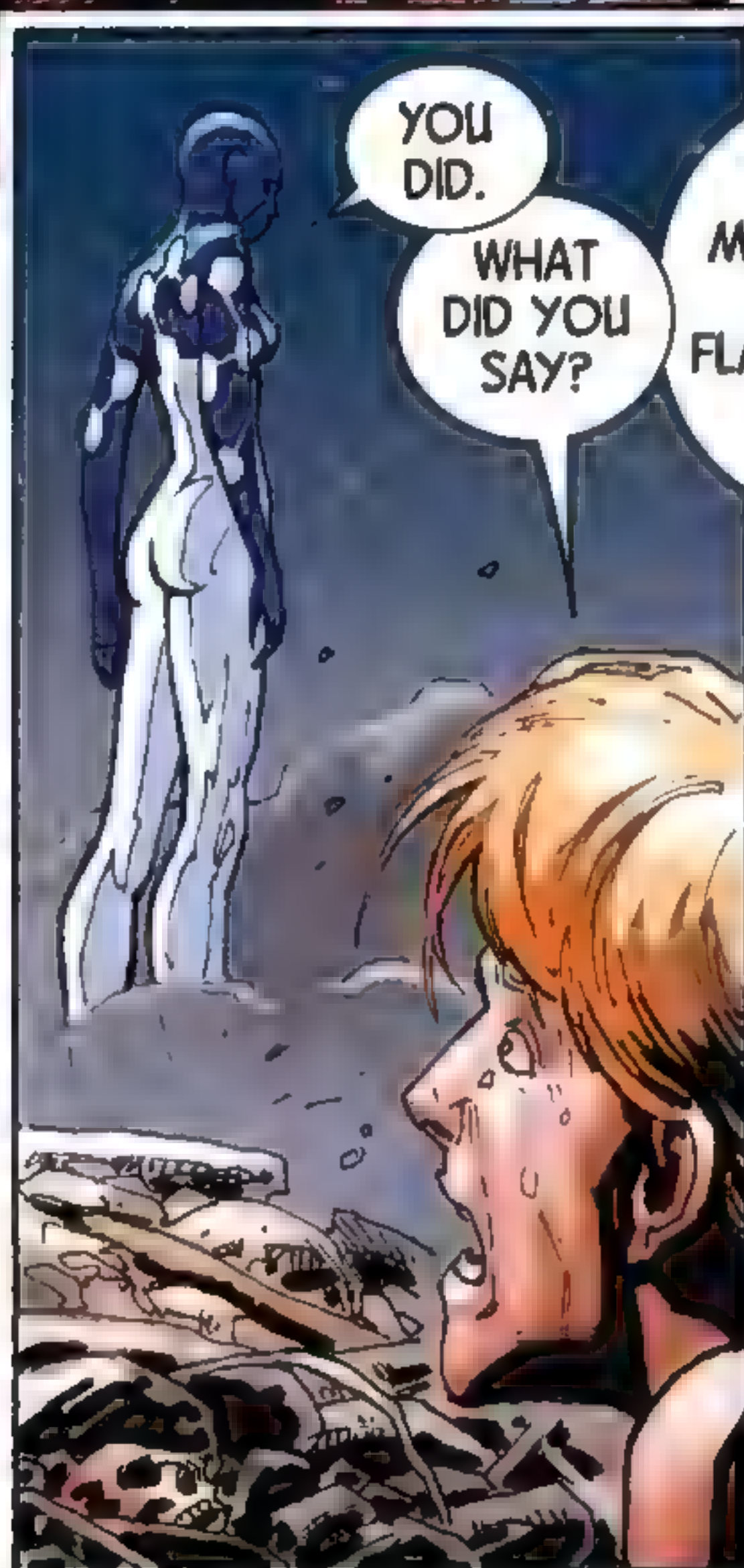


EVERYONE'S DEAD. OH, GOD...

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

WE'RE GOING TO FIGURE THAT OUT, BUT WE NEED TO GET YOU TO--

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?!

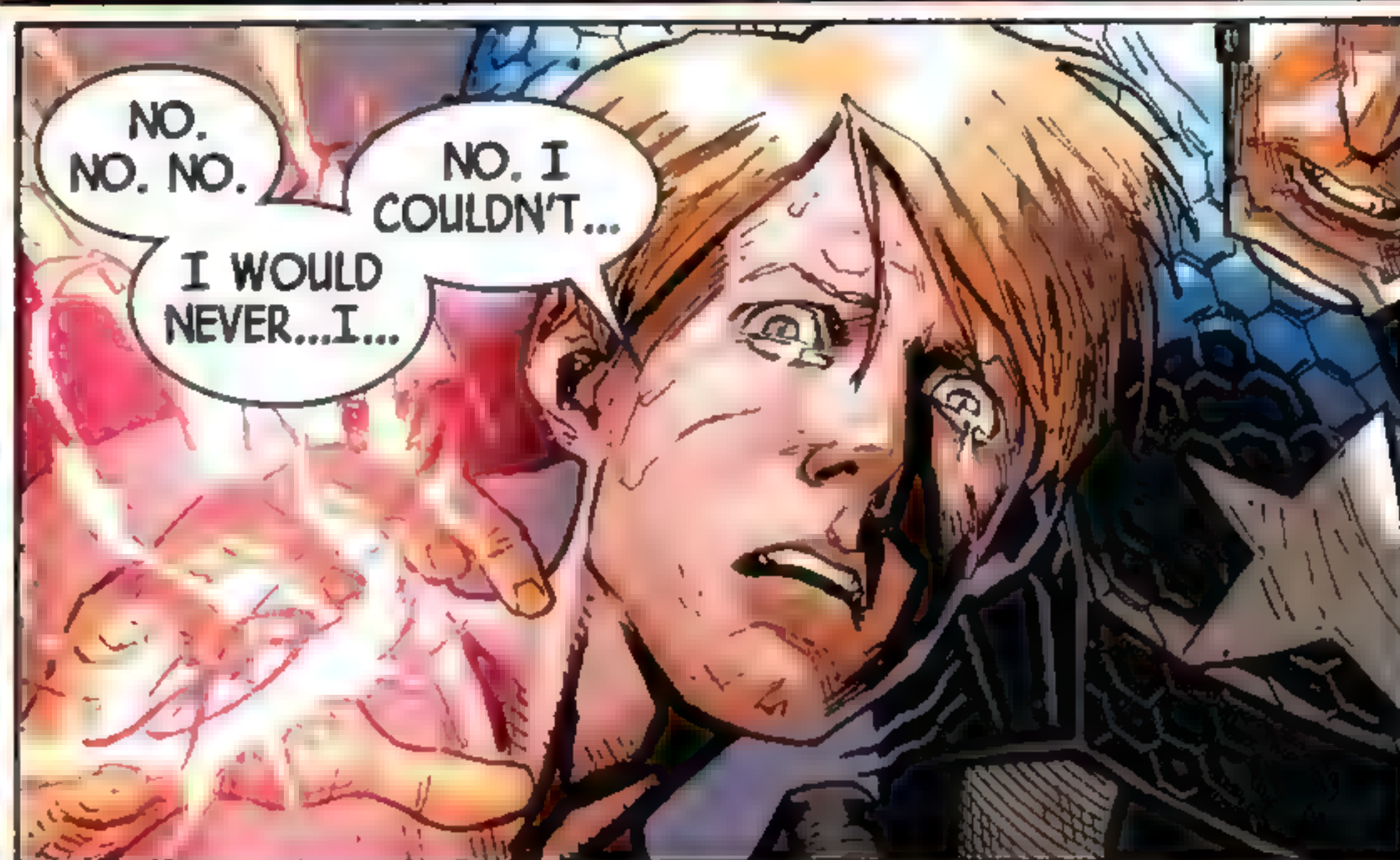


YOU DID.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

MY CHILDREN MADE SYSTEMS. YOU ARE A FLAWED PRODUCT OF THOSE SYSTEMS.

YOU WERE DESIGNED TO BE A WEAPON, KEVIN CONNOR. THAT WEAPON BECAME ACTIVE AND 3,203 PEOPLE DIED.



NO. NO. NO.

NO. I COULDN'T...

I WOULD NEVER...I...



YOU ALSO HAVE AN INCREASED METABOLISM NOW. YOU'LL NEED TO EAT SOON.



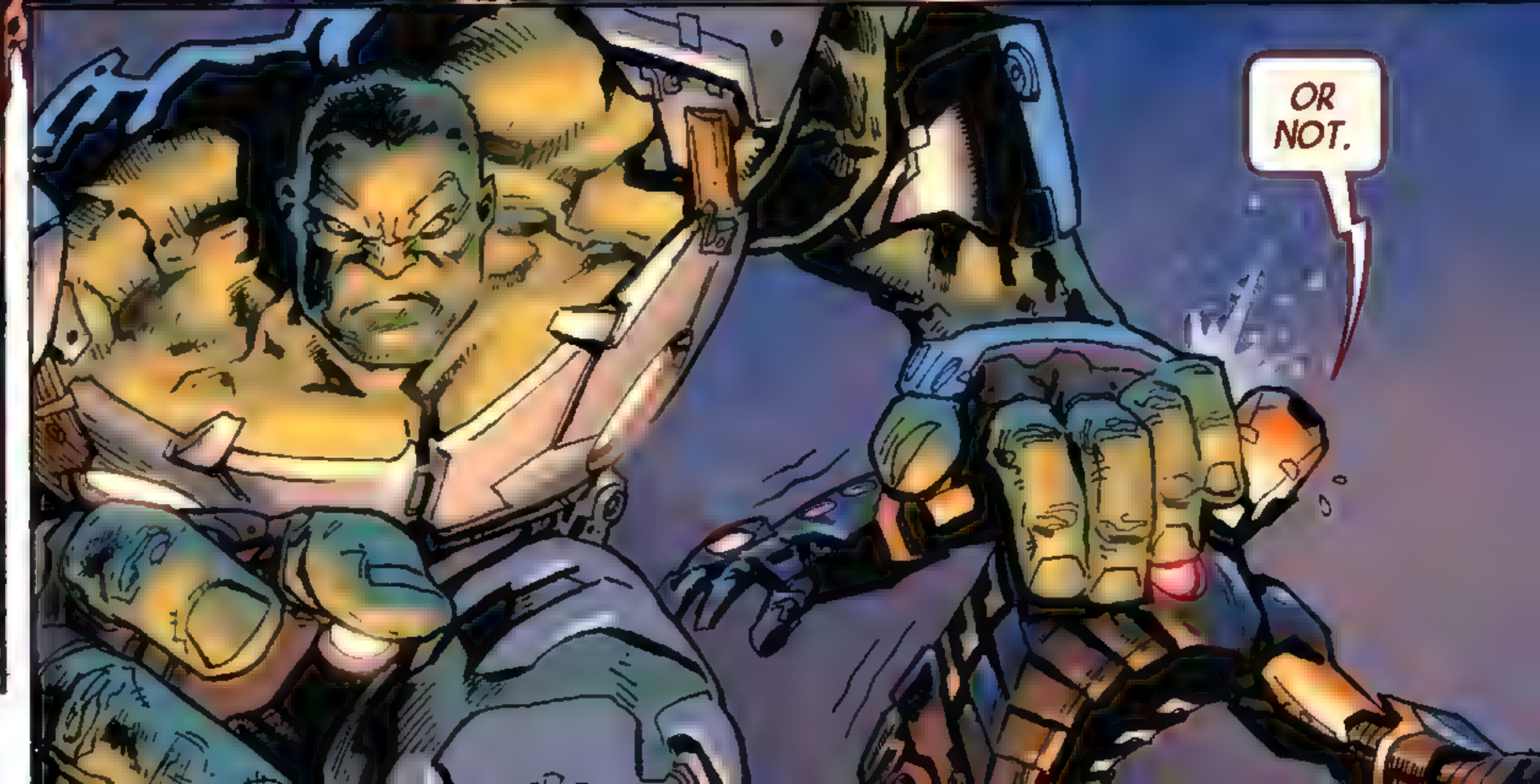
CALM DOWN. WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

NO!

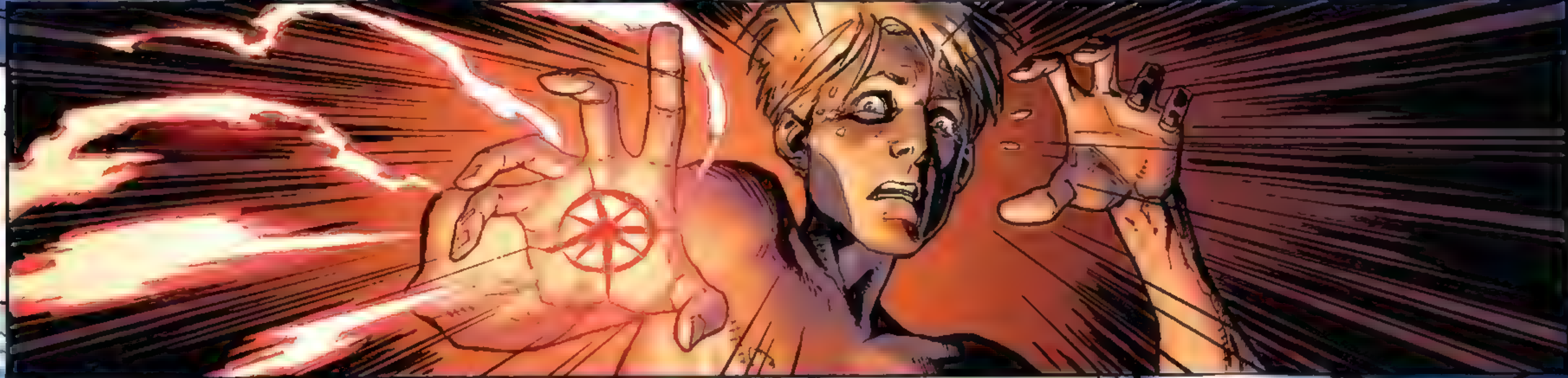


HE'S GOING ACTIVE. EVERYONE GET BACK!

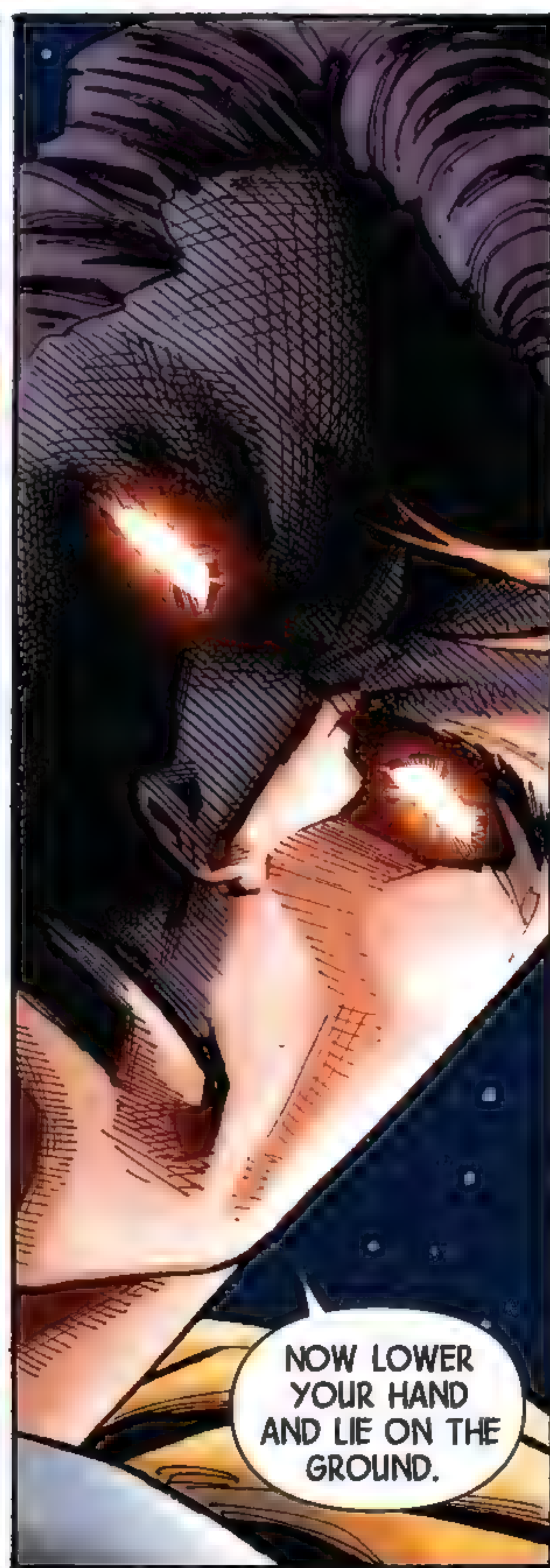
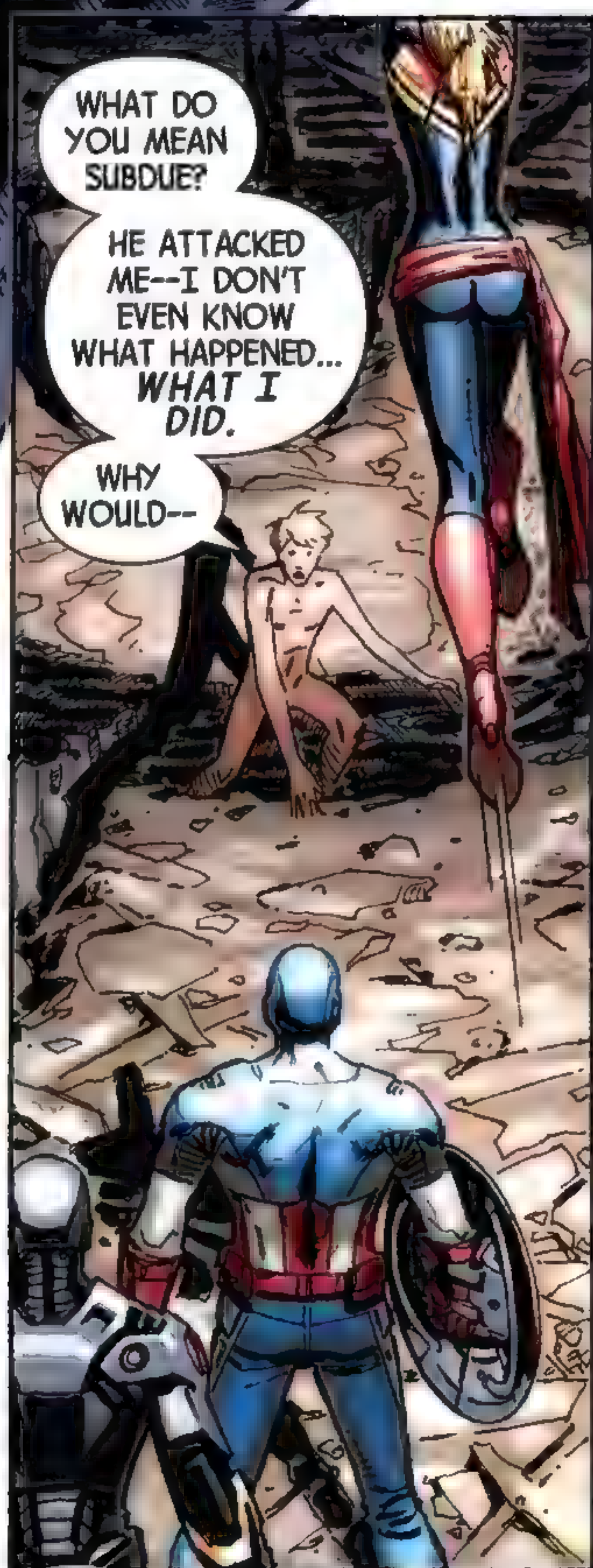
WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF HIS BLAST RADIUS. LET'S PULL BACK BEYOND THAT POINT AND TRY AND MANAGE THIS FROM THERE.

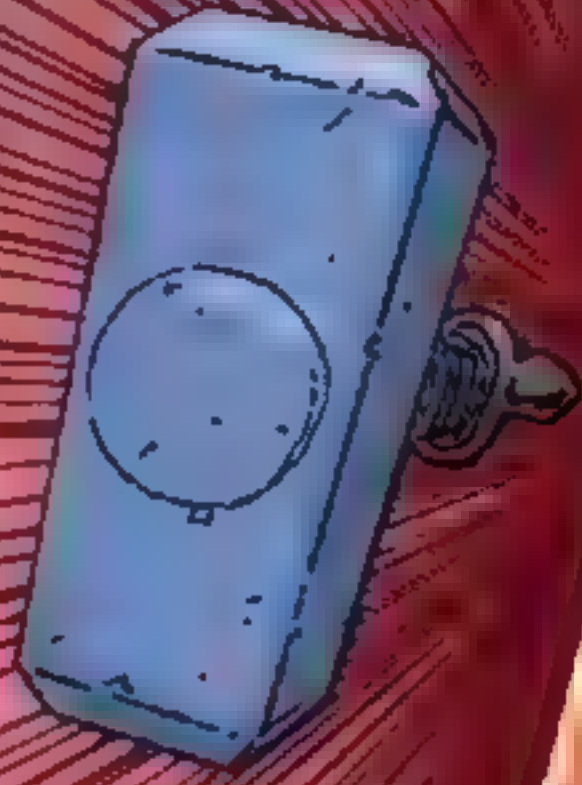


OR NOT.

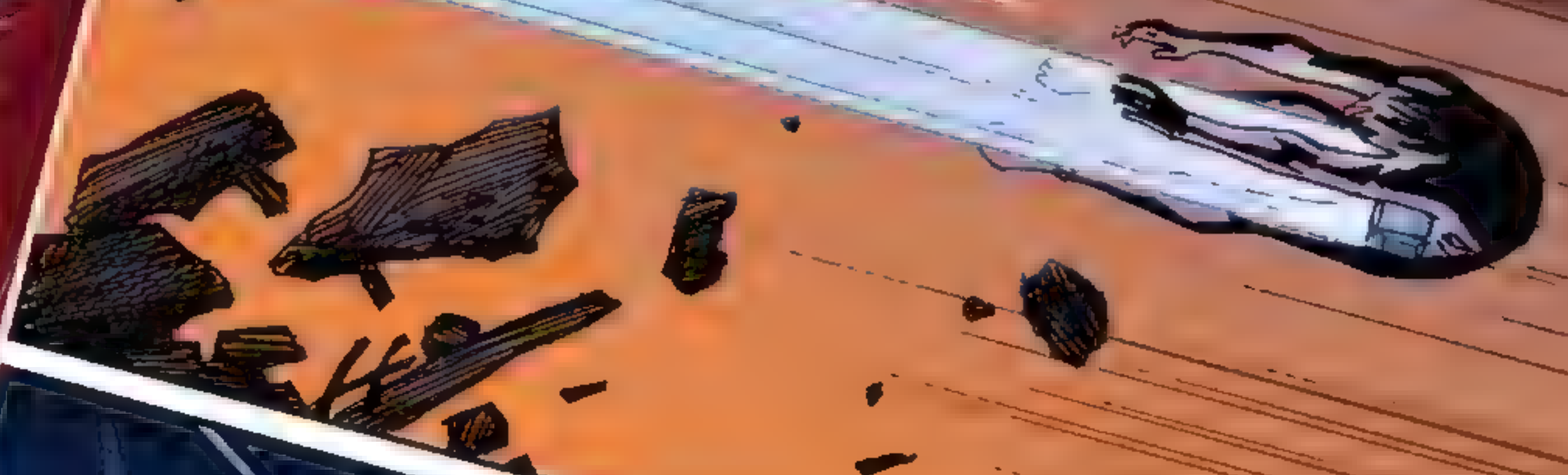




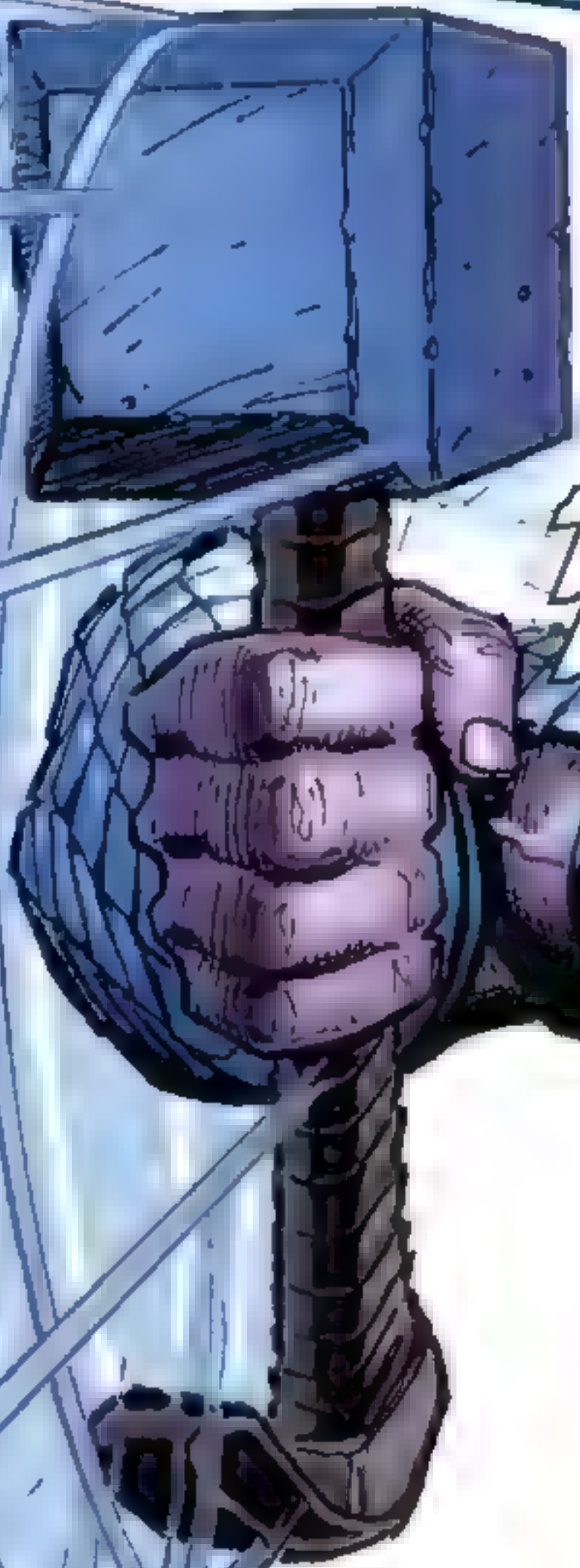




WAAAAA



WHAT YOU WANT, BOY, IS A CONCERN FOR YOUR MOTHER OR YOUR WEAK-KNEED FATHER.

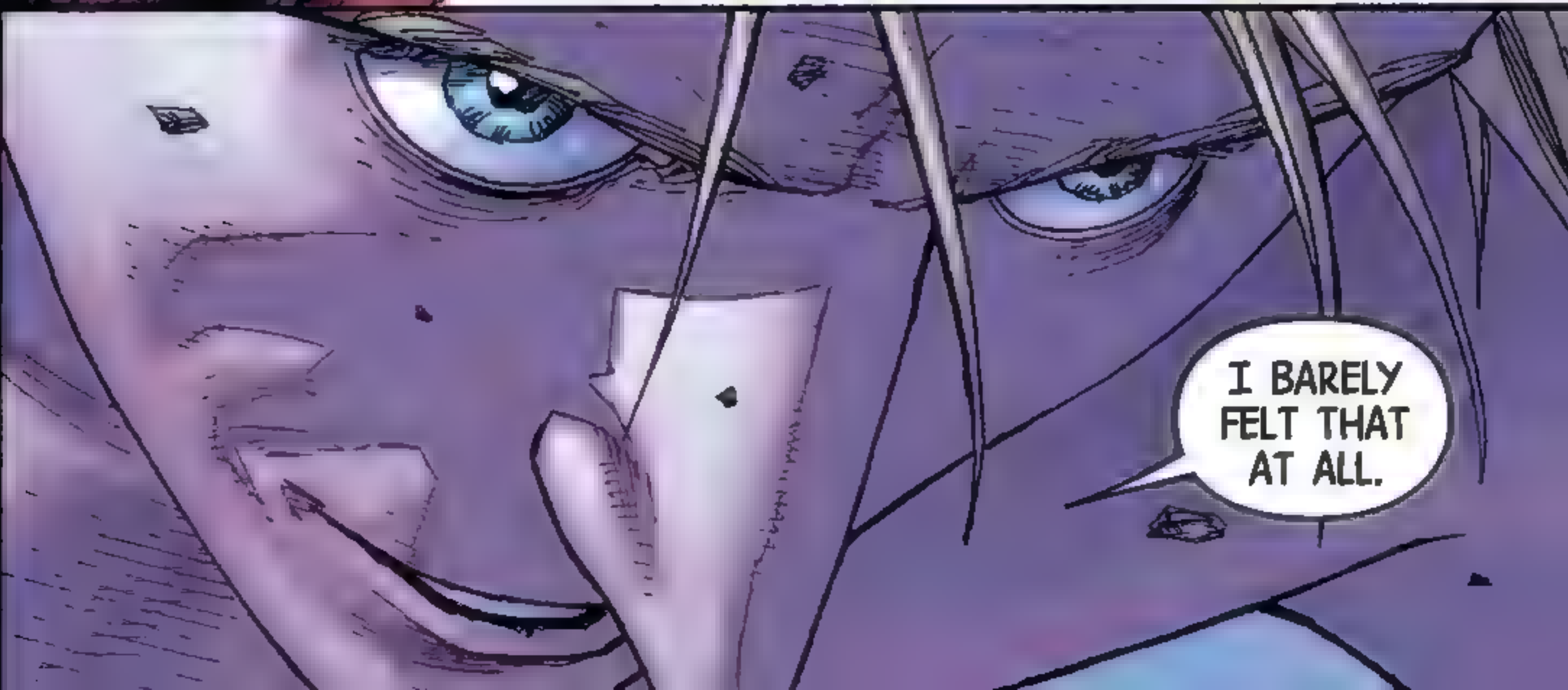


THUNK

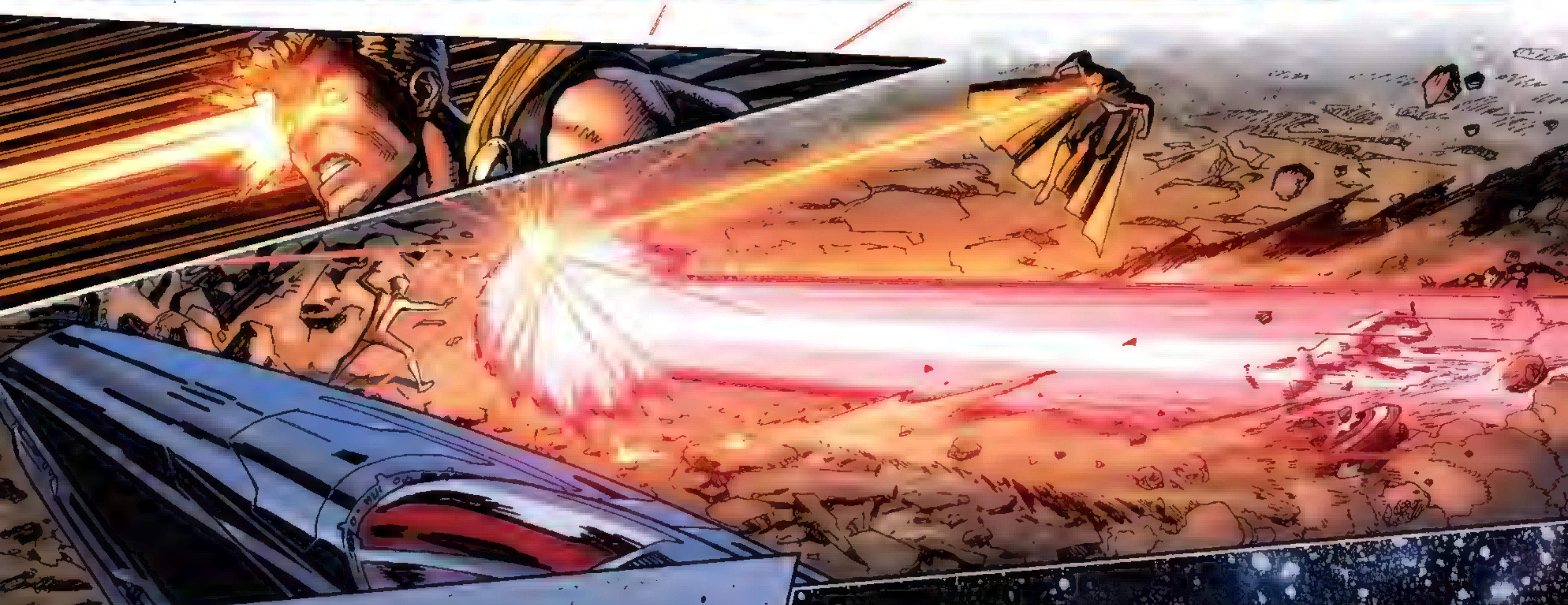
NOW...ARE YOU CAPABLE OF DOING AS YOU ARE TOLD, OR DO YOU CRAVE FURTHER INSTRUCTION?



I BARELY FELT THAT.



I BARELY FELT THAT AT ALL.







I SEE IT NOW.
THE SYSTEM IS MORE
THAN BROKEN.

THE SYSTEM IS
CONFLICTED.

YES.

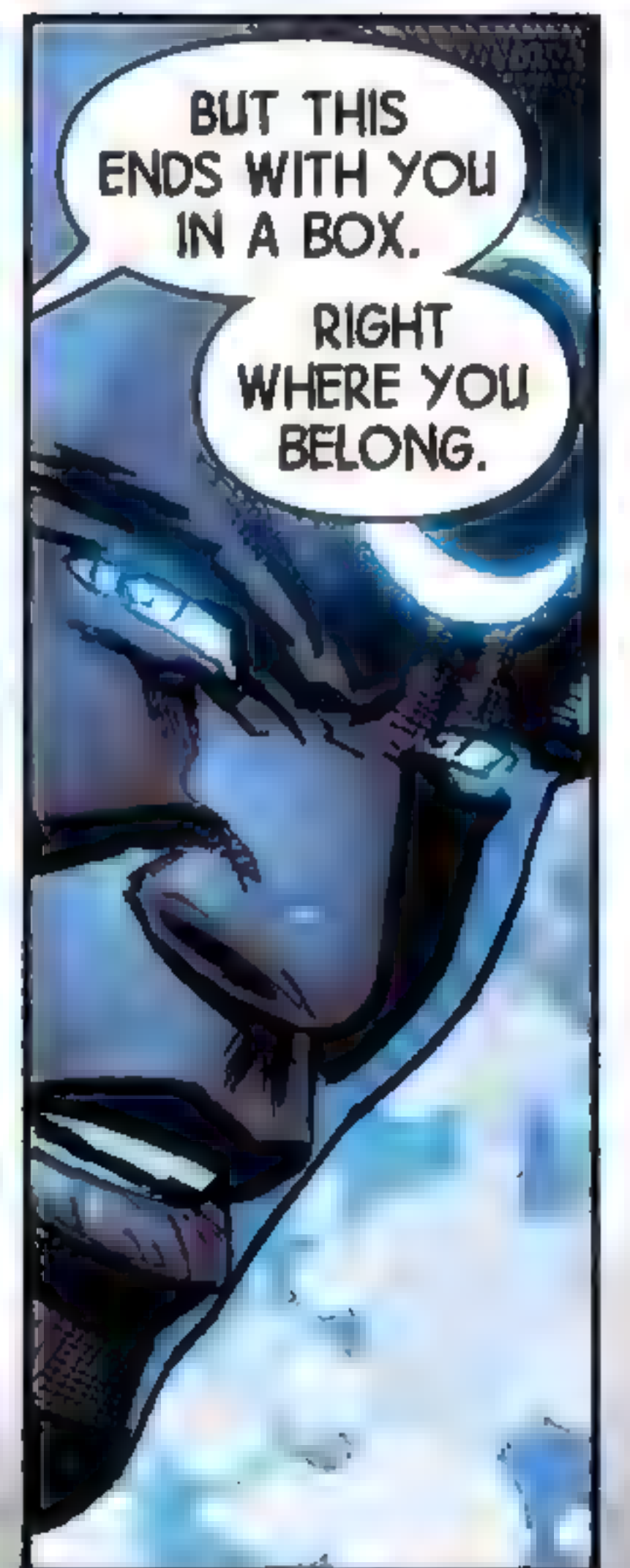
AND
NOW...

NOW,
THOR!

DO IT!

"YOU'RE GOING TO
MAKE THINGS WORSE."

AARRRRRRRR!



WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

THE SYSTEM IS
BROKEN, KEVIN CONNOR.
THIS RESULTED IN A
COMPROMISED TRANSITION
OF THE STARBRAND
AVATAR...

SO I MOVED
US FROM THERE TO
HERE, TO EASE THAT
TRANSITION...TO EASE
YOUR TRANSITION.

AS YOU
ARE NOW THE
STARBRAND.

RIGHT.
SUPER.

THANKS.

I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT.

LOOK
AT YOUR
HAND.

THAT IS
A STARBRAND. A
WEAPON DESIGNED
TO PROTECT A PEOPLE
AS THEY PROGRESS
THROUGH A CHANGE
PERIOD, BECOMING
A MORE ADVANCED
SOCIETY.

IT'S A
DEFENSE SYSTEM
OF PLANETARY
SCALE.

IT IS
WHAT YOU HAVE
BECOME.

YOU ARE A
STARBRAND.

YOU
SAID IT WAS
BROKEN.

DOES THAT
MEAN SOMETHING
IS WRONG WITH
ME?

YES, BUT
SOMETHING FAR
BEYOND YOU BEING AN
IMPERFECT VESSEL.

IT'S MORE
THAN EITHER
OF US.

IT'S THE
SYSTEM. ALL OF IT.
EVERYTHING.

TURN
AROUND.

THIS IS THE
SUPERFLOW OF THE
UNIVERSE.

IT IS A DYING
NETWORK *CREATED*
BY THE BUILDERS. IT
IS BROKEN.

THAT LARGE
MACHINE IS THE
USELESS HUSK OF A
COMMUNICATION STATION--A
SYSTEM OF THE *BUILDERS*.
THE DELIVERY MECHANISM FOR
PRODUCING AVATARS SUCH
AS OURSELVES.

THERE WOULD
HAVE BEEN OTHERS,
BUT THIS WAS A
FRACTURED, FAILED EVENT
AND THEY DID NOT
MANIFEST.

WE ARE,
MOST LIKELY,
ALONE.

SO, THINGS
ARE PRETTY MUCH
HOW THEY'VE ALWAYS
BEEN EXCEPT NOW I
CAN BLOW UP A
PLANET?

NO, KEVIN.
NOTHING IS THE
SAME.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW I'M
SUPPOSED TO FEEL
ABOUT ANY OF
THIS...

CAN WE JUST
HANG OUT HERE?
I JUST KNOW THAT I
DON'T WANT TO GO
BACK THERE...TO
WHAT I DID.

NO. WE MOVE
FORWARD--WE
DO WHAT WE HAVE
BEEN ENGINEERED
TO DO.

BUT THERE
IS A PROBLEM WITH
OUR WORLD. THE
BUILDERS HAD OTHER,
OLDER *SYSTEMS* THAT
CAME BEFORE *OUR*
SYSTEM. THESE
SYSTEMS WERE NOT
MEANT TO BE USED
IN TANDEM.

THERE IS A
CONFLICT, KEVIN
CONNOR. WE HAVE
TO FIX IT.

CAN I
ASK YOU A
QUESTION?

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

ADAM.

COOL. THANKS
FOR SAVING ME
BACK THERE, ADAM.
I OWE YOU
ONE.

WHAT
DO WE DO
NOW?

WHERE
ARE WE
GOING?

FOLLOW ME.
WE CAN USE THIS
SPACE TO TRAVEL
FROM ONE PLACE
TO ANOTHER.

HOME.

AVENGERS TOWER.
LATER.

I...I DON'T
REMEMBER.

I DON'T
REMEMBER ANYTHING
LIKE WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

I REMEMBER
LIGHTS AND A CRASH,
AND THEN...THIS IS ALL
SO CONFUSING...

IT'S
OKAY, TAMARA.
IT'S FINE.

EVERYTHING'S
FINE.

I TALKED TO HER
THE ENTIRE WAY BACK.
SHE'S GOT NO RECOLLECTION
OF WHAT'S HAPPENED
WHILE SHE WAS
CAPTAIN UNIVERSE.

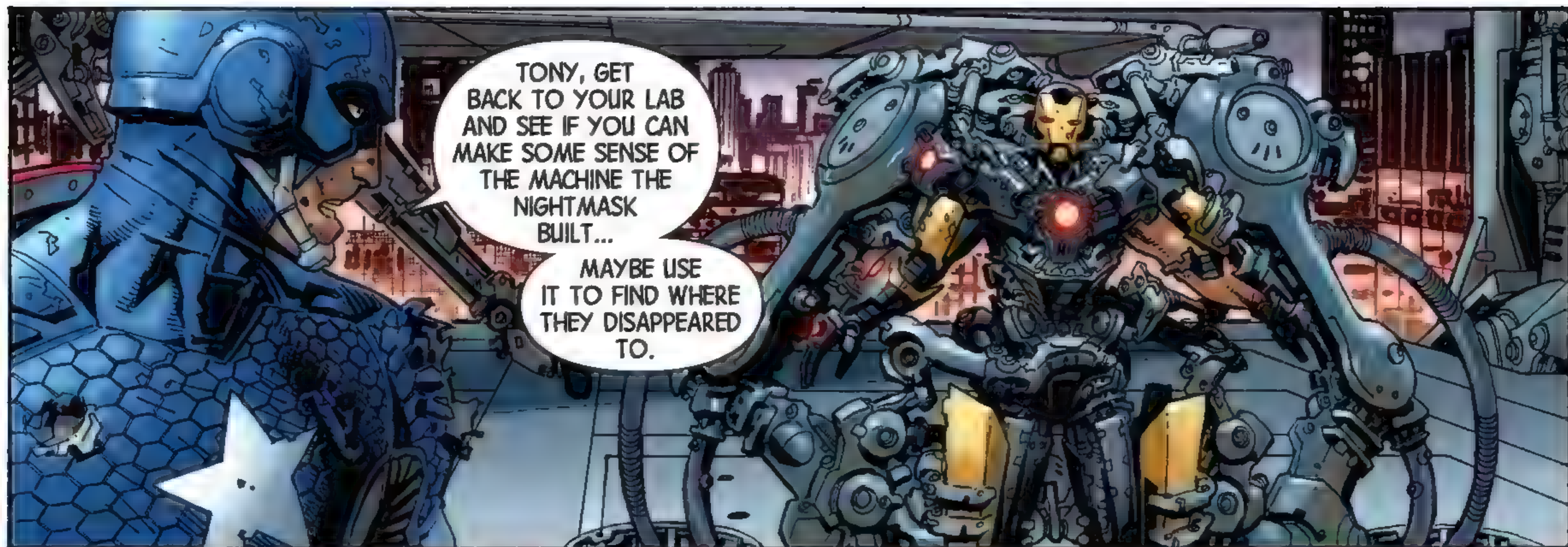
BLIND
ALLEY.

EVENTUALLY,
WE'RE GOING TO NEED
TO BRING SOMEONE
ELSE IN TO HELP
WITH HER.

BUT THAT'S
LATER...WHEN WE HEAD
BACK OUT, WE'RE GOING
TO NEED MORE THAN THE
STRIKE TEAM, CAROL.

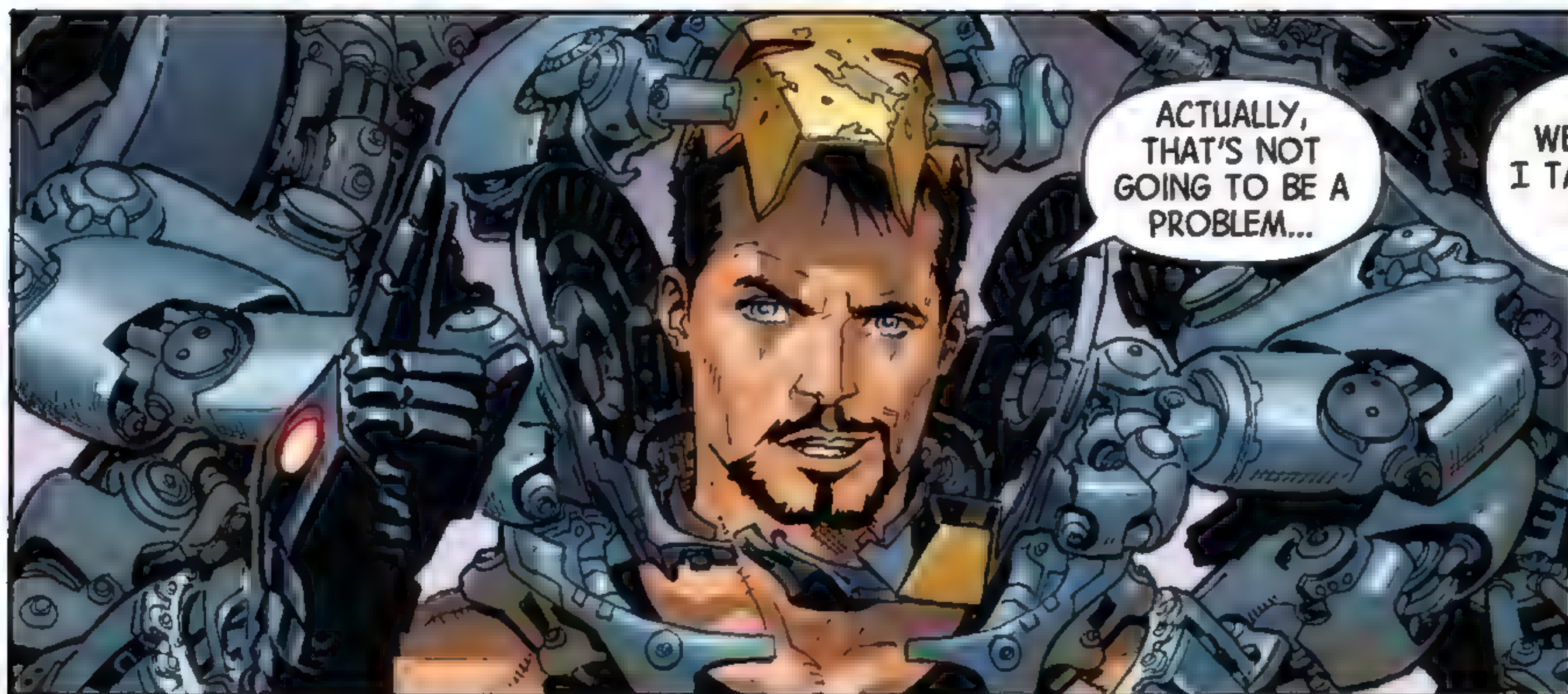
ALREADY SENT
OUT THE SIGNAL.
THE WORLD IS WIDE
AWAKE, CAP.

GOOD...



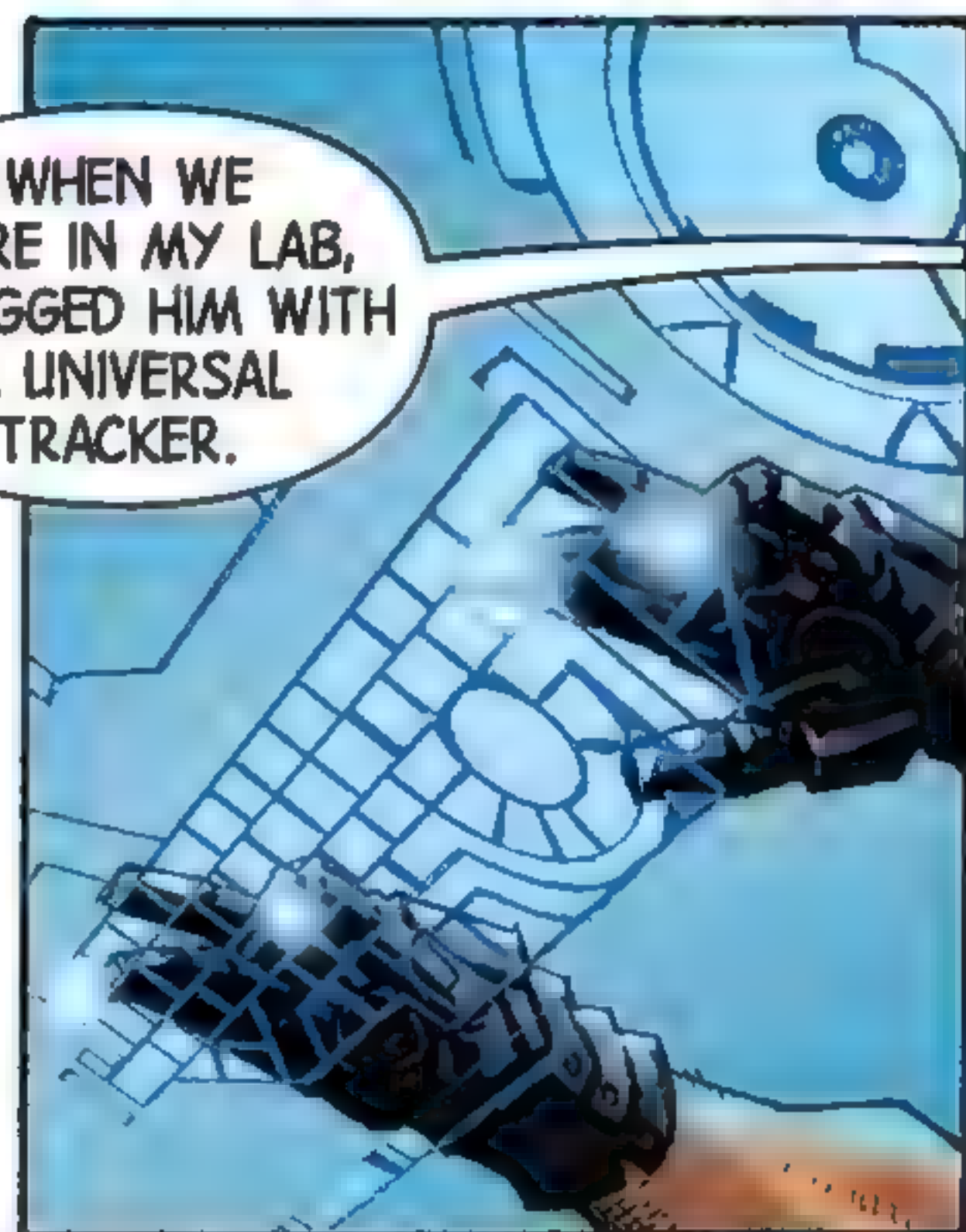
TONY, GET BACK TO YOUR LAB AND SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE SOME SENSE OF THE MACHINE THE NIGHTMASK BUILT...

MAYBE USE IT TO FIND WHERE THEY DISAPPEARED TO.



ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM...

WHEN WE WERE IN MY LAB, I TAGGED HIM WITH A UNIVERSAL TRACKER.



I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PINPOINT HIS LOCATION IF WE GET A PING. AND, FORTUNATELY, AS LONG AS HE'S CLOSE TO OUR OWN LOCAL UNIVERSE, WE SHOULD GET ONE.

SERIOUSLY? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D COOK UP.

YEAH, BANNER, THIS IS ONE OF REED RICHARDS' MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION, ACTUALLY.

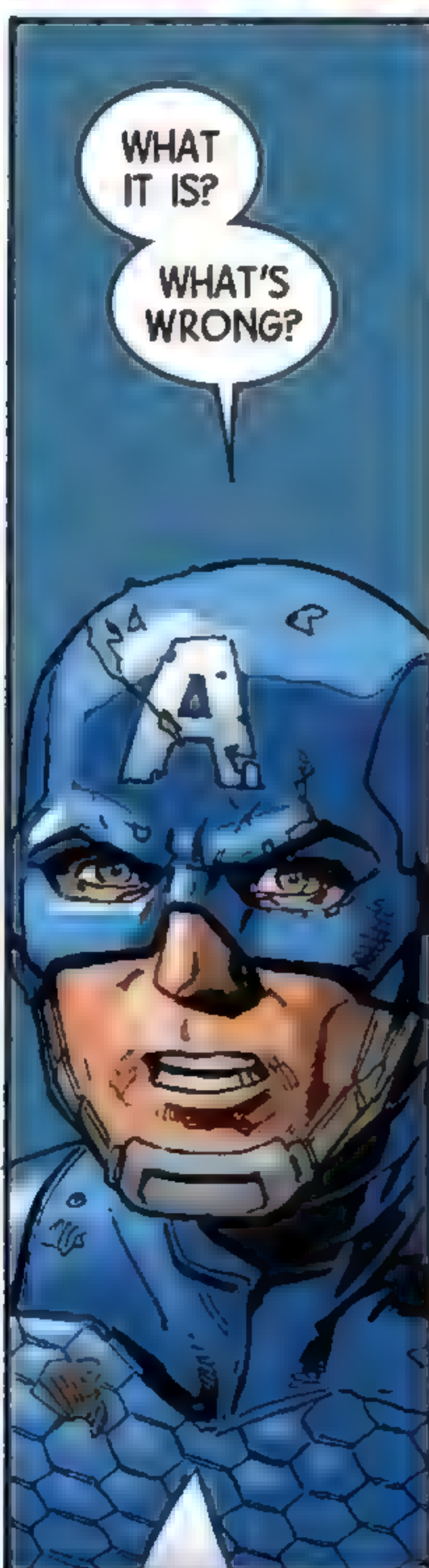


WHY WOULD---

PING!

GOT IT. HE'S...

OH, NO...



WHAT IT IS?

WHAT'S WRONG?



UNBELIEVABLE.

HE'S ON MARS.



UH...
THE SKY'S
RED.

WE'RE NOT
ON...THIS ISN'T
EARTH, IS IT?

NO.
THIS IS *THE*
GARDEN.

MARS.

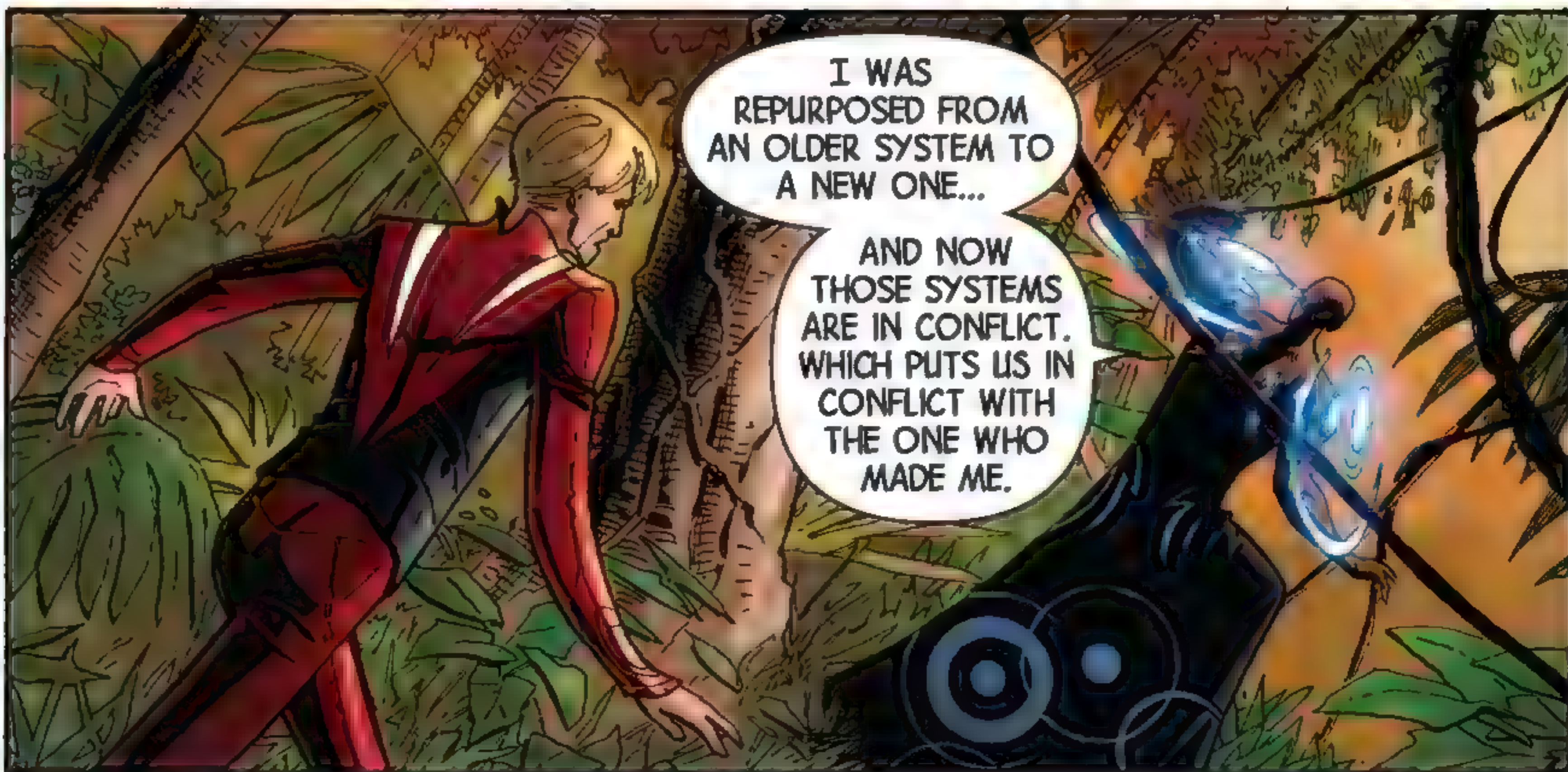
"I WAS
BORN HERE..."



I WAS
PERFECTED
HERE.

MEANT TO
BE A BETTER MAN
THAN ALL OF YOU
OLD HUMANS...BUT
THEN SOMETHING
HAPPENED.

THE WHITE
EVENT.



I WAS
REPURPOSED FROM
AN OLDER SYSTEM TO
A NEW ONE...

AND NOW
THOSE SYSTEMS
ARE IN CONFLICT.
WHICH PUTS US IN
CONFLICT WITH
THE ONE WHO
MADE ME.



MY
FATHER...

"EX NIHILO."

LOOK,
ABYSS...

LOOK.



AH,
CHILDREN...

THEY
GROW UP
SO FAST.





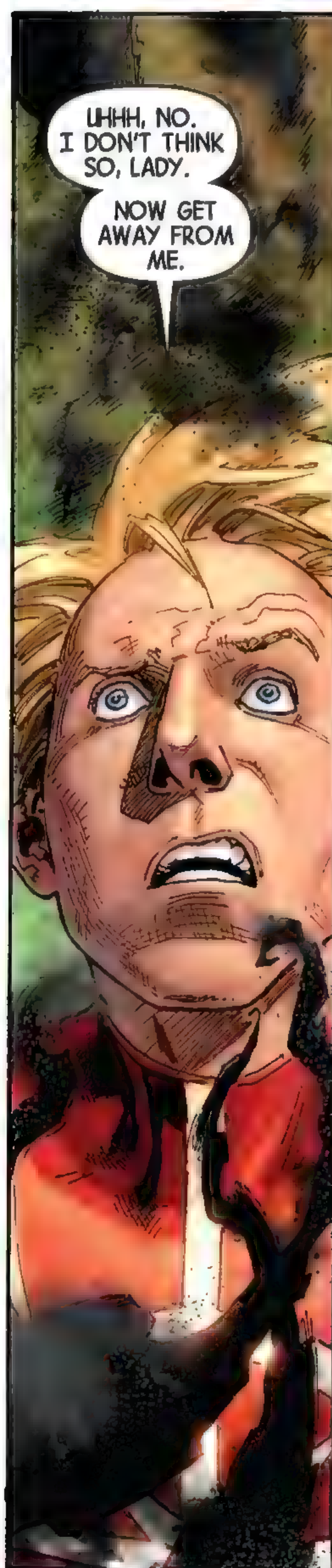
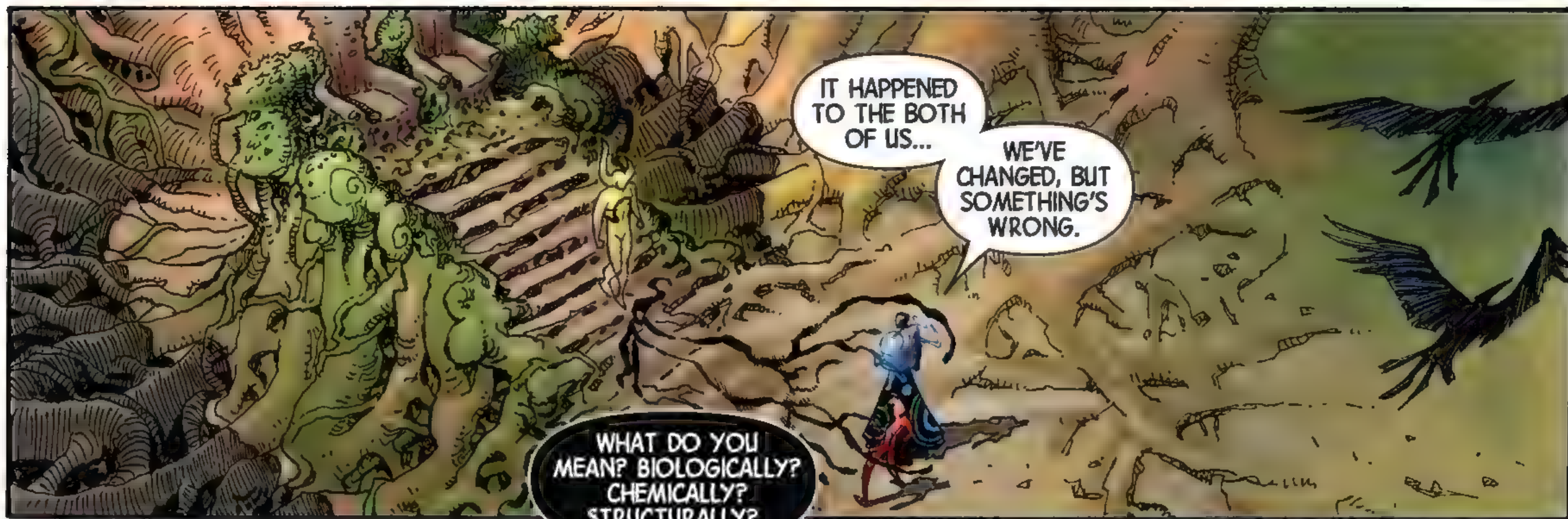
“STAR BOUND”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



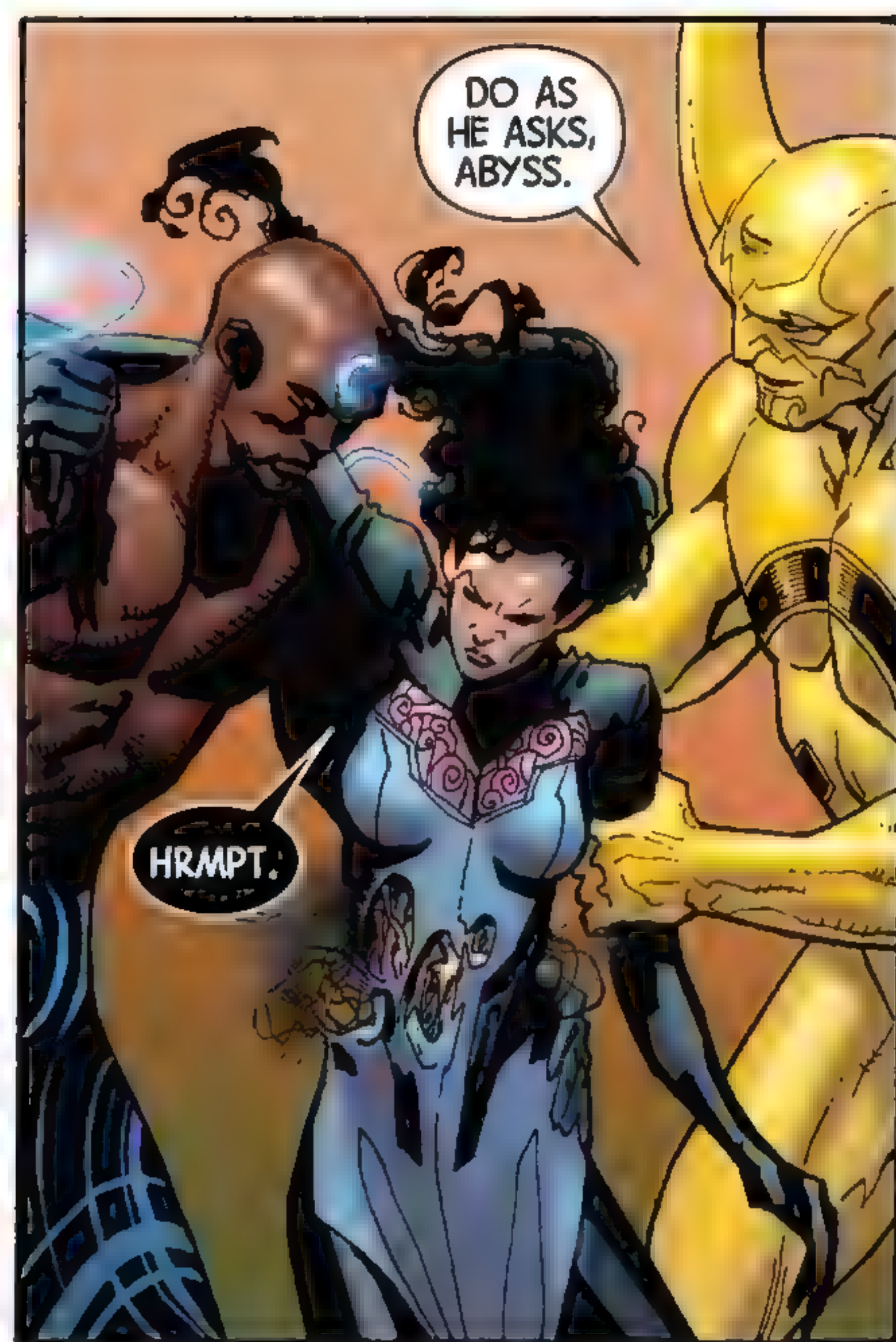




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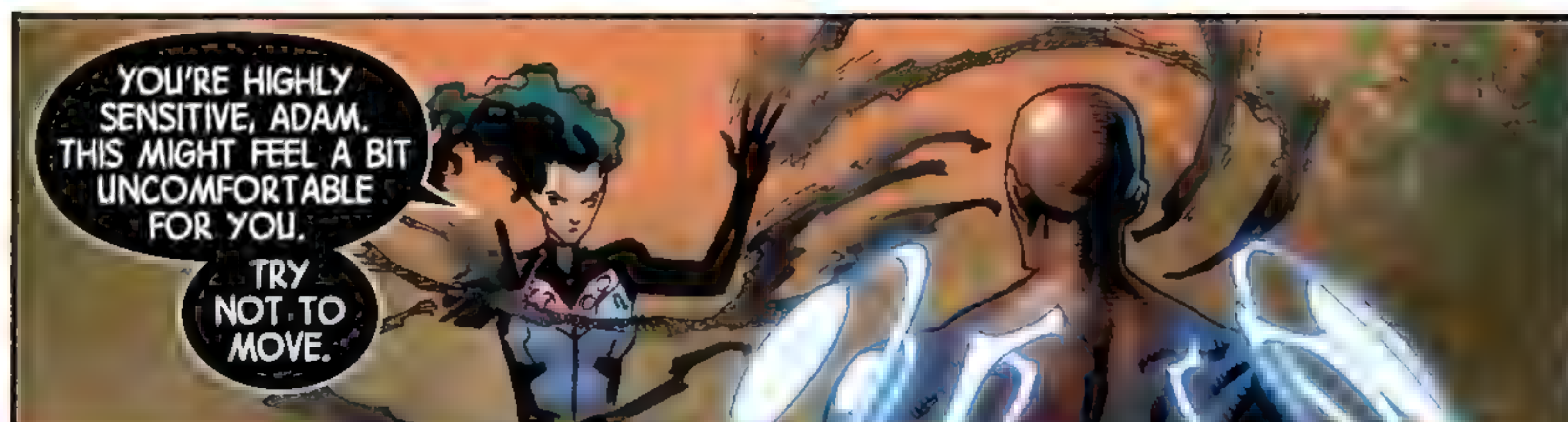
PLEASE...
WE DO NOT
KNOW WHAT IS
HAPPENING.

START
WITH ME.



DO AS
HE ASKS,
ABYSS.

HRMPT.



YOU'RE HIGHLY
SENSITIVE, ADAM.
THIS MIGHT FEEL A BIT
UNCOMFORTABLE
FOR YOU.

TRY
NOT TO
MOVE.



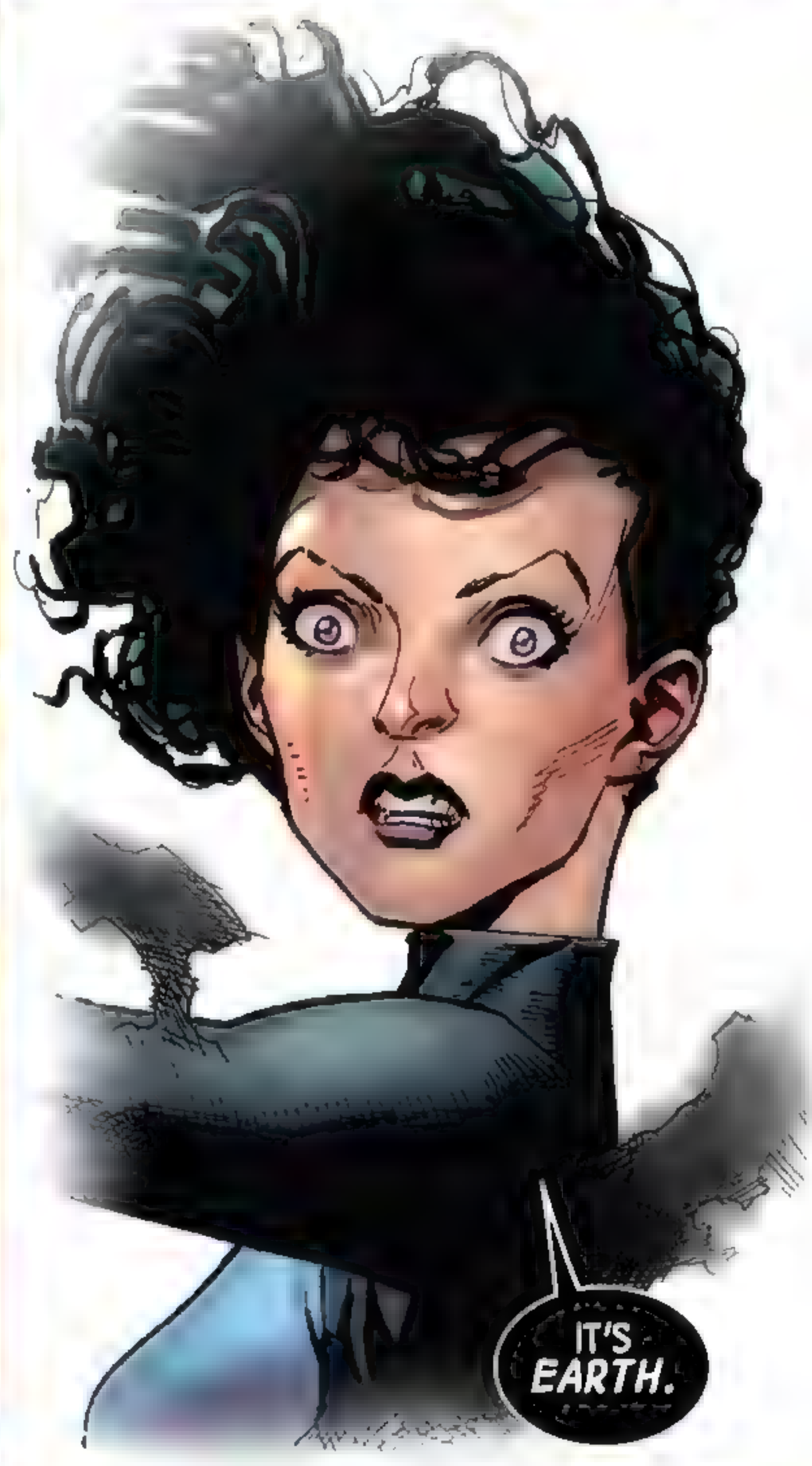
GENETICALLY
PERFECT HUMAN.
MODIFIED...

SECONDARY
BUILDER SYSTEM.
INCOMPLETE
DOWNLOAD,
BUT...

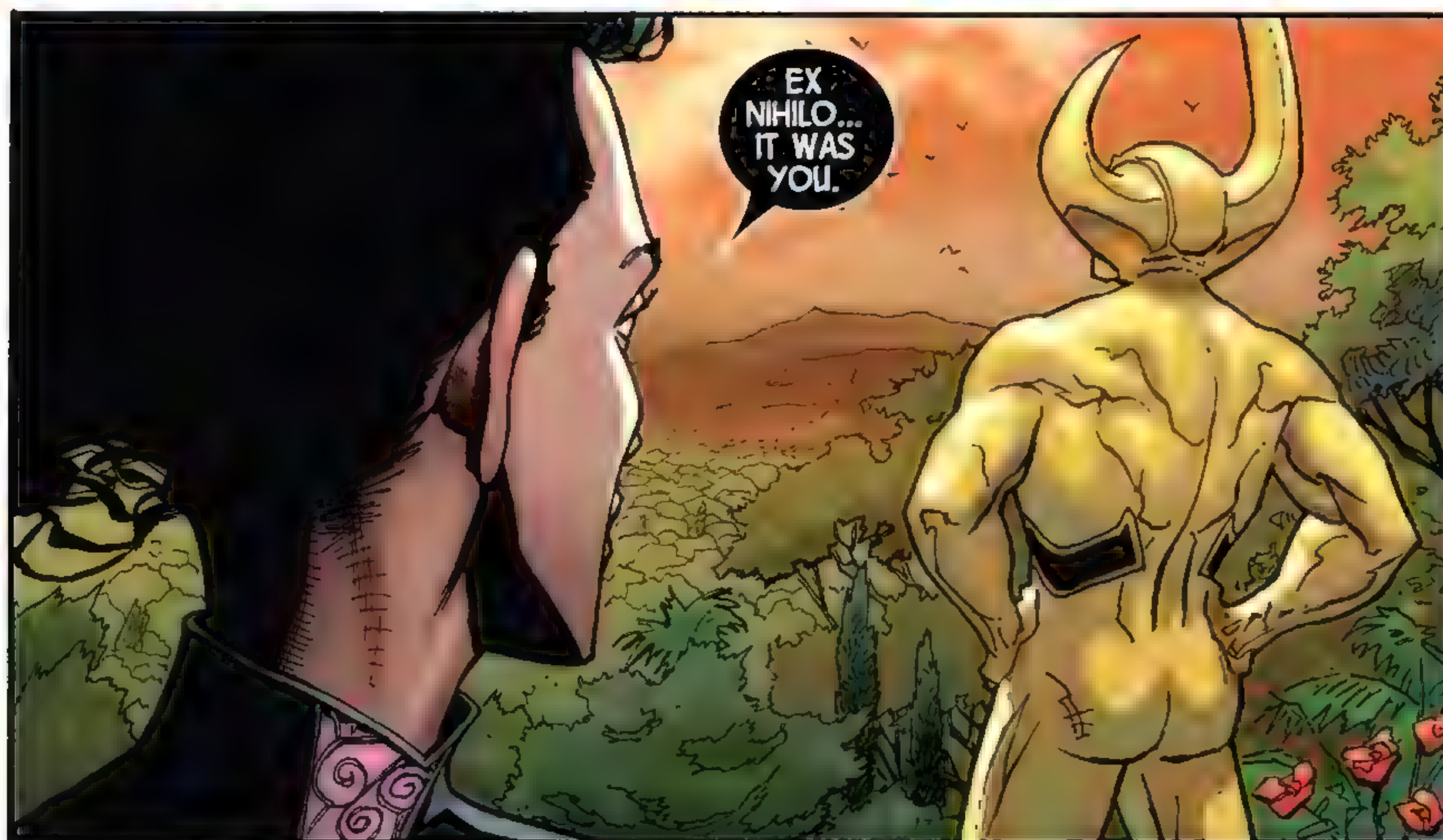
UUHHHHH!

BUT THE
CONFLICT...

IS
NOT WITH
YOU.



IT'S
EARTH.



EX
NIHILO...
IT WAS
YOU.



I WAS
BORED.

SO I DID
SOMETHING
NEW.



"ON OTHER
WORLDS, WE
GARDENERS
HAVE ALWAYS
JUDGED LIFE.

"IF IT WAS FLAWED, WE
TERMINATED IT. IF IT
HAD POTENTIAL, WE
ENCOURAGED EVOLUTION.

"THIS TIME...
I CHANGED
THE RULES."



WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE,
BROTHER?

I TWEAKED
THE MIX. I PLAYED
GODDESS.

THE BOMBS
I SENT WERE NOT
JUST TO CHANGE THE
PEOPLE, BUT THE
WORLD ITSELF.

I'M ATTEMPTING
TO MAKE THE EARTH
SENTIENT.

YOU DID
WHAT?



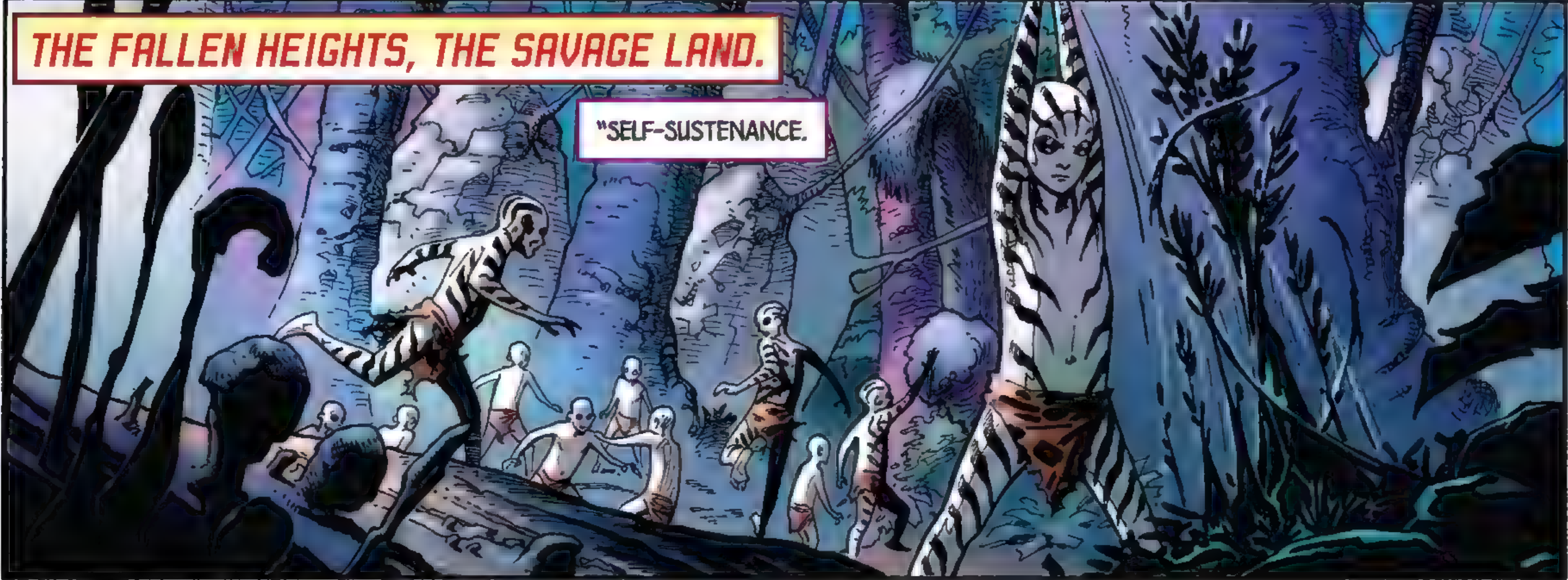
EACH
BOMB CARRIED
A SPECIFIC
CHARGE.

A TRAIT
THAT ALL
EVOLVING SPECIES
POSSESS.



SPLIT, CAORTIA.

"SELF-AWARENESS.



THE FALLEN HEIGHTS, THE SAVAGE LAND.

"SELF-SUSTENANCE.

CHHATAPU, INDIA.

"SELF-REPAIR."



KOBE, JAPAN.

"REPRODUCTION."



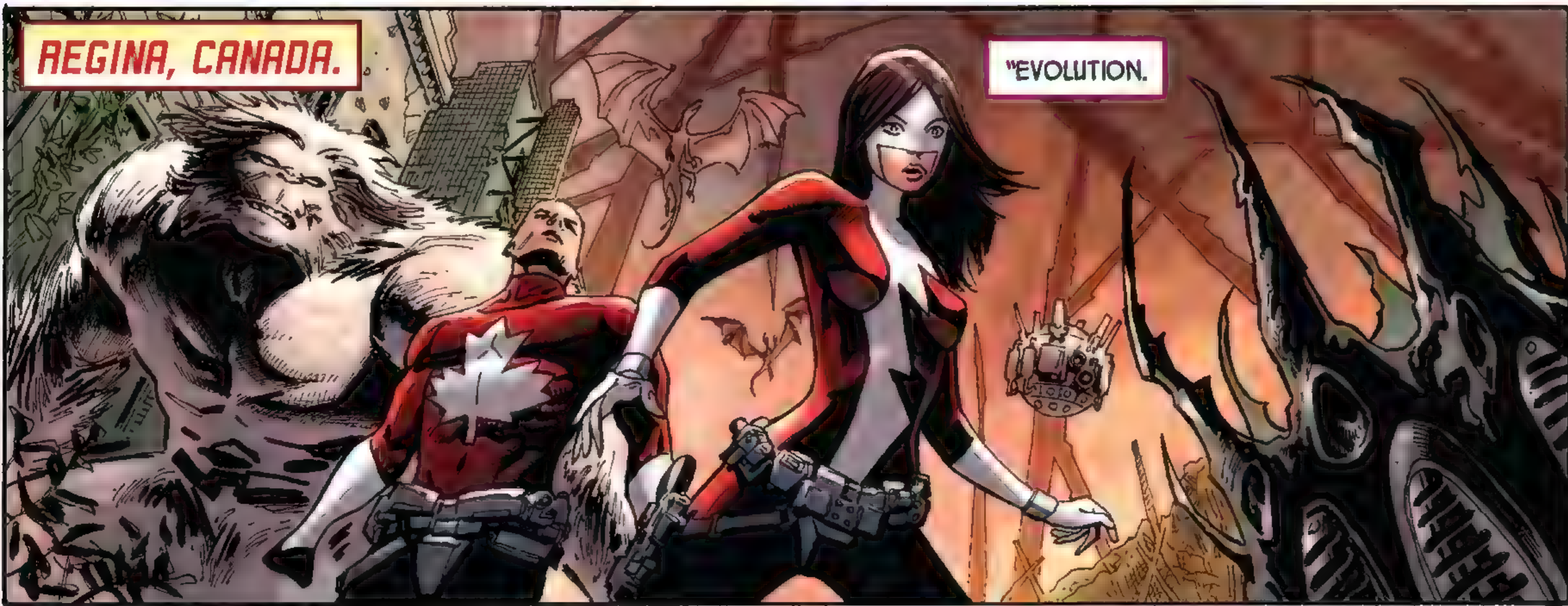
PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

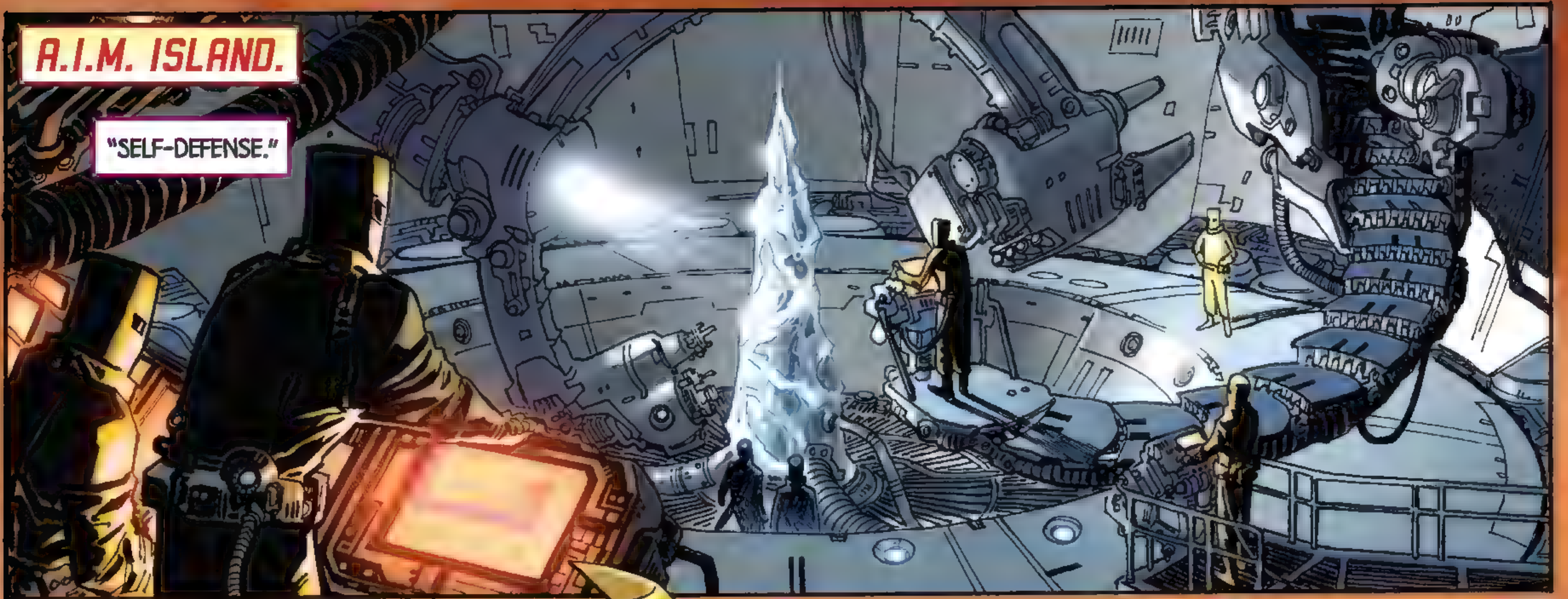
"COMMUNICATION."



REGINA, CANADA.

"EVOLUTION."





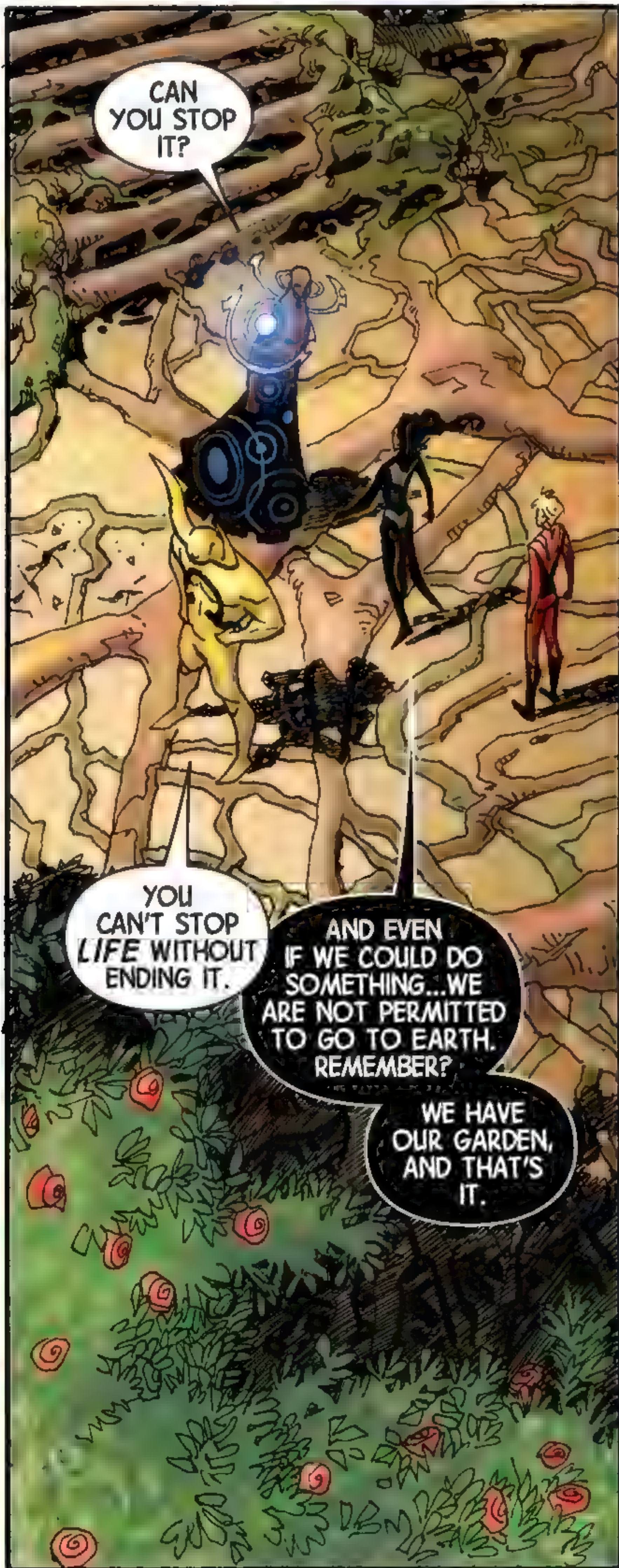
A.I.M. ISLAND.

"SELF-DEFENSE."



WHO KNOWS
WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHEN ALL THE SITES
BEGIN THEIR CHANGE
STATE...

BUT I
GUARANTEE
IT WILL BE
DIFFERENT.



CAN
YOU STOP
IT?

YOU
CAN'T STOP
LIFE WITHOUT
ENDING IT.

AND EVEN
IF WE COULD DO
SOMETHING...WE
ARE NOT PERMITTED
TO GO TO EARTH.
REMEMBER?

WE HAVE
OUR GARDEN,
AND THAT'S
IT.



SO WHAT
ARE WE SUPPOSED
TO DO NOW?

BEHAVE, AND
YOU AND ADAM
CAN STAY HERE AS
LONG AS YOU
LIKE.



OR YOU
COULD GO
BACK...

SEE WHAT
HAPPENS.

IT MIGHT
JUST BE
SOMETHING
TO SEE.

AVENGERS TOWER.



TRACKING
PLACES NIGHTMASK
AND STARBRAND AT
THE GARDEN SITE
ON MARS, CAP.

NO IDEA IF
THAT MEANS THE
GARDEN MEMBERS
MIGHT GET INVOLVED.
MAYBE THEY JUST
WENT HOME?



MAYBE
WE JUST LET
THEM BE?

WE'VE GOT
AN OBLITERATED
COLLEGE AND A ROGUE
DYNAMO RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT...

THERE'S
NO LETTING
THIS LIE.

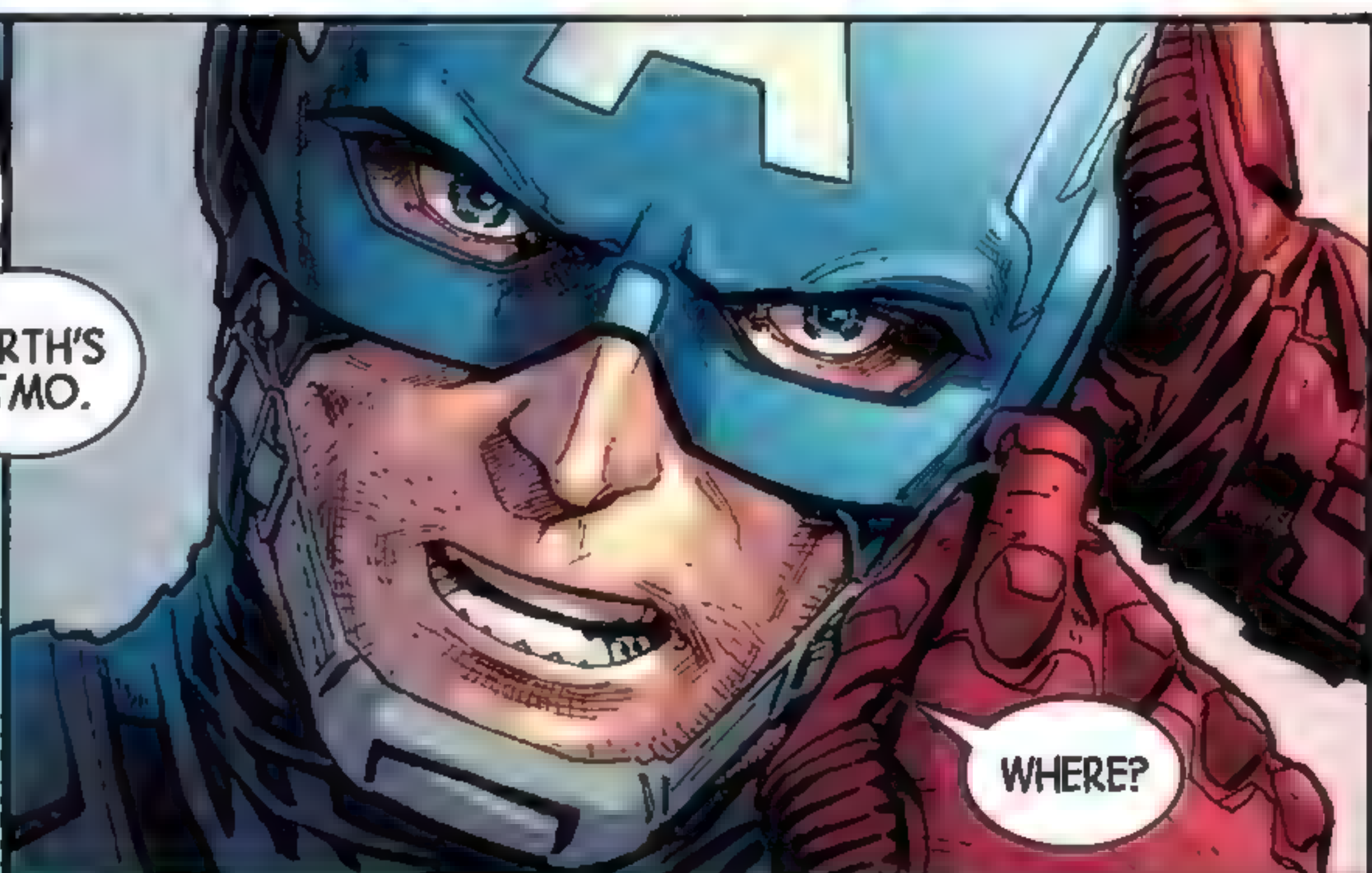
GET READY
TO JUMP US
TO MARS,
EDEN.



MIGHT WANT
TO HOLD OFF ON
THAT, STEVE.

SIGNAL JUST
DISAPPEARED
FROM MARS AND
POPPED UP
LOCAL.

EARTH'S
ATMO.



WHERE?



QUARANTINED
ZONE.
CROATIA.



I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE BEACH BEFORE.

THIS IS NICE.



IT'S USUALLY BETTER.

HMM.

HEY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK.

IF THEY GREW YOU IN A SACK, HOW OLD DOES THAT MEAN YOU ARE?



47 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE I WAS BORN.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

HOW ARE YO--

DO YOU HEAR THAT NOISE?

NNNNZZZZZZ



LIKE A BUZZING.

BUT ALMOST WORDS...

LOOK. THIS ONE IS MOVING.

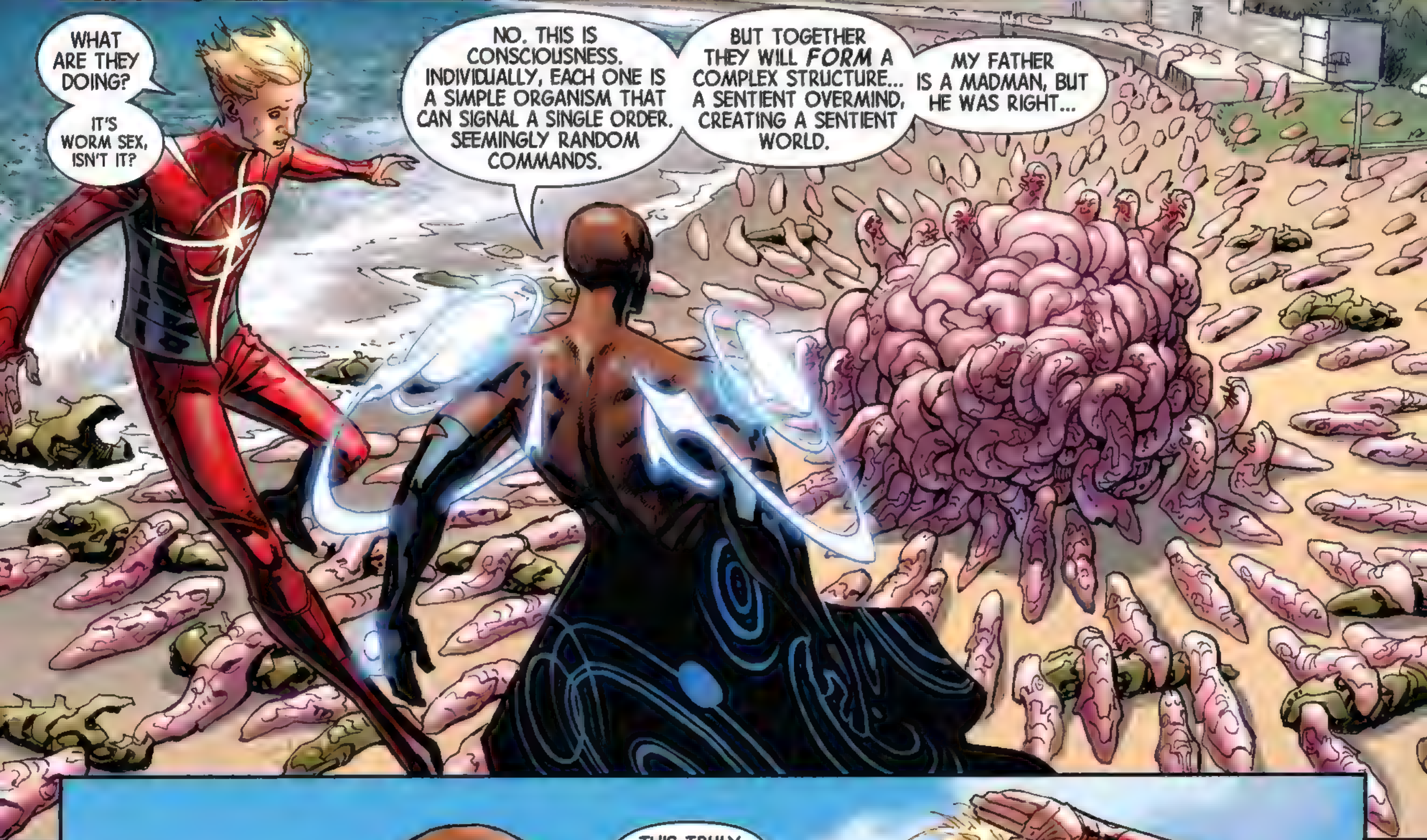
NNNNZZZZZZ



WHOA!

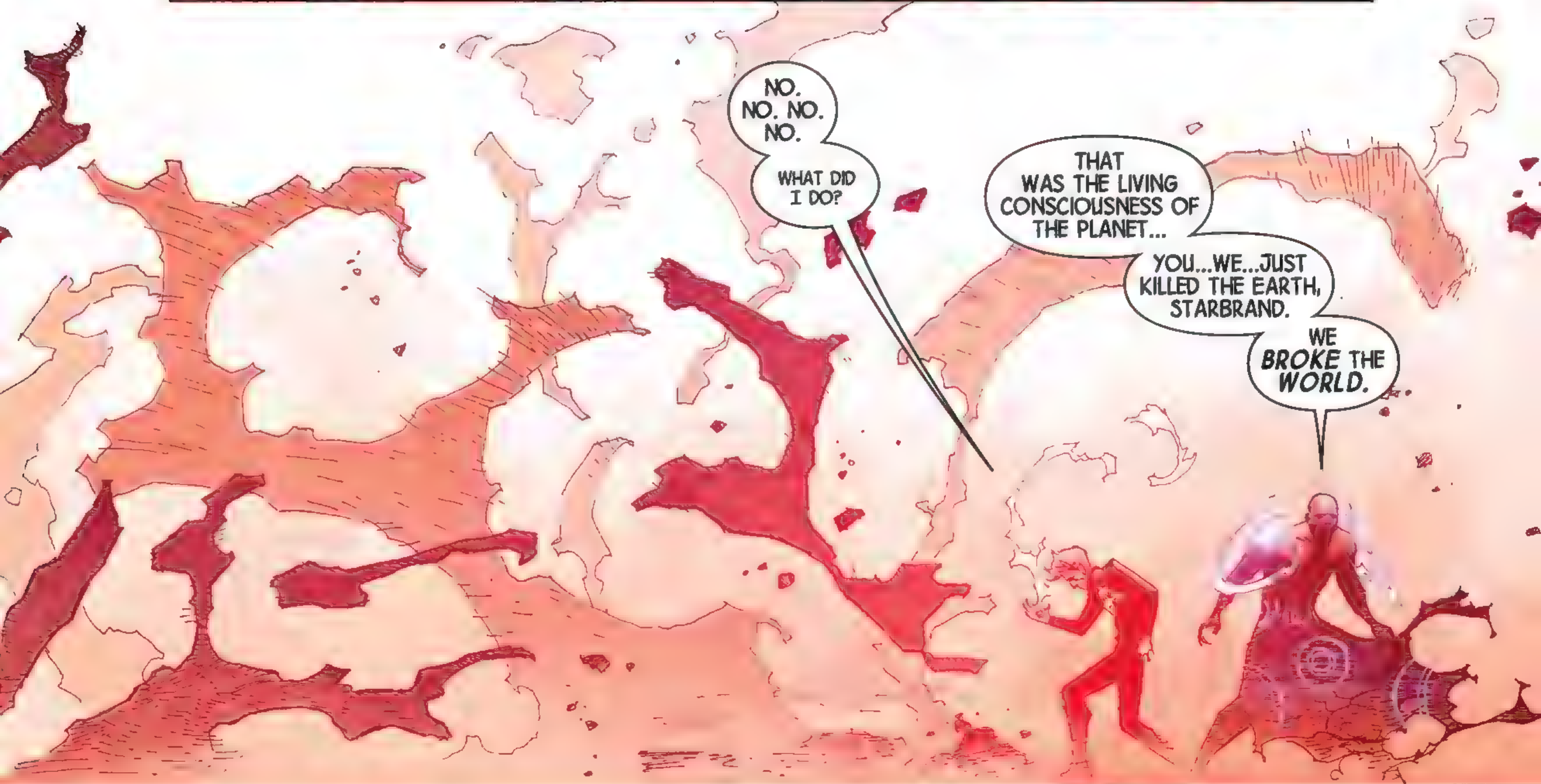
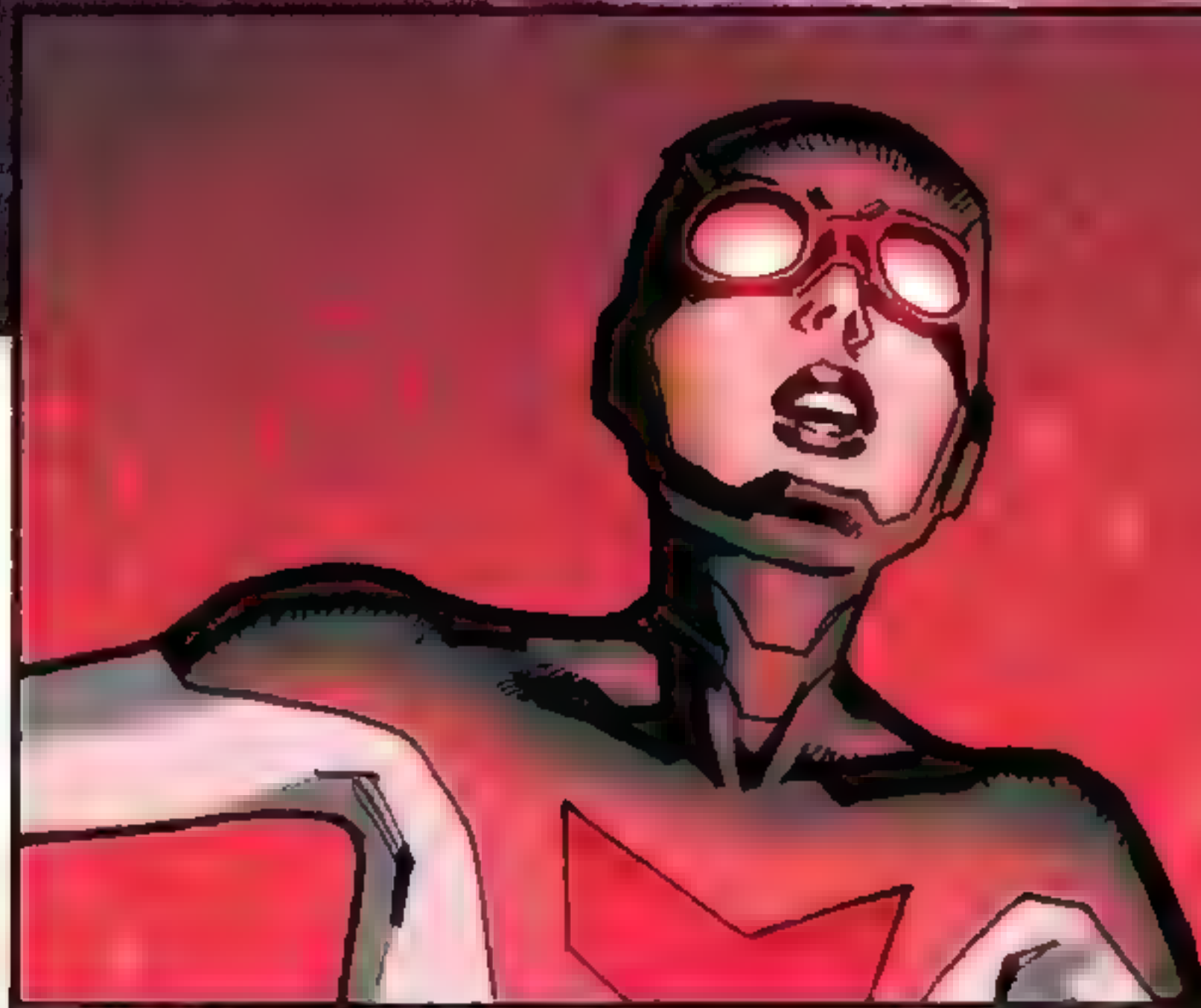
IT'S HAPPENING TO THE OTHERS AS WELL.











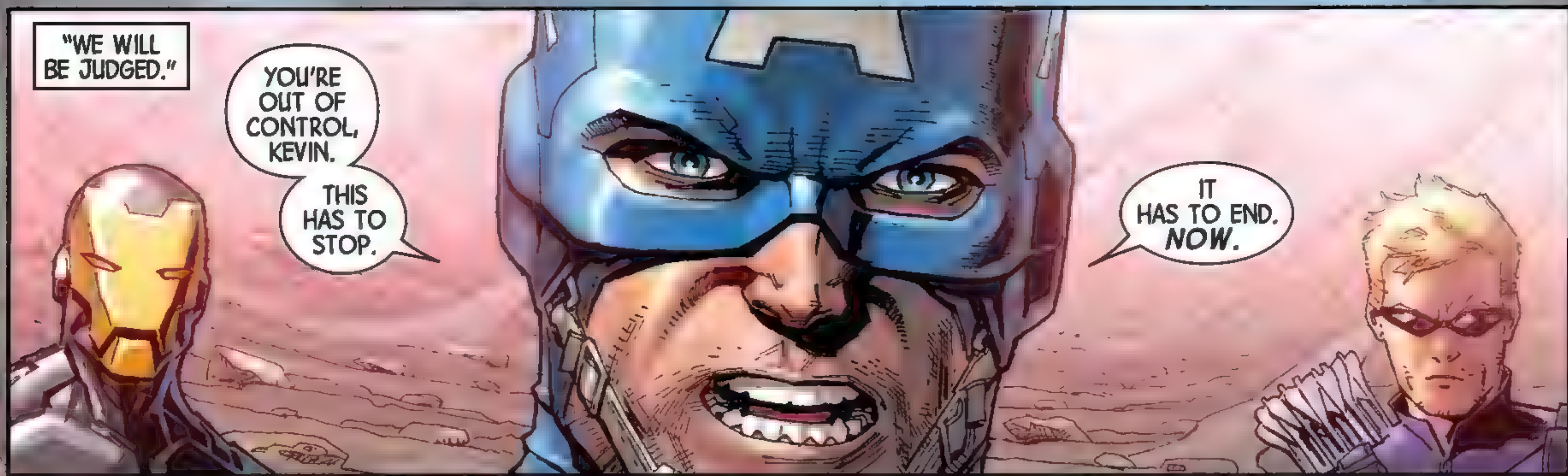
NO.
NO. NO.
NO.

WHAT DID
I DO?

THAT
WAS THE LIVING
CONSCIOUSNESS OF
THE PLANET...

YOU...WE...JUST
KILLED THE EARTH,
STARBRAND.

WE
BROKE THE
WORLD.



"WE WILL
BE JUDGED."

YOU'RE
OUT OF
CONTROL,
KEVIN.

THIS
HAS TO
STOP.

IT
HAS TO END.
NOW.



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT...IT
WAS HURTING ADAM,
AND I JUST LASHED
OUT AND...

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO.

THIS IS ALL
TOO NEW--HE
WASN'T PREPARED FOR
THIS, BUT HE CAN
LEARN. HE CAN
GROW.

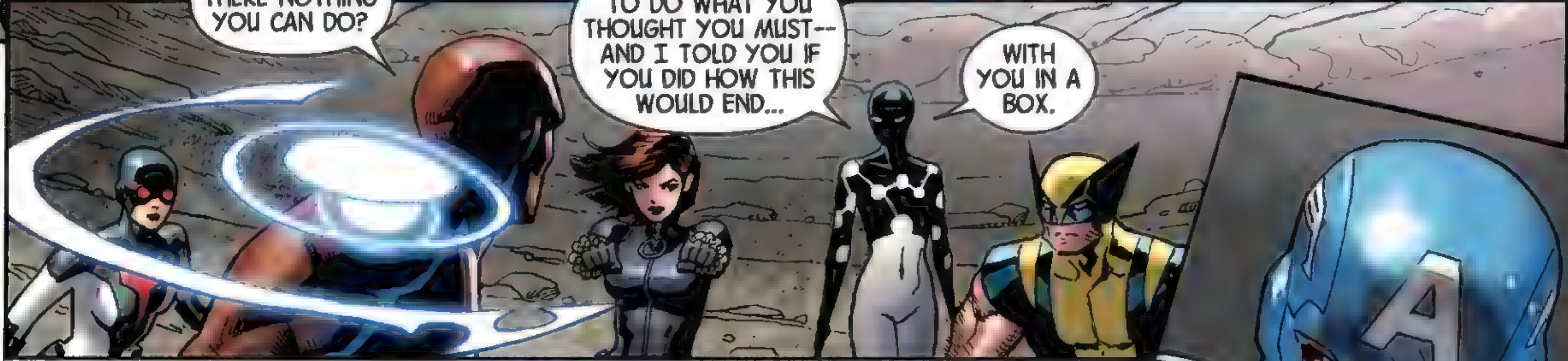
ALL HE
NEEDS IS
TIME.

WELL, WE'RE
FRESH OUT OF THAT...
AND YOU'RE IN THIS
NECK DEEP AS WELL,
NIGHTMASK.

MOTHER. IS
THERE NOTHING
YOU CAN DO?

I TOLD YOU
TO DO WHAT YOU
THOUGHT YOU MUST--
AND I TOLD YOU IF
YOU DID HOW THIS
WOULD END...

WITH
YOU IN A
BOX.



THAT'S
NOT...

NO.

NO,
INDEED.

WE ARE
LEAVING HERE,
NOW. DON'T TRY
TO STOP US--
DON'T, OR
YOU'LL REGRET
IT.

I ALREADY
DO, ADAM. I'M
SORRY IT HAS TO
BE THIS WAY.

AVENGERS--
TAKE THEM
DOWN!



IT WAS THE SPARK
THAT STARTED THE
FIRE--A LEGEND THAT
GREW IN THE TELLING.



IT HAPPENED
AFTER
THE LIGHT.



BEFORE
THE WAR.

AND BEFORE
THE FALL.





THEY WERE THE HIGH DAYS
OF THE GREAT IDEA--
AN AVENGERS WORLD.

A TIME OF LIFE,
BEFORE A SEASON
OF DEATH.



THEY WERE TITANS
AND GODS AND
MORTALS DOING
IMMORTAL ACTS...

THEY HAD BEEN
SUMMONED, AND
DID NOT PAUSE
TO ANSWER.

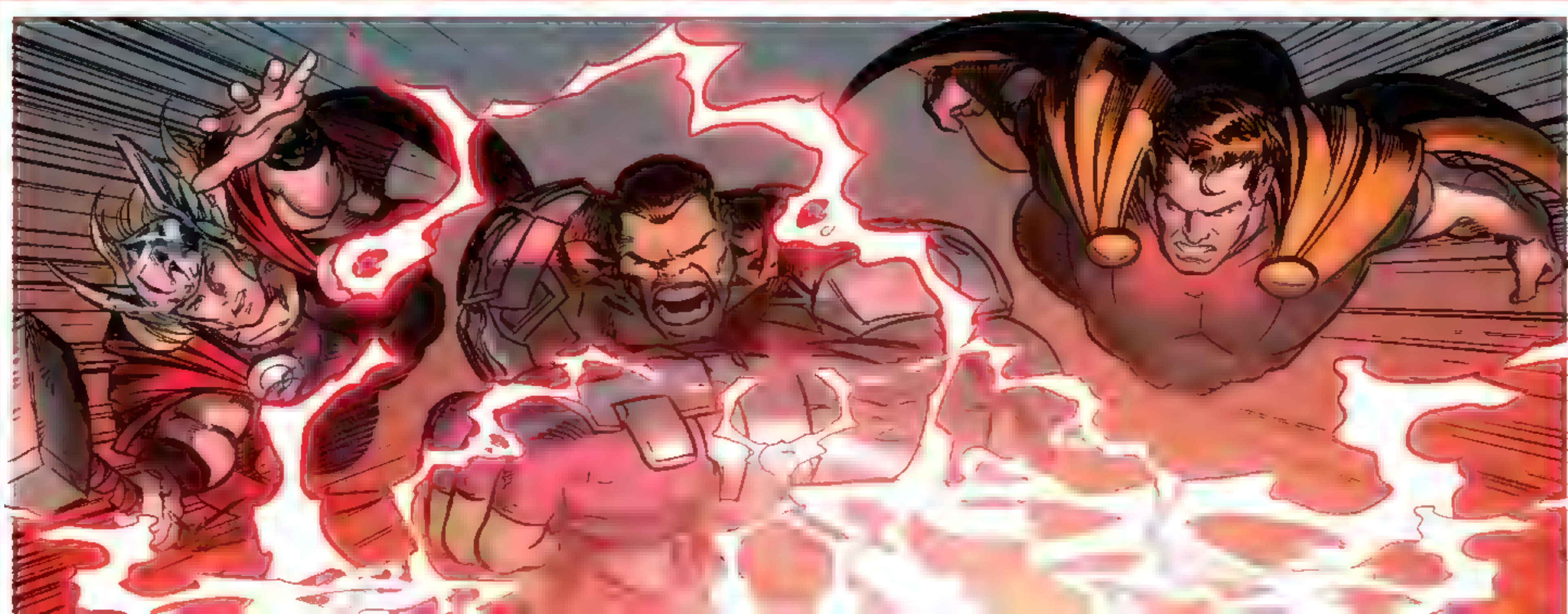
THEY WERE
PERFECT...THEY
WERE **HEROES**.

AND WE...WE
WERE BROKEN.



NOT
CALLED...

BUT
MADE.





ERRORS IN
THE SYSTEM.
ANOMALIES.

PLANET KILLERS
AND WORLD
BREAKERS.

FINAL
OPTIONS.

LAST
RESORTS.

THINGS IT
WAS NOT
TIME FOR...

YET.



STOP.

PLEASE
STOP.

I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
DO THIS...

ANY
OF IT.

MOST
PEOPLE DON'T,
SON.

BUT THEY
STILL HAVE TO
PAY FOR THEIR
MISTAKES.

I WAS
HOLDING
BACK.

WE KNOW.

YOU THINK
THAT DOESN'T
TERRIFY US?

I NEVER
ASKED FOR
THIS
POWER.

I DON'T
WANT IT.

WE
KNOW,
KEVIN...



"MAYBE THAT
FACT GIVES
US HOPE."



"WE'RE GOING TO TRY
TO HELP YOU--WE
WILL HELP YOU, BECAUSE
THAT'S WHAT WE DO."

"BUT FOR
NOW..."

"WE'RE ALL OUT
OF OPTIONS."



"YOU'RE TOO
DANGEROUS
TO RUN FREE."

"BECAUSE WE HAVE
THE WORLD TO
THINK ABOUT."



"AND TODAY, IT'S
SAFER WITH YOU
NOT IN IT."



“VALIDATOR”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SONSPOT • CANNIBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



CAN WE
TRANSPORT HIM
BACK TO THE
CARRIER?

I'M
WORRIED ABOUT
DEGRADATION.

REGINA.
SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA.



YOU SHOULD
ACCESS IT NOW
IF YOU CAN.

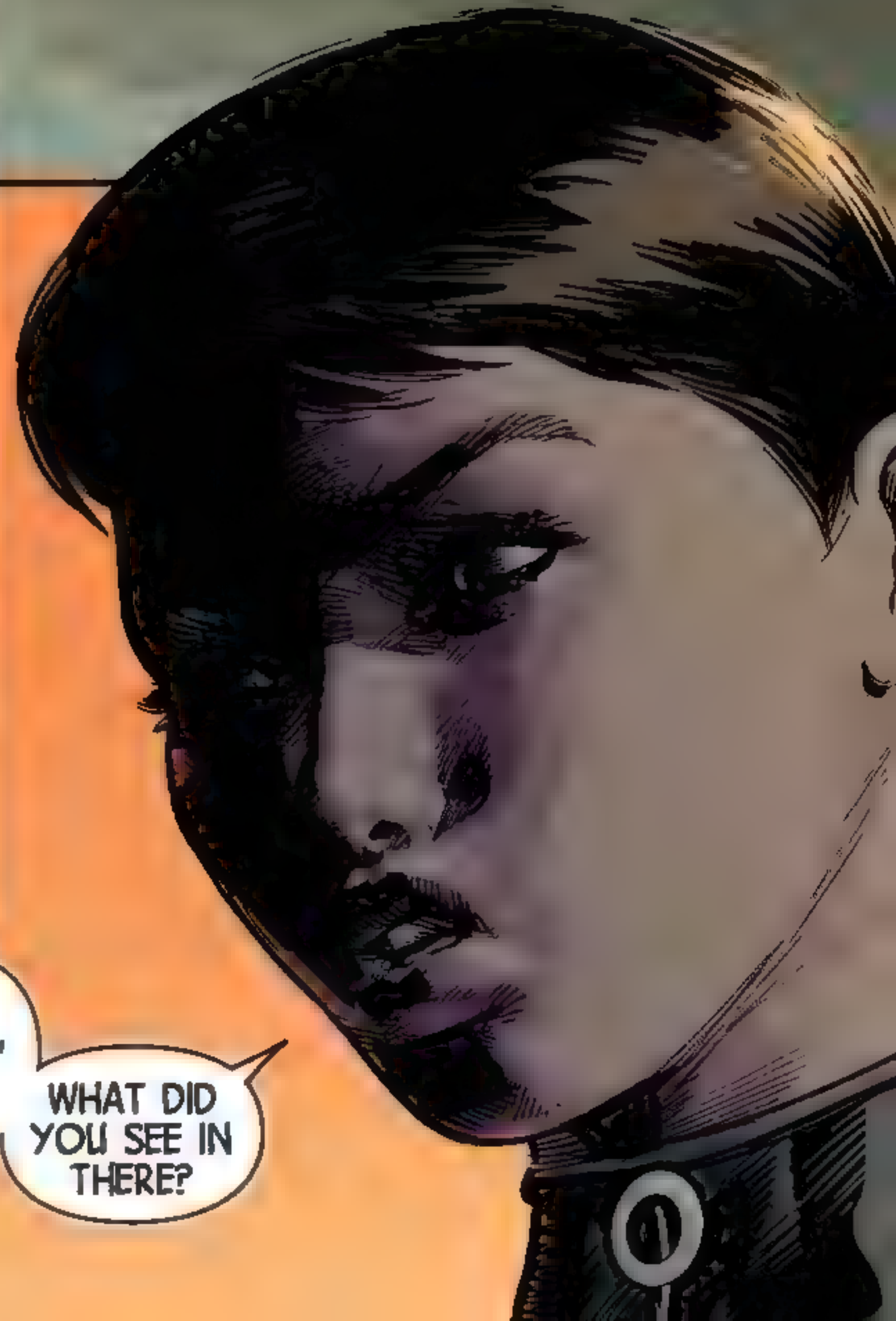


OKAY...

SCHUNK!

WHY DID
YOU DO IT,
AGENT
MICHAUD?

WHAT DID
YOU SEE IN
THERE?



8 HOURS AGO.

"I APOLOGIZE FOR THE URGENCY,
CAPTAIN...IT COULDN'T BE AVOIDED
--MY HANDS ARE TIED.

"I MEAN, WE JUST
FOUND ALL THIS
OUT OURSELVES.

"THE AVENGERS WERE PART OF THE
CONTAINMENT TEAM THAT DEALT WITH
THE FALLOUT OF THE GARDEN'S ATTACK
ON EARTH, SO YOU KNOW THAT KOBE,
CHHATARPUR, SPLIT, AND THE FALLEN
HEIGHTS ALL WERE, AND REMAIN, SECURED...

"QUARANTINED."

"THE OTHER SITES IN PERTH
AND REGINA WERE HANDLED
BY THOSE COUNTRIES'
DOMESTIC AGENCIES.

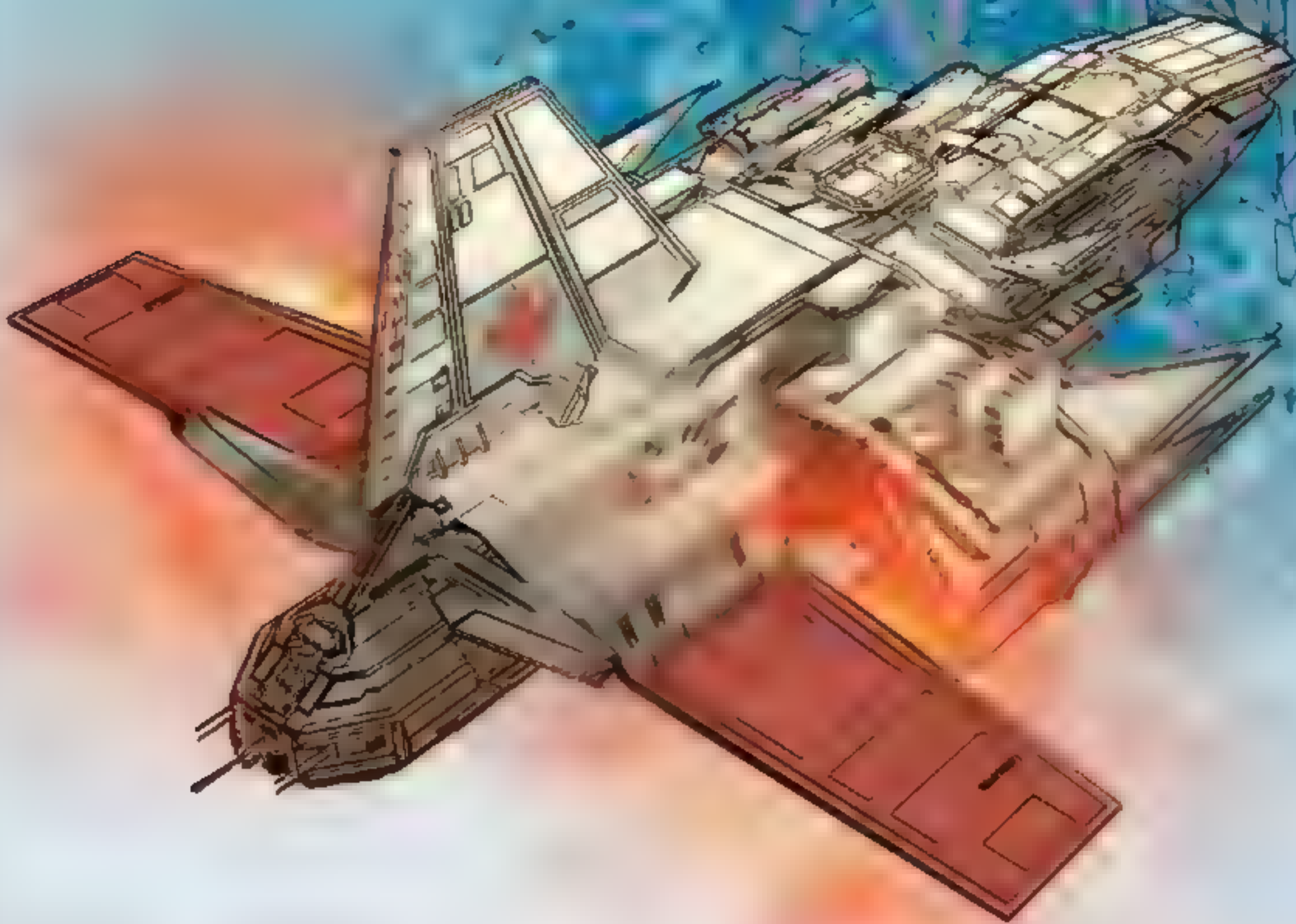
"ALL PREVIOUS INTELLIGENCE
HAD POINTED TO THEM
BEING UNDER CONTROL...

"HANDLED."



DEPARTMENT H MISSION LOGS:
044399-978

EVENT SITE: REGINA
LAT: 50 DEGREES, 24 MINUTES
LONG: 104 DEGREES, 37 MINUTES

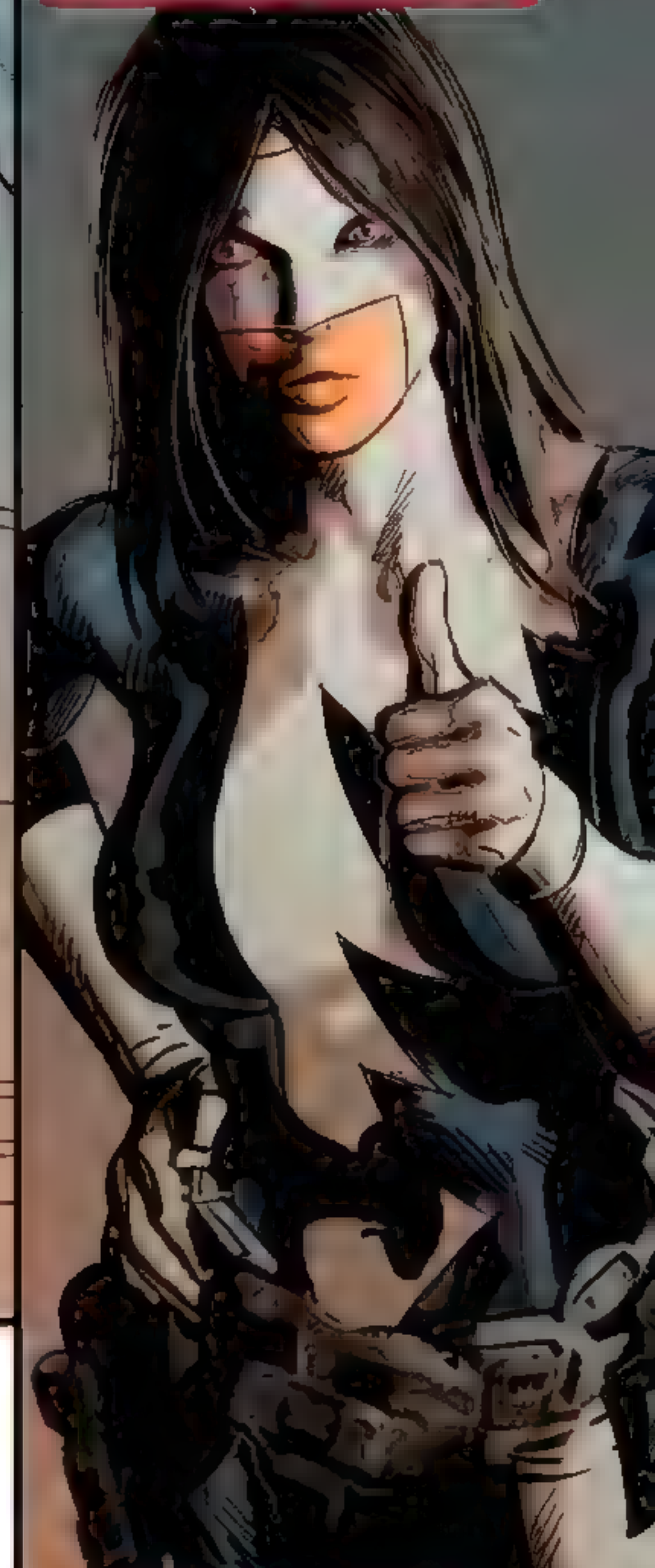
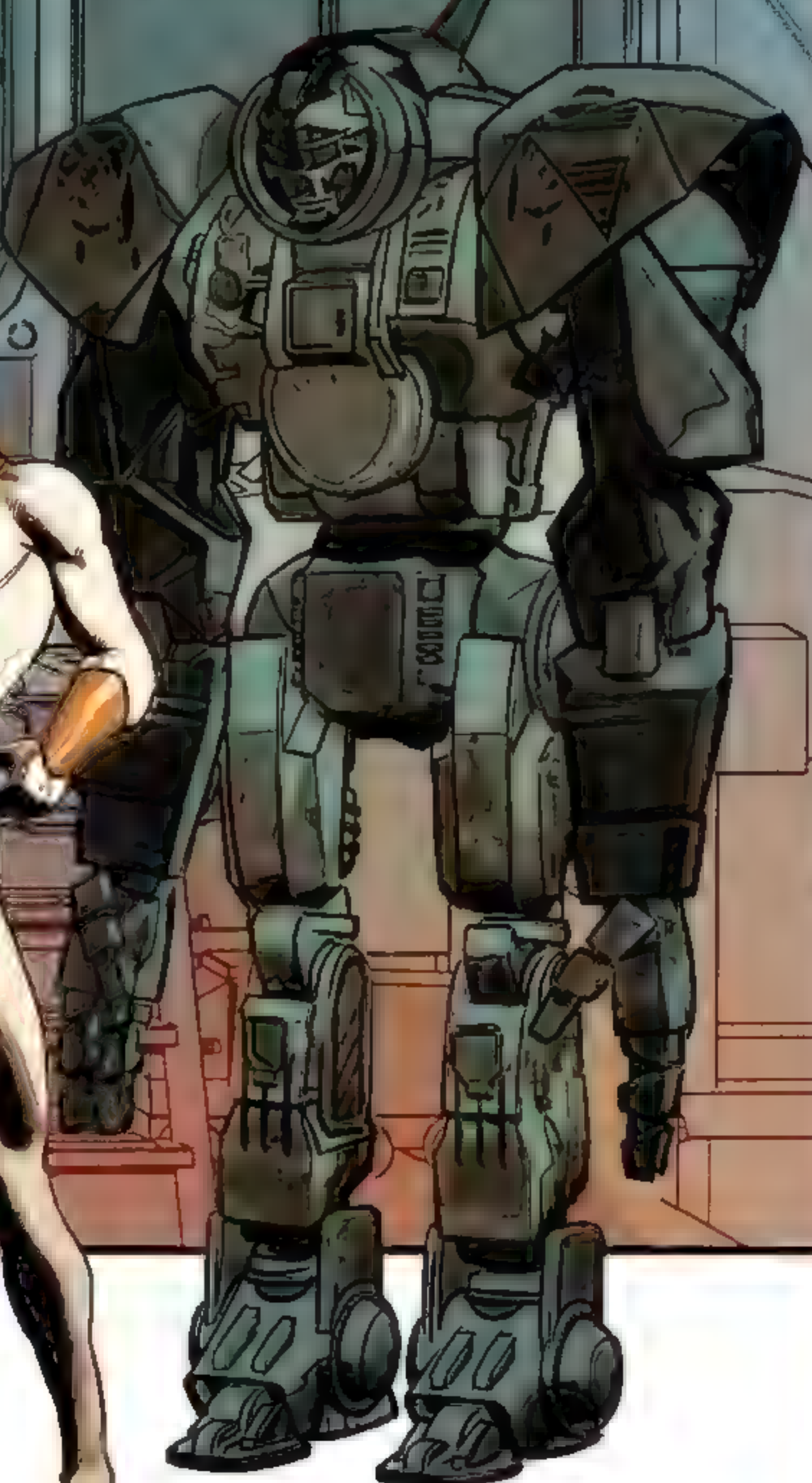


PRIMARY MISSION PARAMETERS:
SECURE EVENT SITE.

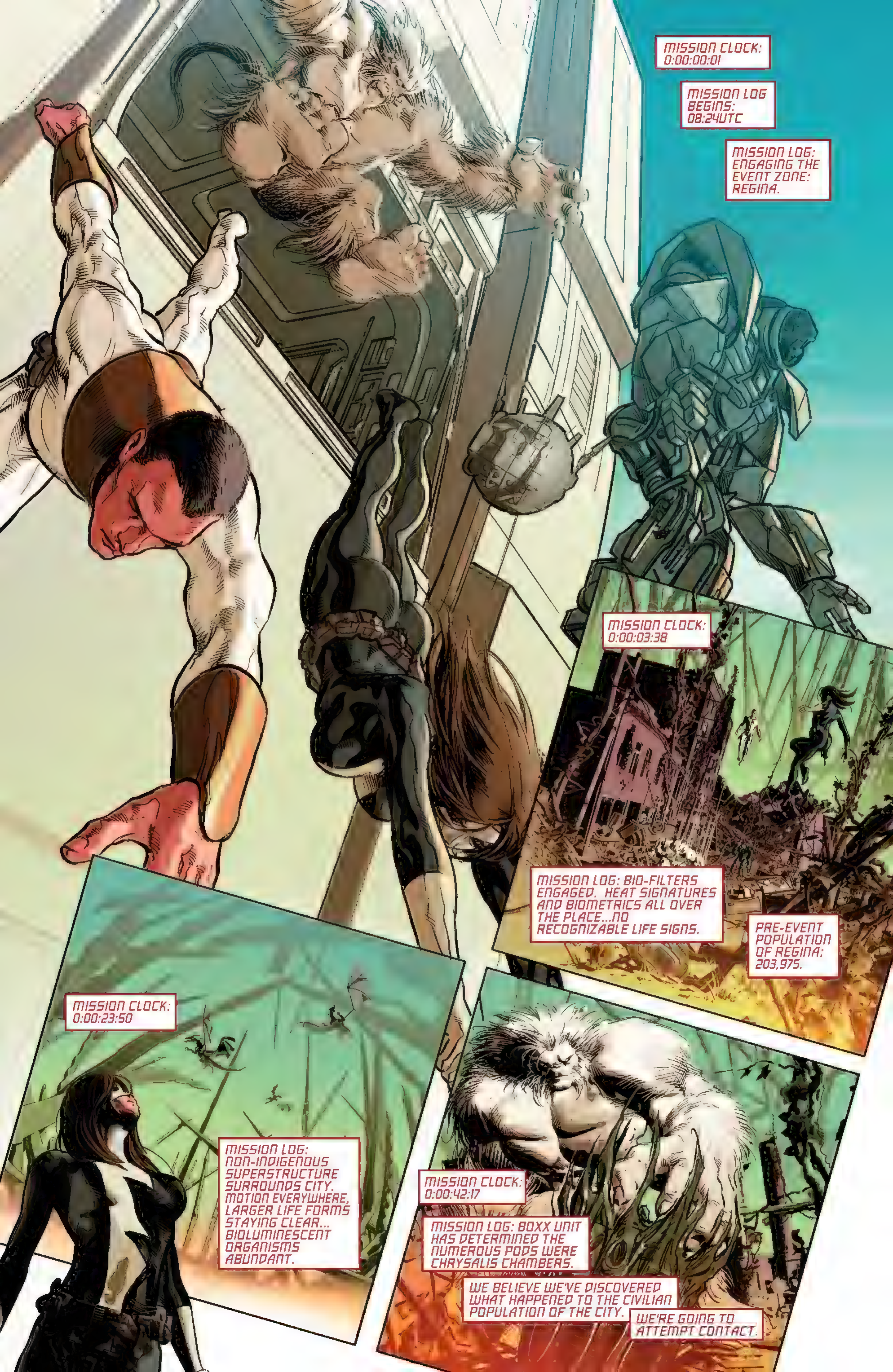
TASKING AGENTS:
WENDIGO -- 83-02-801225
VALIDATOR -- 91-07-237811
KINGDOM -- 86-03-400901
BOXX -- BOXX05.018

EXPECTED THREAT
LEVEL: BLACK

FULL AUTHORIZATION
GIVEN. LETHAL FORCE
SANCTIONED.



ENGAGE OMEGA
FLIGHT PROTOCOLS.



MISSION CLOCK:
0:00:00:01

MISSION LOG
BEGINS:
08:24UTC

MISSION LOG:
ENGAGING THE
EVENT ZONE:
REGINA.

MISSION CLOCK:
0:00:03:38

MISSION LOG: BIO-FILTERS
ENGAGED. HEAT SIGNATURES
AND BIOMETRICS ALL OVER
THE PLACE...NO
RECOGNIZABLE LIFE SIGNS.

PRE-EVENT
POPULATION
OF REGINA:
203,975.

MISSION CLOCK:
0:00:23:50

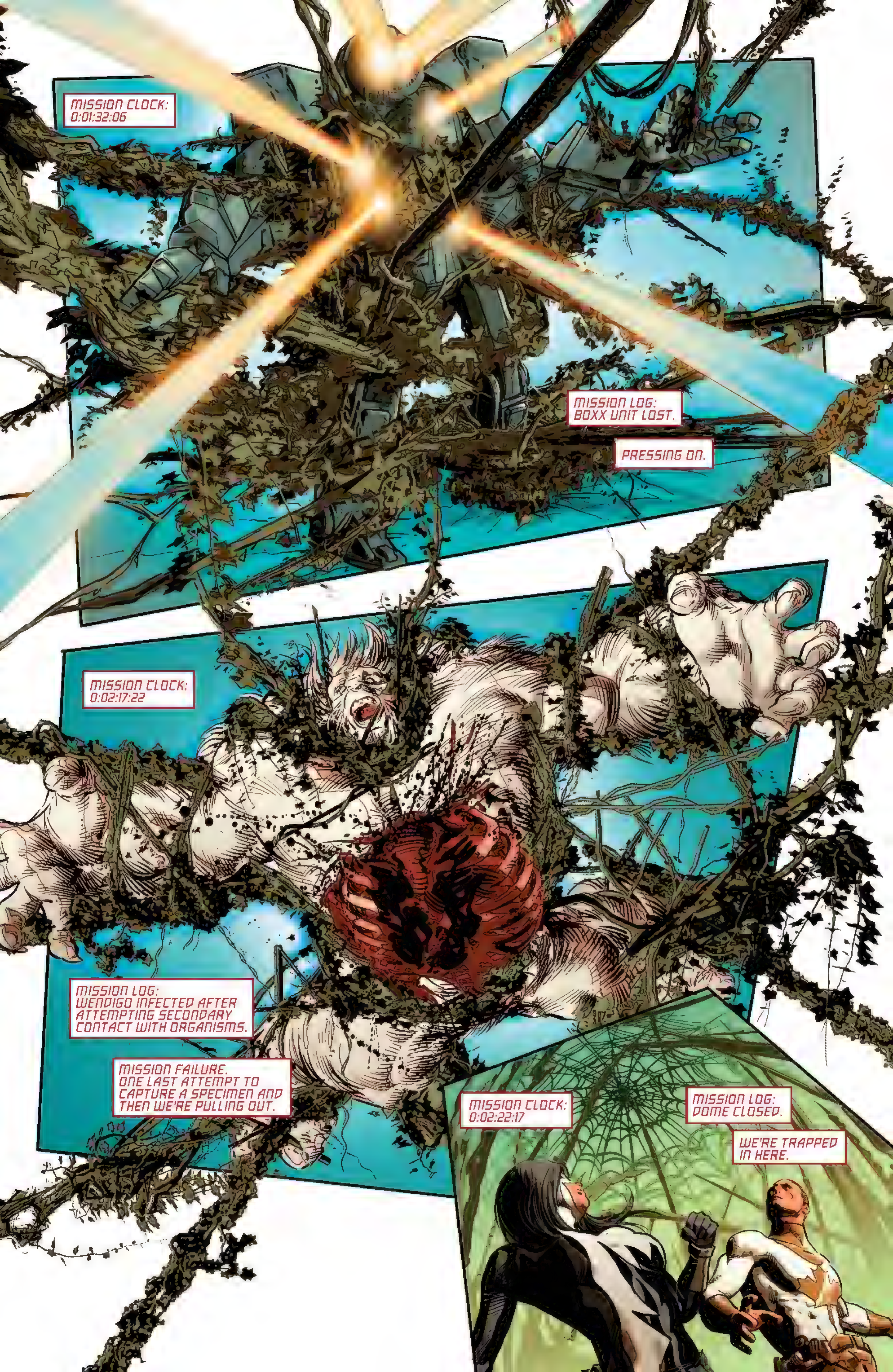
MISSION LOG:
NON-INDIGENOUS
SUPERSTRUCTURE
SURROUNDS CITY.
MOTION EVERYWHERE,
LARGER LIFE FORMS
STAYING CLEAR...
BIOLUMINESCENT
ORGANISMS
ABUNDANT.

MISSION CLOCK:
0:00:42:17

MISSION LOG: BOXX UNIT
HAS DETERMINED THE
NUMEROUS PODS WERE
CHRYSAIS CHAMBERS.

WE BELIEVE WE'VE DISCOVERED
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION OF THE CITY.

WE'RE GOING TO
ATTEMPT CONTACT.



MISSION CLOCK:
0:01:32:06

MISSION LOG:
BOXX UNIT LOST.

PRESSING ON.

MISSION CLOCK:
0:02:17:22

MISSION LOG:
WENDIGO INFECTED AFTER
ATTEMPTING SECONDARY
CONTACT WITH ORGANISMS.

MISSION FAILURE.
ONE LAST ATTEMPT TO
CAPTURE A SPECIMEN AND
THEN WE'RE PULLING OUT.

MISSION CLOCK:
0:02:22:17

MISSION LOG:
DOME CLOSED.

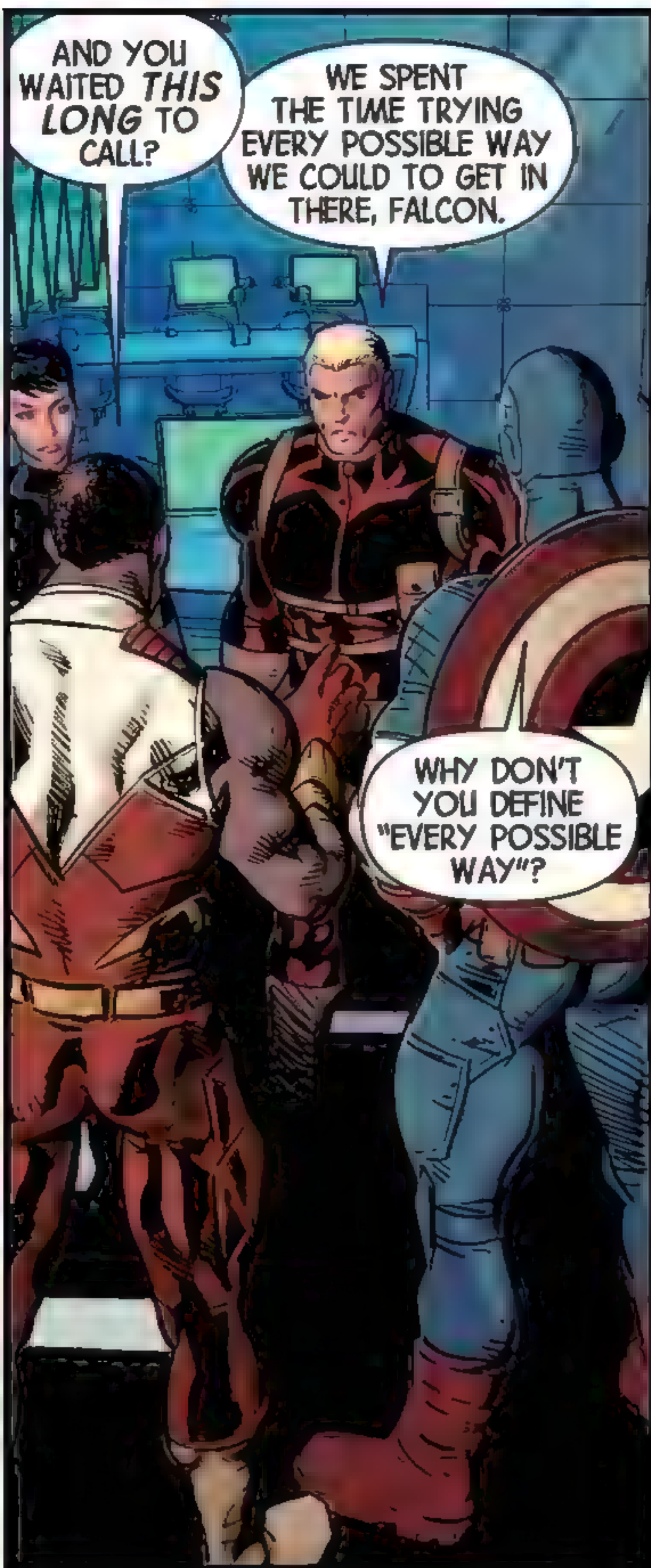
WE'RE TRAPPED
IN HERE.







THAT WAS
ONE MONTH
AGO.



AND YOU
WAITED *THIS*
LONG TO
CALL?

WE SPENT
THE TIME TRYING
EVERY POSSIBLE WAY
WE COULD TO GET IN
THERE, FALCON.

WHY DON'T
YOU DEFINE
"EVERY POSSIBLE
WAY"?



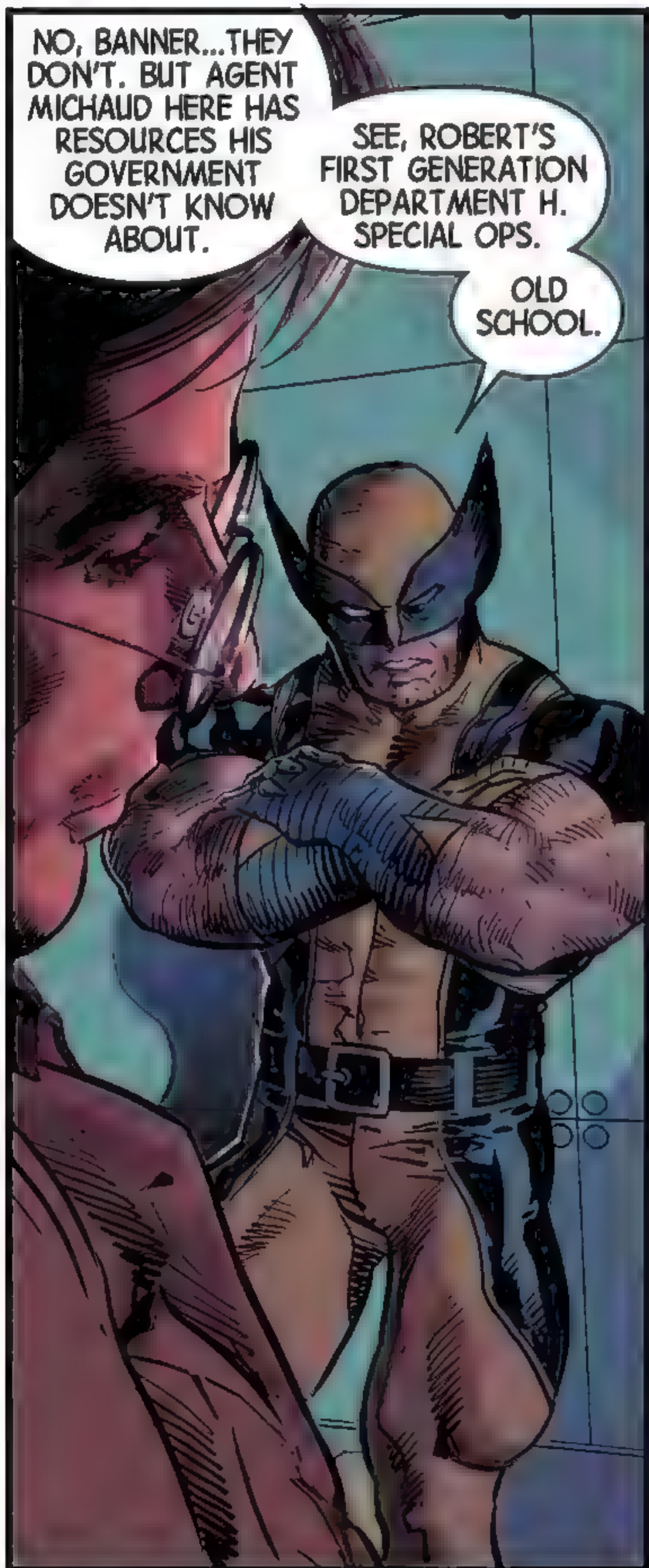
WE TRIED CUTTING
THROUGH THE BARRIER WITH
EVERY DEVICE KNOWN TO MAN,
THEN WE MOVED ON TO MORE
EXOTIC SOLUTIONS...

SHORT-RANGE
TRANSLOCATORS,
METAHUMAN
FIELDCASTERS...
MAGIC.

WE EVEN
TRIED A LOW-
YIELD FISSION
DEVICE.

I'M SORRY,
AGENT, BUT THAT
CAN'T BE TRUE. IF YOU
WOULD HAVE USED A BOMB,
IT WOULD HAVE SHOWN
UP ON EARLY WARNING
SYSTEMS ACROSS
THE PLANET.

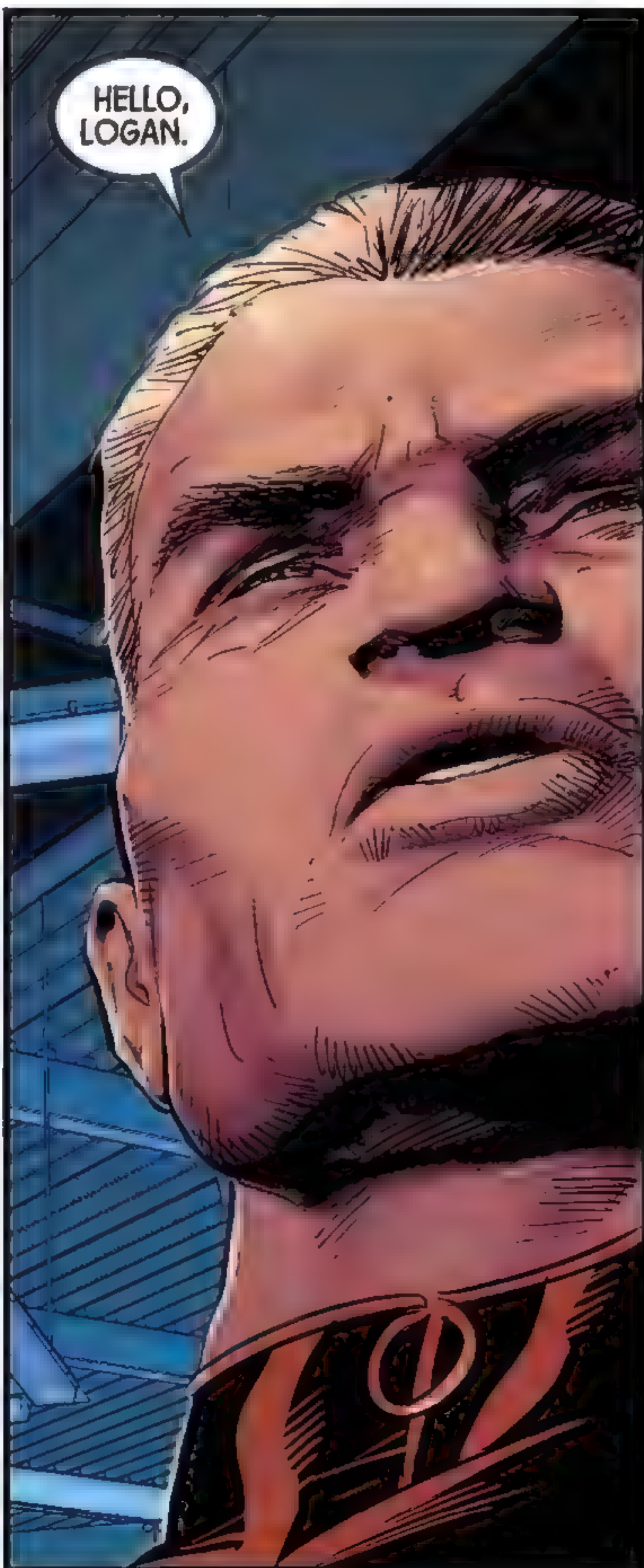
AND CANADA
DOESN'T HAVE
ANY NUCLEAR
WEAPONS.



NO, BANNER...THEY
DON'T. BUT AGENT
MICHAUD HERE HAS
RESOURCES HIS
GOVERNMENT
DOESN'T KNOW
ABOUT.

SEE, ROBERT'S
FIRST GENERATION
DEPARTMENT H.
SPECIAL OPS.

OLD
SCHOOL.



HELLO,
LOGAN.

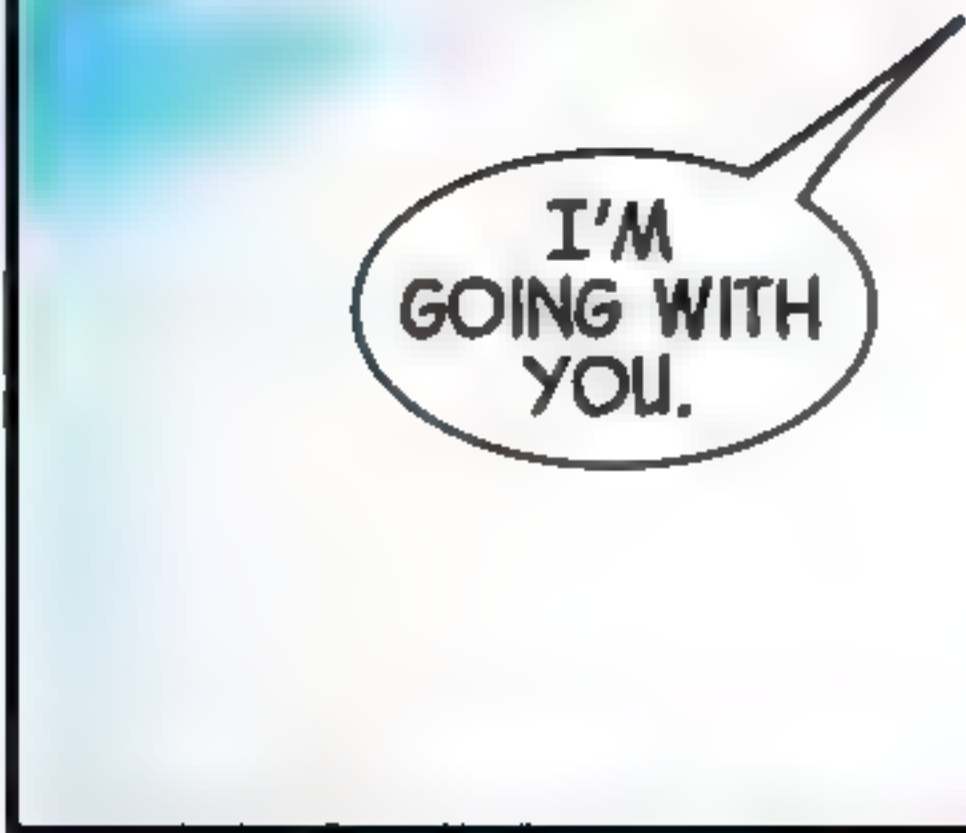
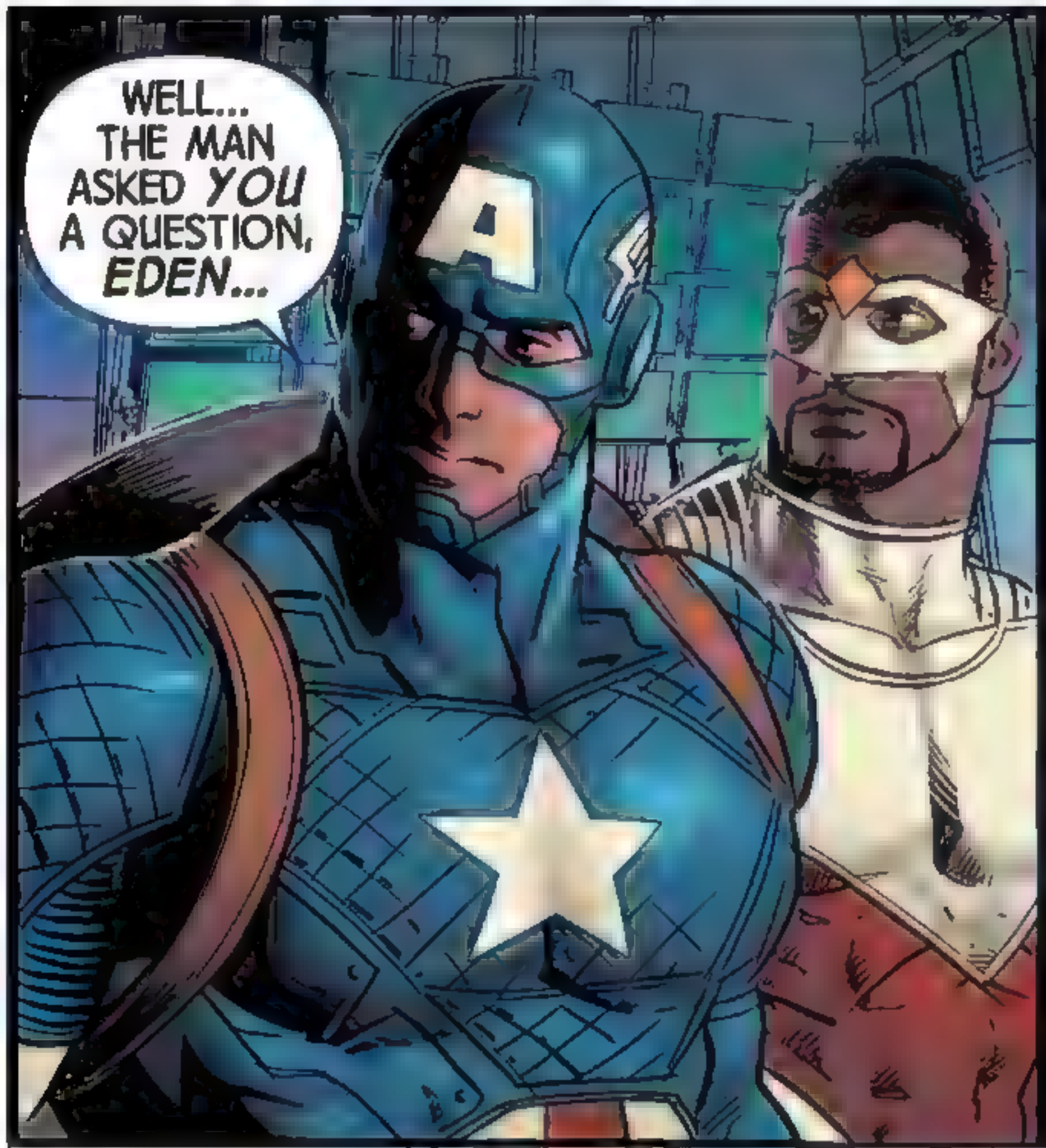
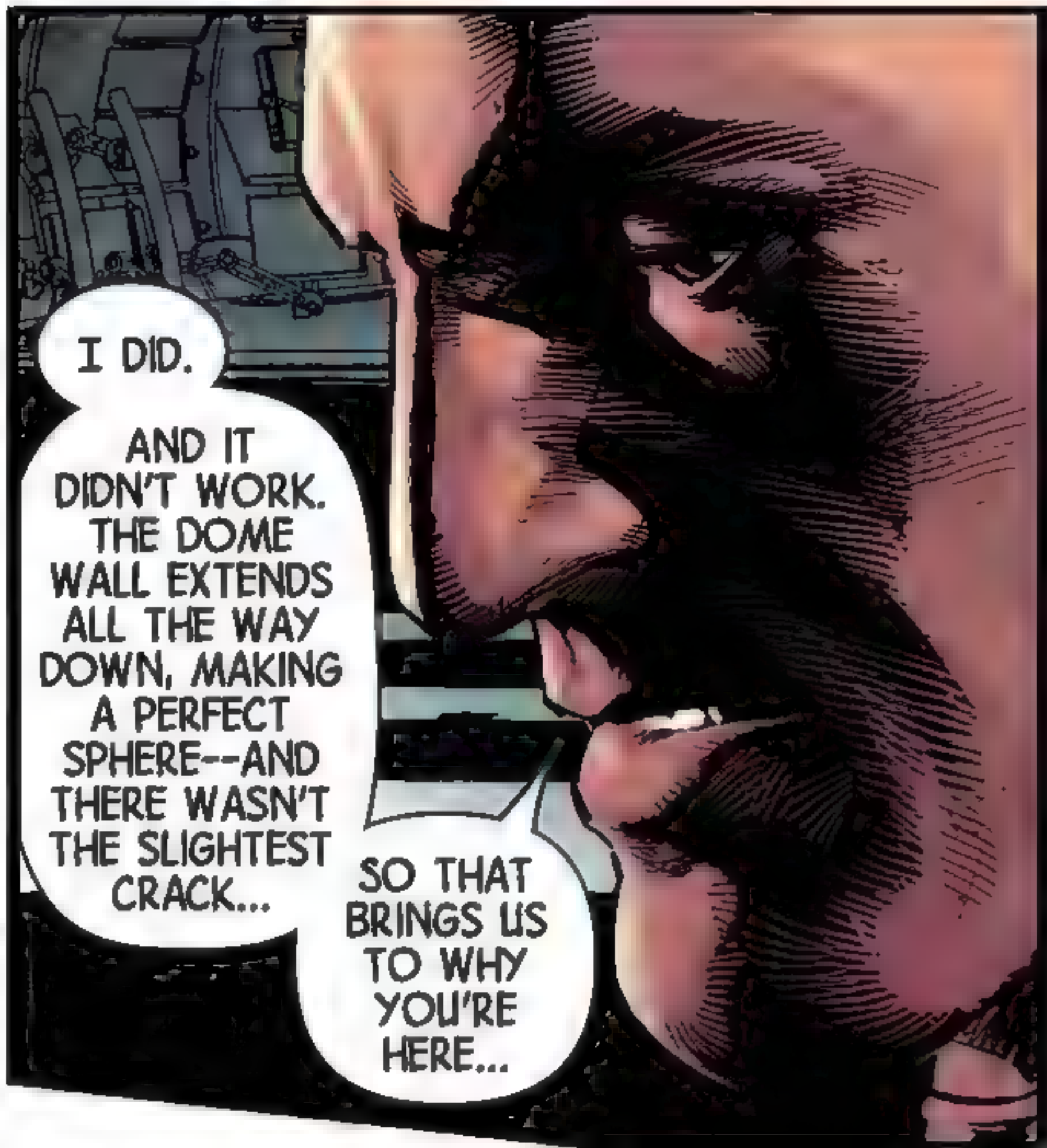


THERE STILL
WOULD HAVE BEEN
A SIGNATURE. OR
RADIATION. OR
ANY OTHER--

YOU DUG
A HOLE, DIDN'T YOU,
AGENT MICHAUD? TRIED
TO BLAST YOUR WAY
INTO THE DOME FROM
UNDERNEATH.

WHICH
WOULD HAVE
JUST SHOWN UP AS
ABNORMAL SEISMIC
ACTIVITY...RIGHT.
AN ANOMALY.
OKAY...

CANADIANS
WITH NUKES. WHO
WOULD HAVE EVER
IMAGINED THAT?



ONE HOUR LATER.



HANGAR'S
CLEAR.

YOU'RE
GOOD TO
GO, CAP.



OKAY,
EDEN.

TAKE
US IN.



THIS ISN'T
RIGHT.

ARE YOU
SURE THAT
WE--

YES. THIS IS
WHERE THE
PLAZA WAS ON
THE MAP.

WE'RE
EXACTLY WHERE
YOU NEEDED
TO BE.

THIS SHOULD
BE RIGHT OUTSIDE
THE CITY. IT--

LOOK!

OH,
WOW.







HEEKS
HEEKS ARE SCARY
GEEKS

HEEKS
HEEKS ARE SCARY

HEEKS
HEEKS ARE SCARY

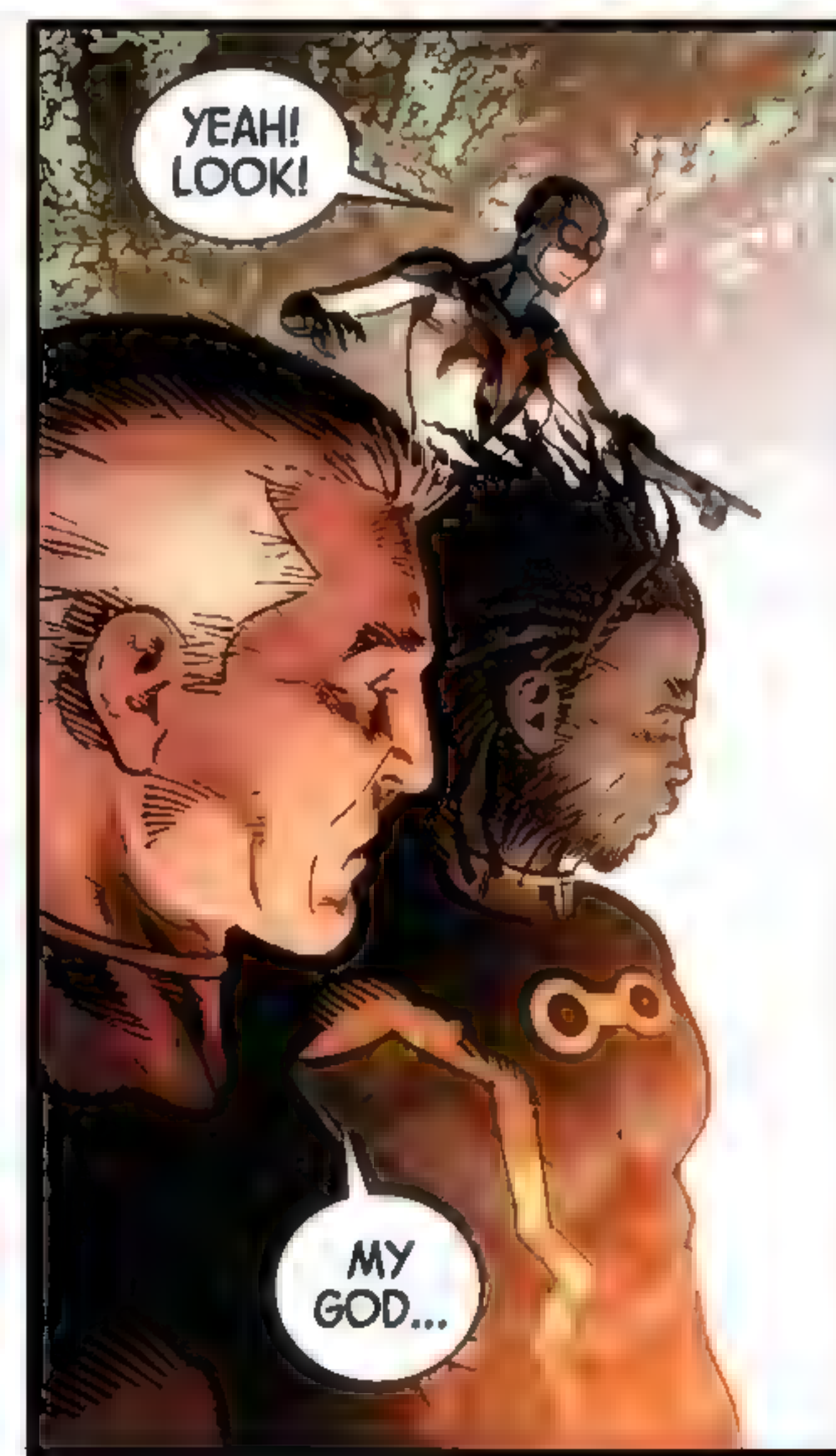


WHAT
IS...HEY! I
THINK SOMETHING'S
MOVING IN
THERE.

HEE
GEEKS

HEE
GEEKS

HEE
GEEKS



YEAH!
LOOK!

MY
GOD...

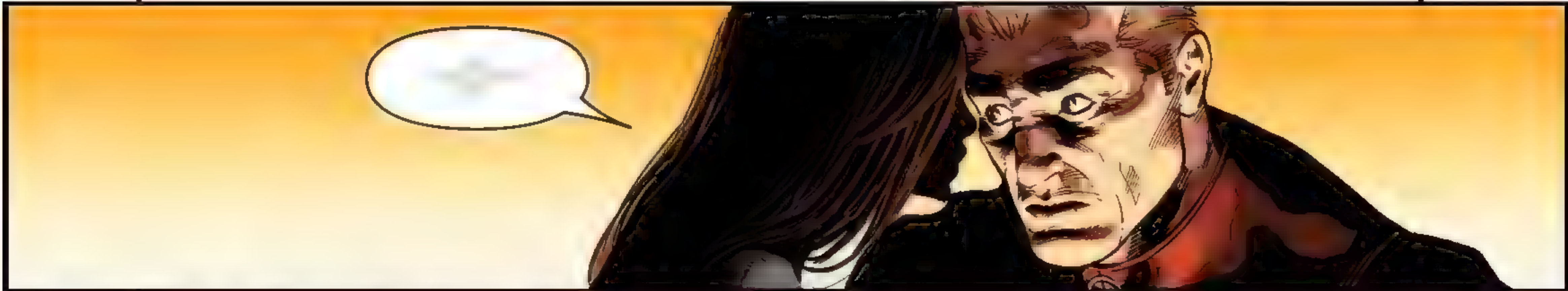
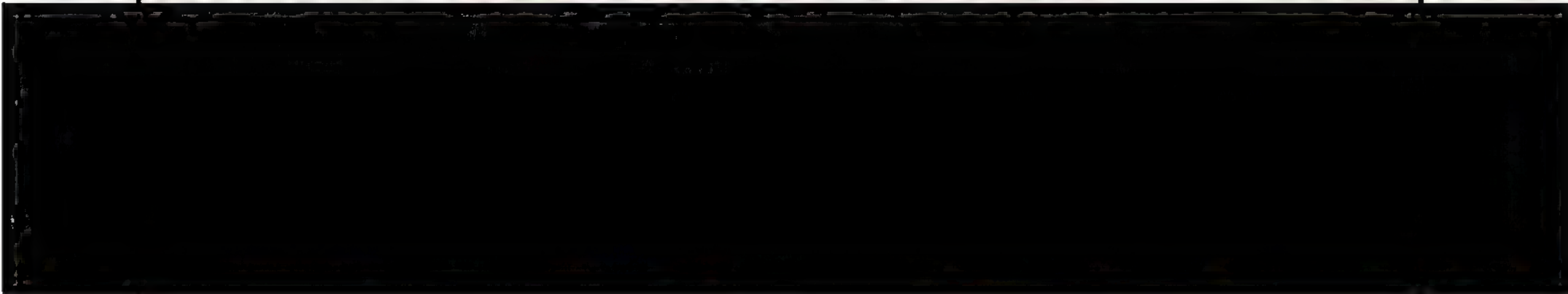
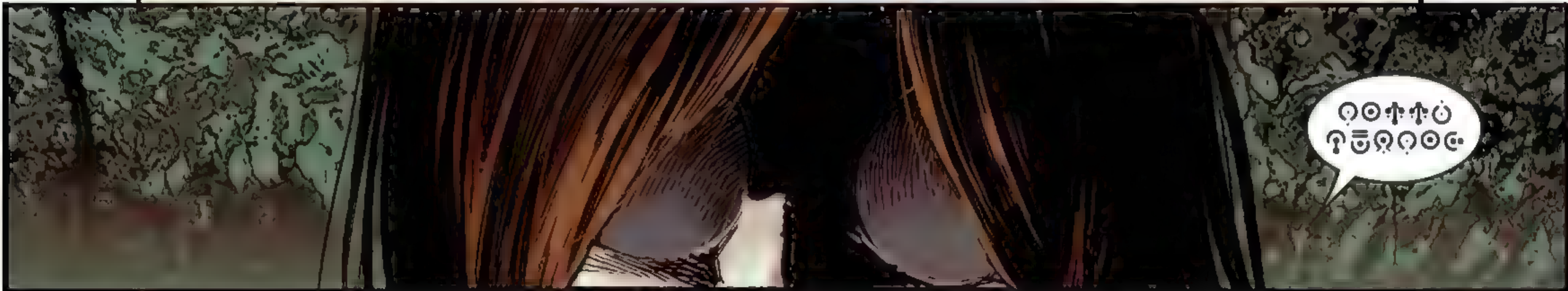


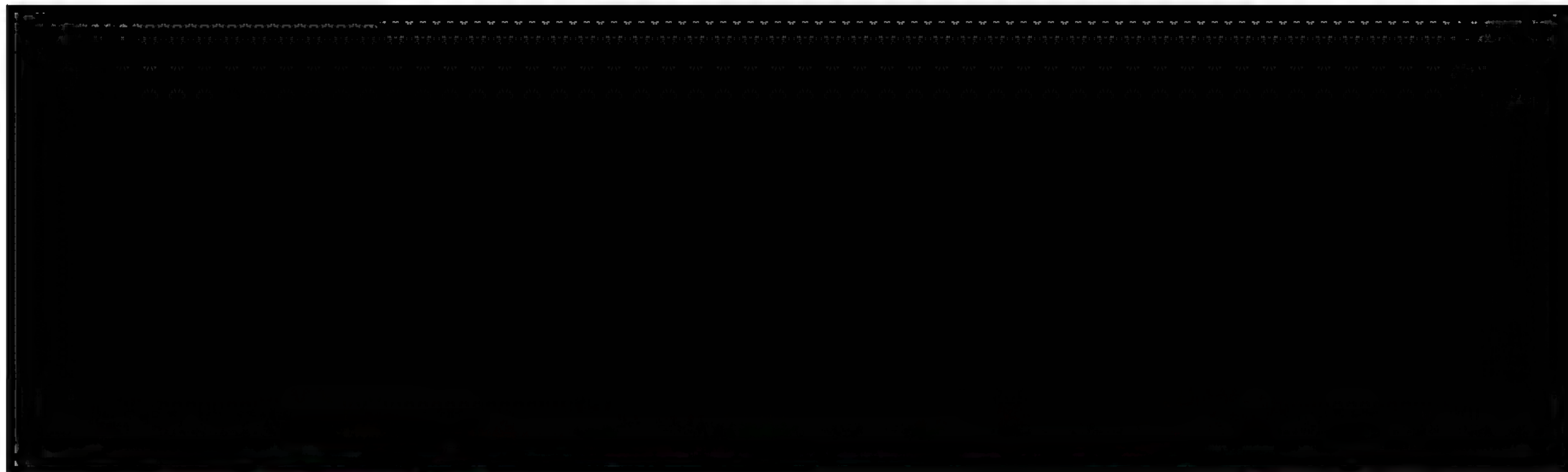
HEEKS
HEEKS

HEEKS
HEEKS



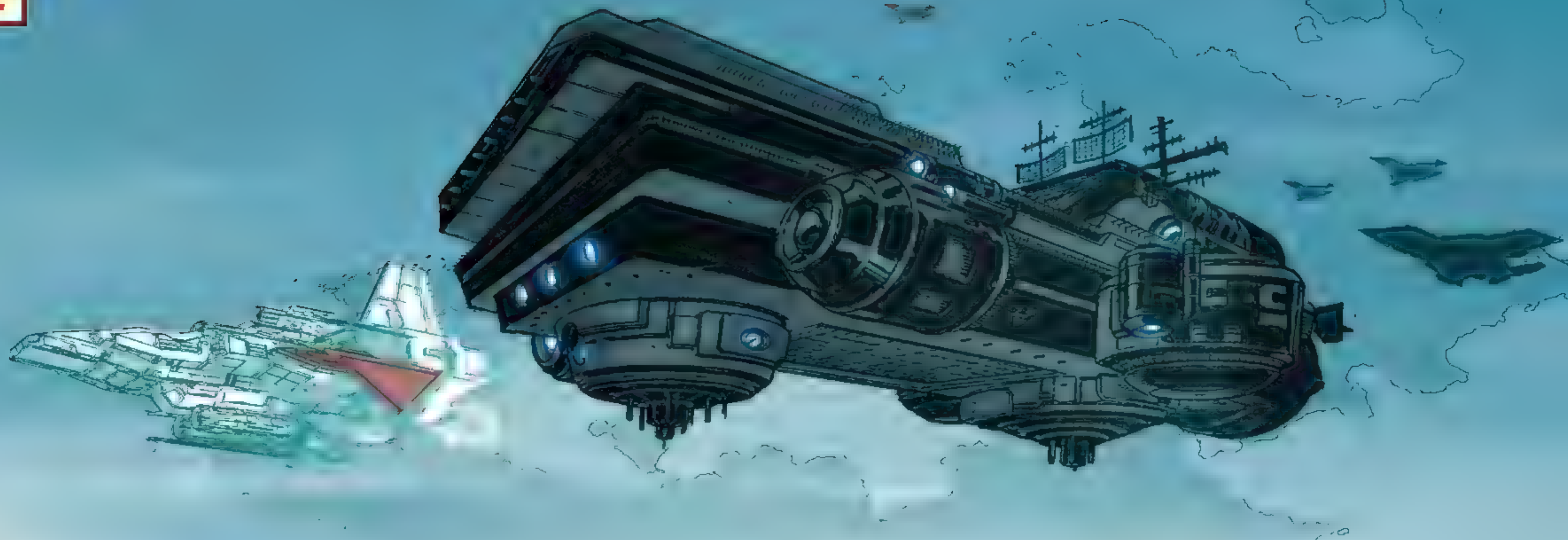
IT'S
VALIDATOR.







NOW.



"ONE OF OUR TECHS HAD THE BRIGHT IDEA OF LOOKING UP ALL SERIES SIX RECORDS ON FILE FOR AGENT MICHAUD, INCLUDING THE DATA CHECK PERFORMED BEFORE THE MISSION BEGAN.

"WE COMPARED THAT DATA SET WITH WHAT WE PULLED FROM HIS CORPSE--IT SHOULD HAVE YIELDED AN INCREASE OF AROUND FORTY-NINE MINUTES.

"WE FOUND MORE."

"HOW MUCH MORE?"

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

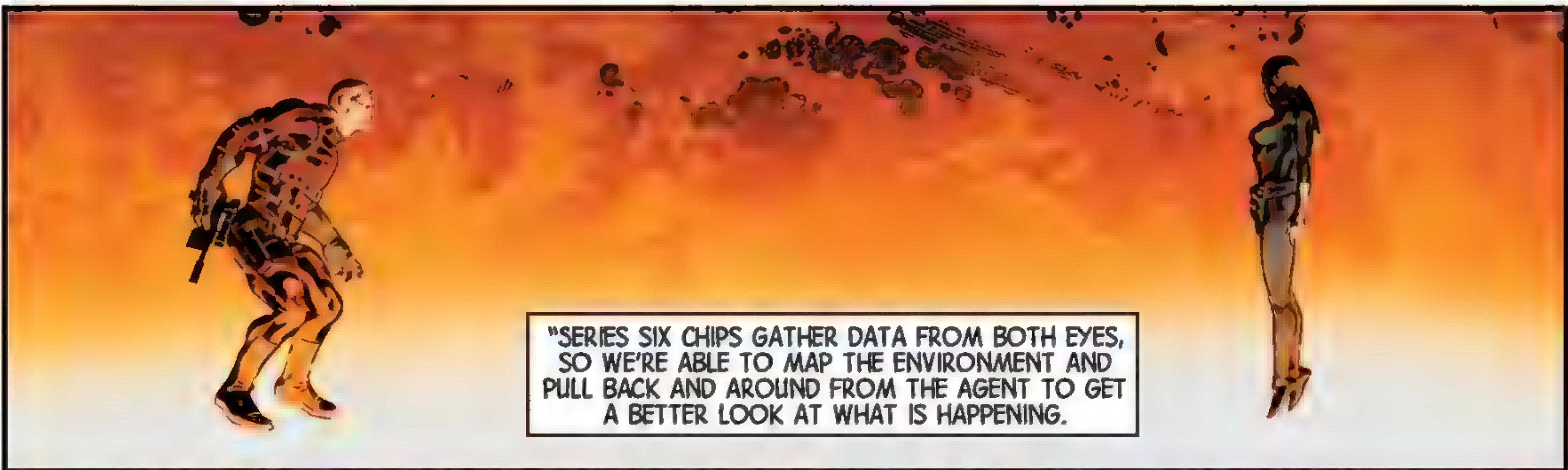
"THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS."

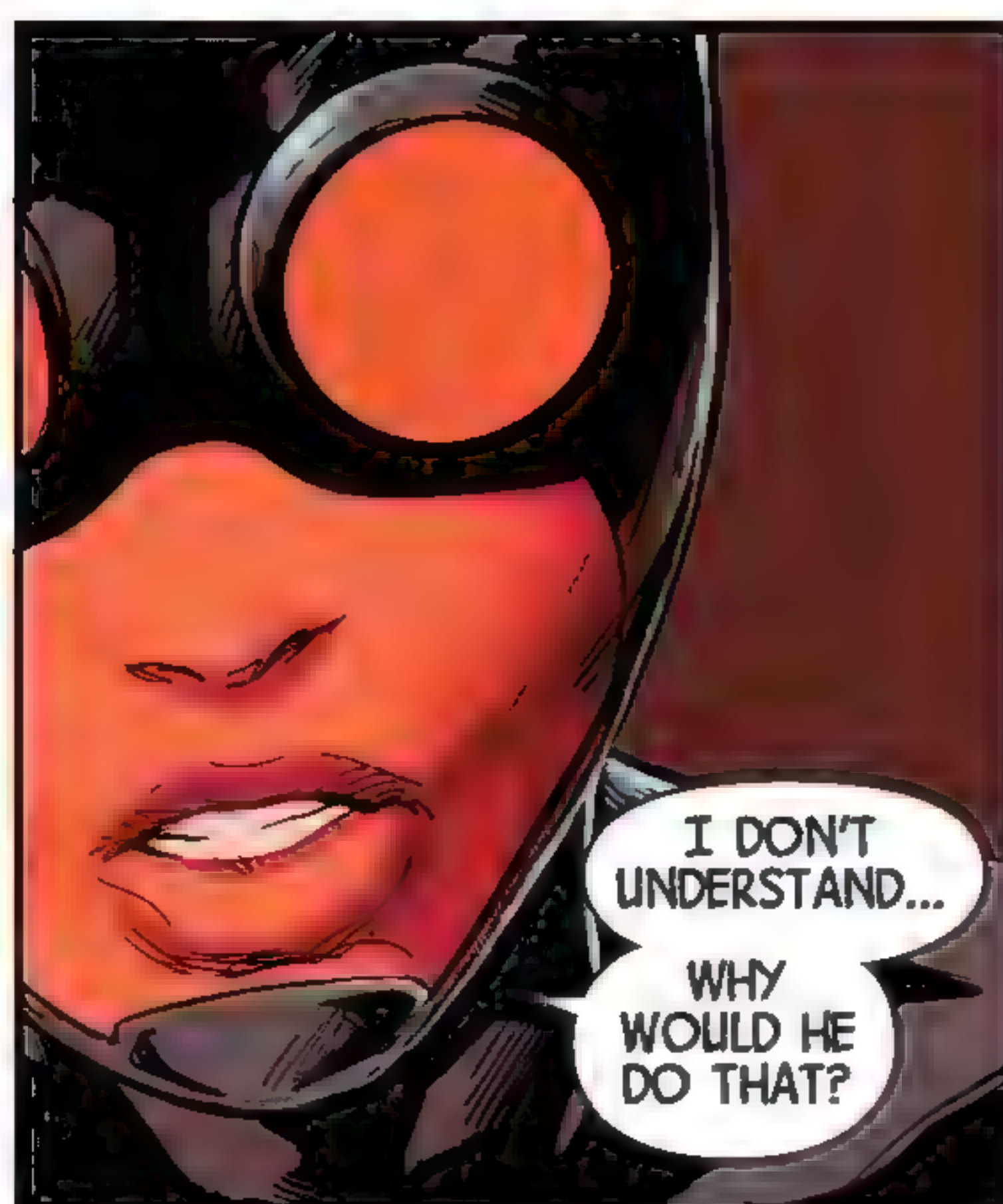
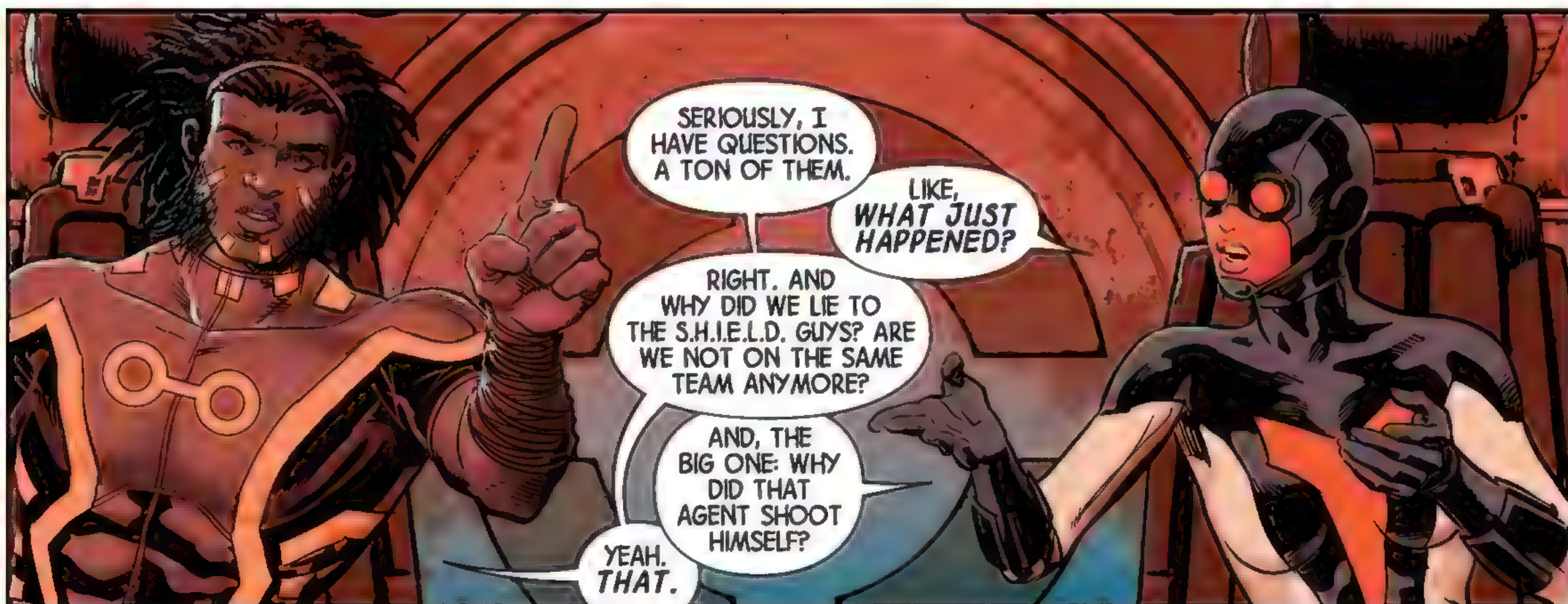
EVOLVING...
URK!
ADAPTING.

"WHERE WAS IT? THE EXTRA FOOTAGE--THE EXTRA TIME?"

KKAWWW!

"EVERYWHERE. SOME OF IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO. SOME OF IT DECADES INTO THE FUTURE.

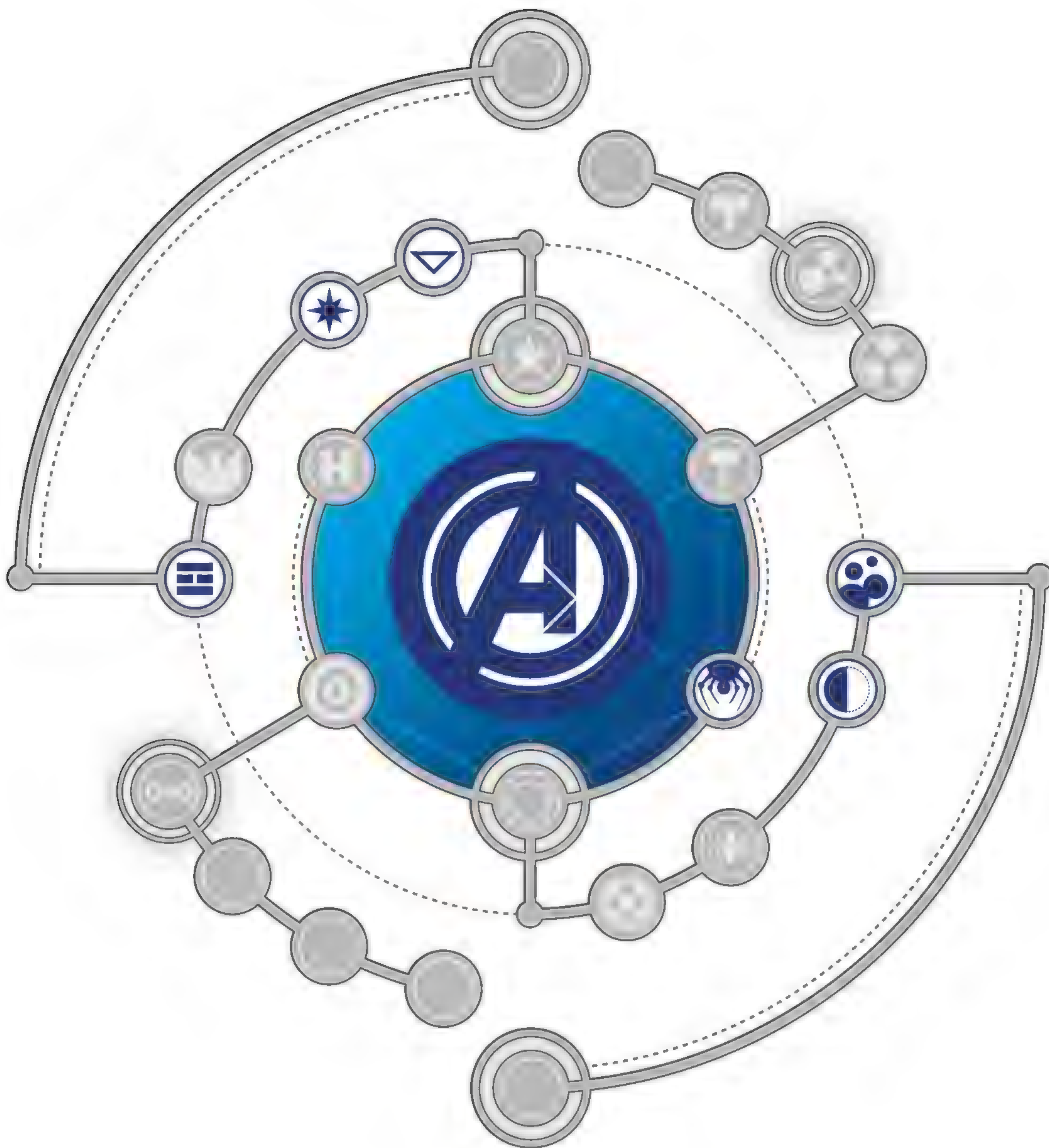








“WAKE THE DRAGON”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



"USING RECENTLY FORMED BACK CHANNELS DEVELOPED ON THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, THE *A.I.M. ISLAND NATION-STATE* HAS RECENTLY OPENED BIDDING ON THE *PROTOTYPES* OF THEIR NEXT GENERATION *BIOWEAPONS*.



"THE DESIGN, PAYLOAD AND YIELD OF THE WEAPON REMAINS A HIGHLY GUARDED SECRET, SO MUCH SO WE CURRENTLY ONLY KNOW TWO THINGS:

"WHAT THE *PROTOTYPE* IS CALLED, *S7*, AND WHERE THE SALE IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

"YOU'LL FLY INTO HONG KONG ON A DA COSTA CORPORATE JET, THEN TAKE THE FERRY OVER TO MACAU...

"DRESS YOUR VERY BEST, AVENGERS, AND I HOPE YOU'RE FEELING LUCKY...



"IT'S TIME TO GAMBLE.

"YOUR MISSION
HAS FOUR *PRIMARY*
OBJECTIVES:



"ONE: SECURE THE WEAPON
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.



"TWO: INFILTRATE
THE A.I.M. AGENTS...
WIN THEIR TRUST.



"THREE: IDENTIFY
ALL POSSIBLE
BUYERS.



"AND FOUR: AT ALL COSTS, MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE."

"THE LAST THING S.H.I.E.L.D. WANTS IS AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT."

I AM CALM IN A RAGING SEA.

I AM TRADITION, THAT
BUTTRESSES THE FUTURE.



I AM THE OLD
WAYS, FROM
WHICH WE CAME.



THERE IS A NEWBORN BEAST
IN THE OCEAN OF GLOBAL MEGA-
CORPORATIONS--CHIMERA.

IT IS A SERPENT POSING AS A DRAGON--
SOMETHING WICKED PRETENDING TO BE
SOMETHING NOBLE.

CHIMERA IS
HERE FOR THE
BIDDING.

I AM HERE
BECAUSE
THE UNIVERSE
DEMANDED IT.



SO I HAVE SEEN
THEM, AND THEY
HAVE SEEN ME.

AND THAT'S ALL
THERE IS TO IT.

4 HOURS AGO.

HERE
YOU GO,
SIR.

BY
COURIER,
SIR.

AND
THESE
ARRIVED THIRTY
MORNING?

COOL.

THANKS,
PAL.

**OKAY.
LET'S GET
STARTED.**

THE A.I.M.
NEGOTIATING
PARTY IS LED BY
DR. MATHIAS
DEEDS.

WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE CIRCLE ARE HERE FROM MADRIPOOR, AS WELL AS SYMKARIAN SEPARATISTS, AND THE MOLDOVIAN BLACK FACTION.

**THERE'S ALSO
TALK OF A LOCAL
HONG KONG GROUP.**

TRIAD?

NOPE.
SOMETHING NEW,
WE THINK.

ANYWAY...

THE POINT
IS EVERYTHING
REVOLVES AROUND
THE WEAPONS
A.I.M. IS
SELLING.









WELL...

IT COULD BE
YOU'RE PLAYING THE
WRONG GAME AGAINST
THE WRONG PERSON.

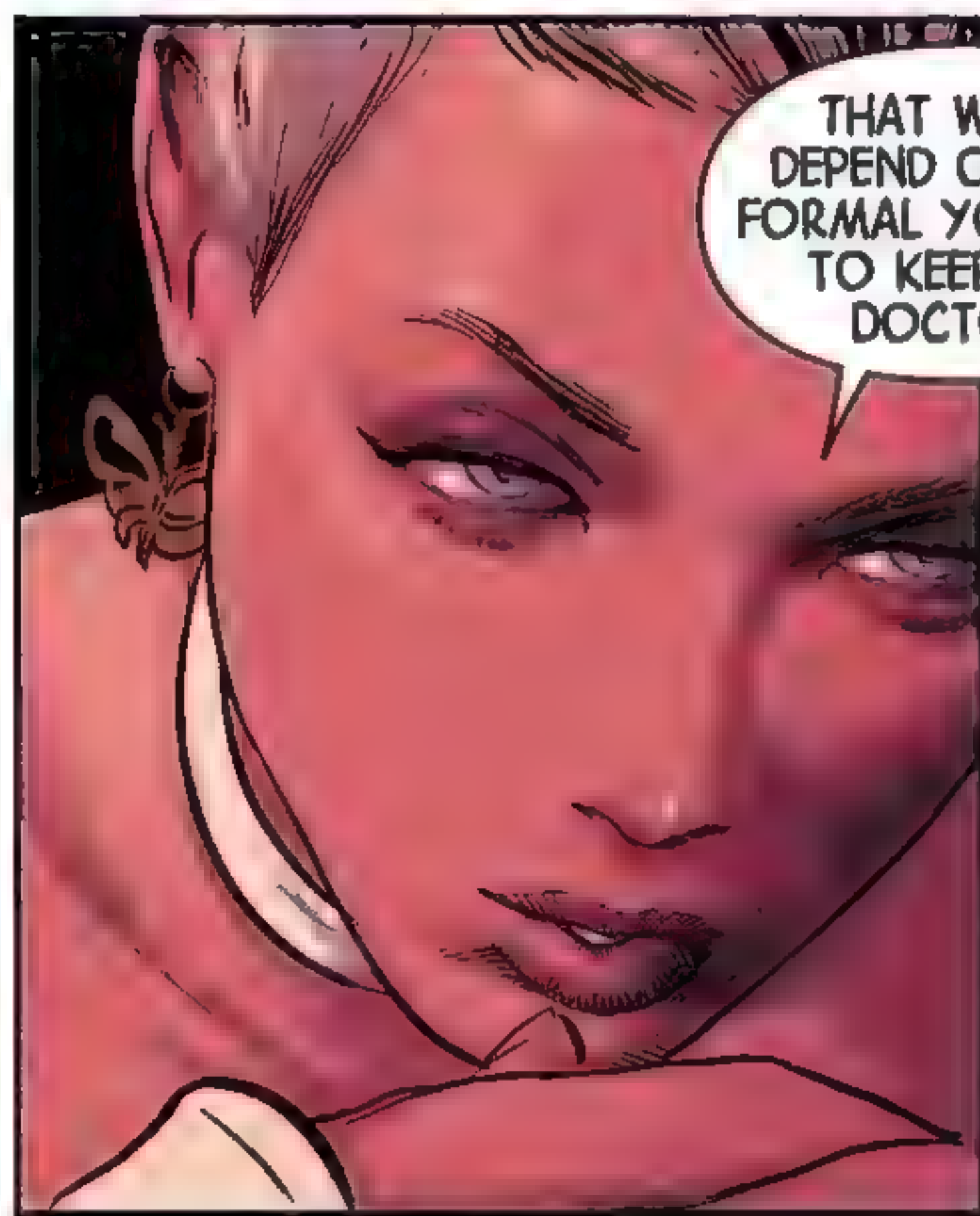
OR MAYBE
YOU'RE JUST
A PENGUIN.



OH, I THINK
THE ONLY ONE
PRETENDING THEY'RE
SOMETHING THEY'RE
NOT IS YOU,
MS. DANVERS.

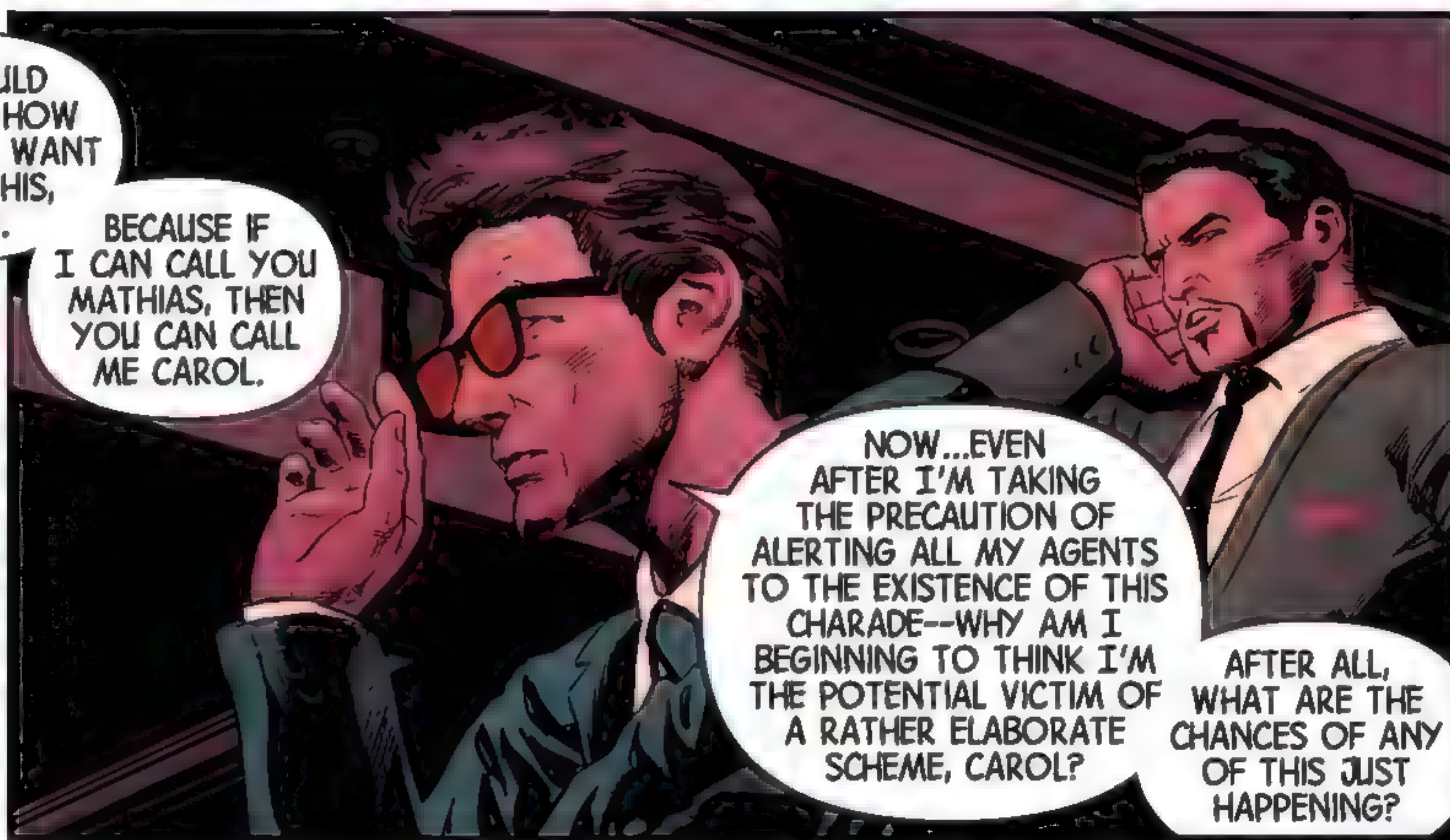
OR WOULD
YOU PREFER
CAPTAIN
MARVEL?

AVENGER.



THAT WOULD
DEPEND ON HOW
FORMAL YOU WANT
TO KEEP THIS,
DOCTOR.

BECAUSE IF
I CAN CALL YOU
MATHIAS, THEN
YOU CAN CALL
ME CAROL.



NOW...EVEN
AFTER I'M TAKING
THE PRECAUTION OF
ALERTING ALL MY AGENTS
TO THE EXISTENCE OF THIS
CHARADE--WHY AM I
BEGINNING TO THINK I'M
THE POTENTIAL VICTIM OF
A RATHER ELABORATE
SCHEME, CAROL?

AFTER ALL,
WHAT ARE THE
CHANCES OF ANY
OF THIS JUST
HAPPENING?



ARE
YOU ASKING
ME FOR ODDS,
DOCTOR?

I'M ASKING
IF YOU CAME ALL
THIS WAY JUST TO
SPEND THE EVENING
WITH ME?

OR DO
I HAVE
SOMETHING
YOU WANT?

WANT IMPLIES
I MIGHT NOT
GET WHAT I'M
AFTER.

SO YOU
EXPECT ME TO
JUST *GIVE*
IT TO YOU?



WELL...I
COULD ALWAYS
PLAY YOU
FOR IT.

CHIMERA.

IT FINDS
PROFIT IN
CHAOS.

IT GLOBALIZES
VIOLENCE.

IT MONETIZES
DEATH.

CHIMERA'S
CORPORATE SLOGAN
IS: *PROGRESS.*





SO...THIS IS A VERY NICE ROOM.

ONLY THE VERY BEST WILL DO FOR CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY SUCH AS OURSELVES.

YOU KNOW, I ASKED, BUT YOU NEVER ACTUALLY TOLD ME WHAT IT WAS THAT YOU DO.

YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BEING HERE FOR A BUSINESS DEAL?



YES, IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

WE'RE ALL WITH SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAPPEN TO SHARE A COMMON GOAL.



AND ALSO, ALL MEN OF MEANS WITH A TASTE FOR THE VERY FINEST THINGS.



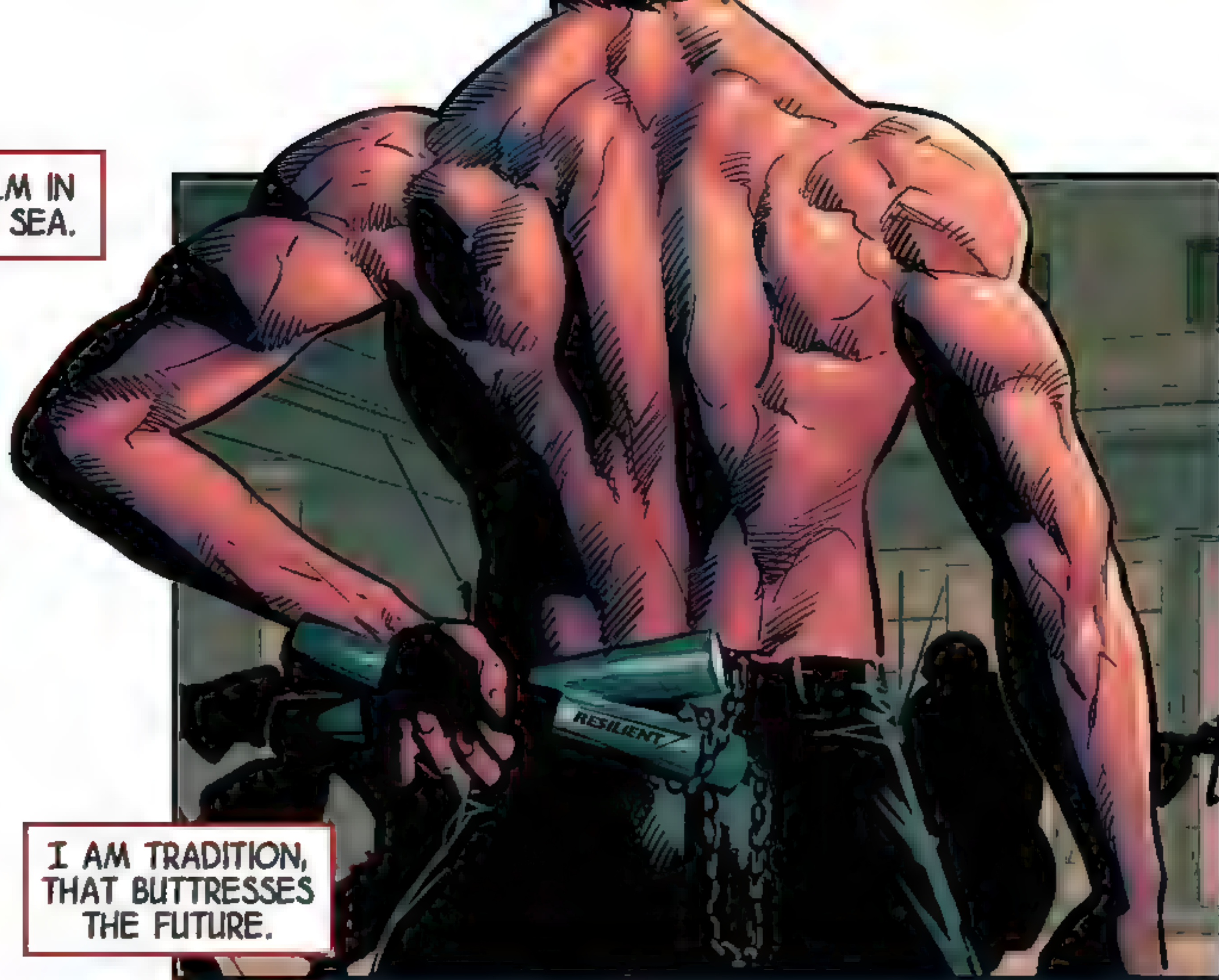
WHICH EXPLAINS ZE ROOM...



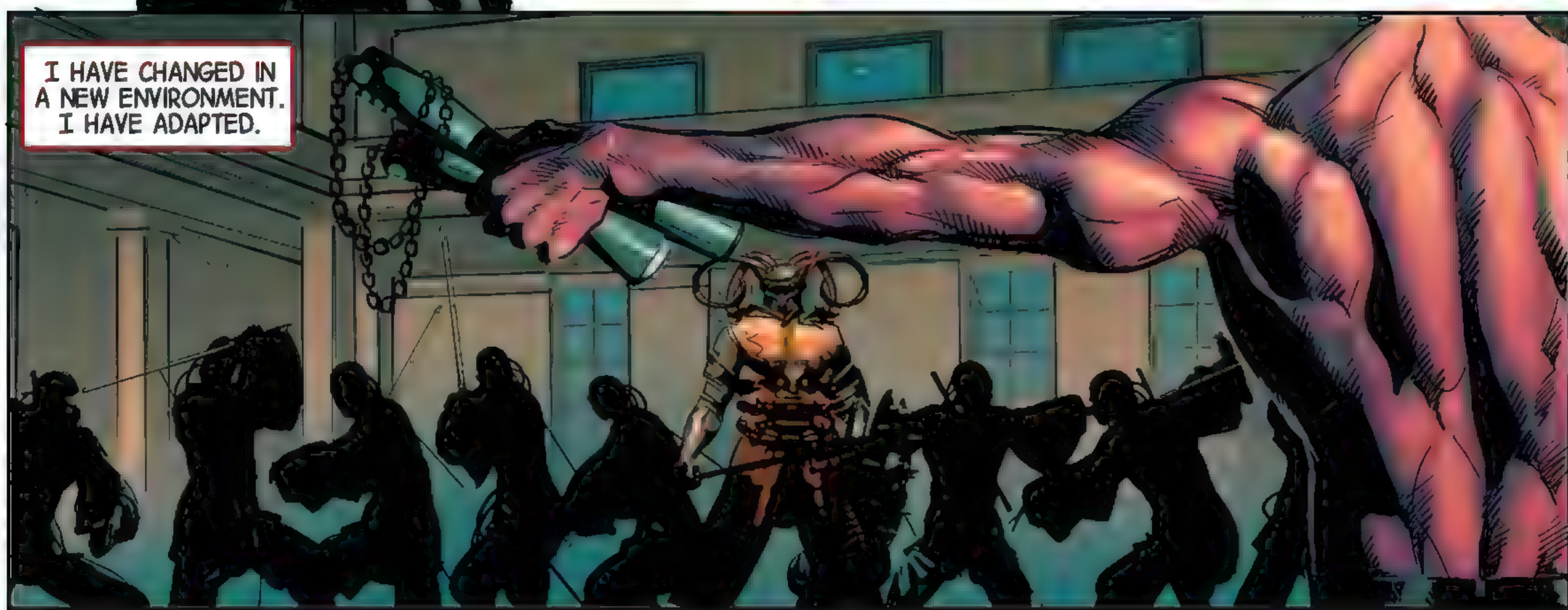
AND ZE COMPANY WE PREFER TO KEEP.



I AM CALM IN
A RAGING SEA.



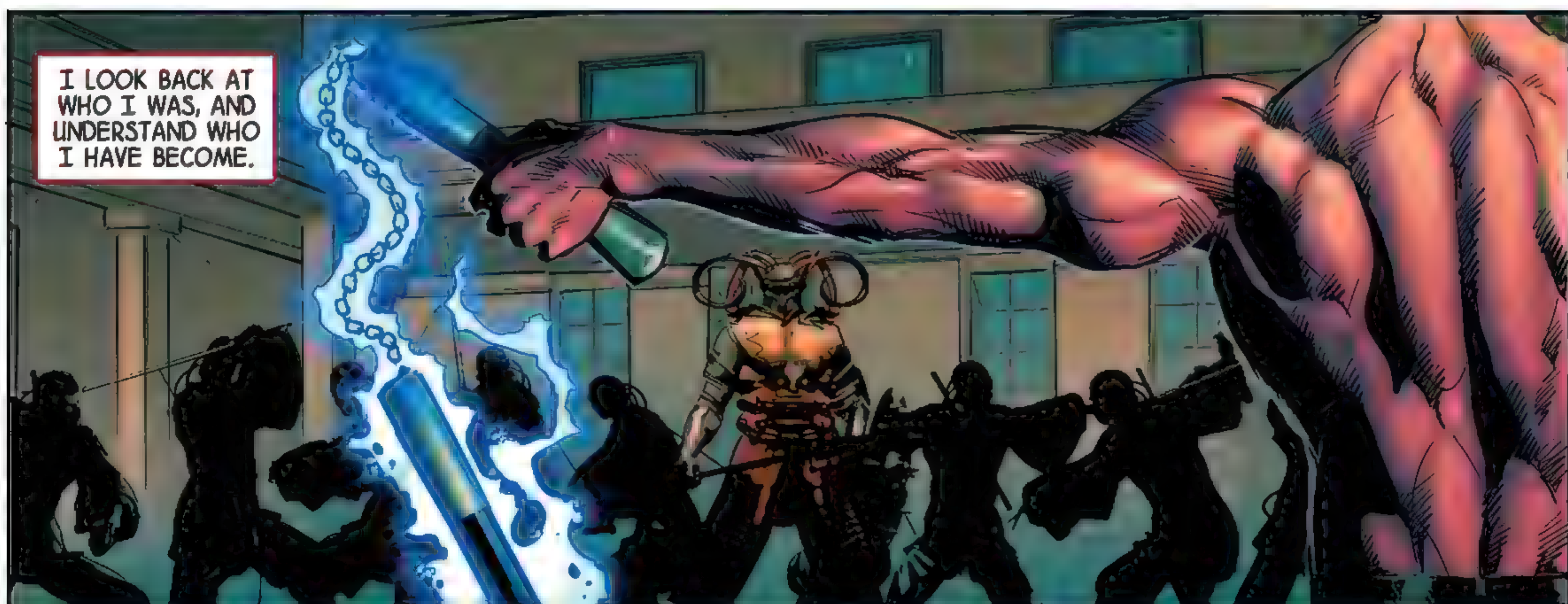
I AM TRADITION,
THAT BUTTRESSES
THE FUTURE.



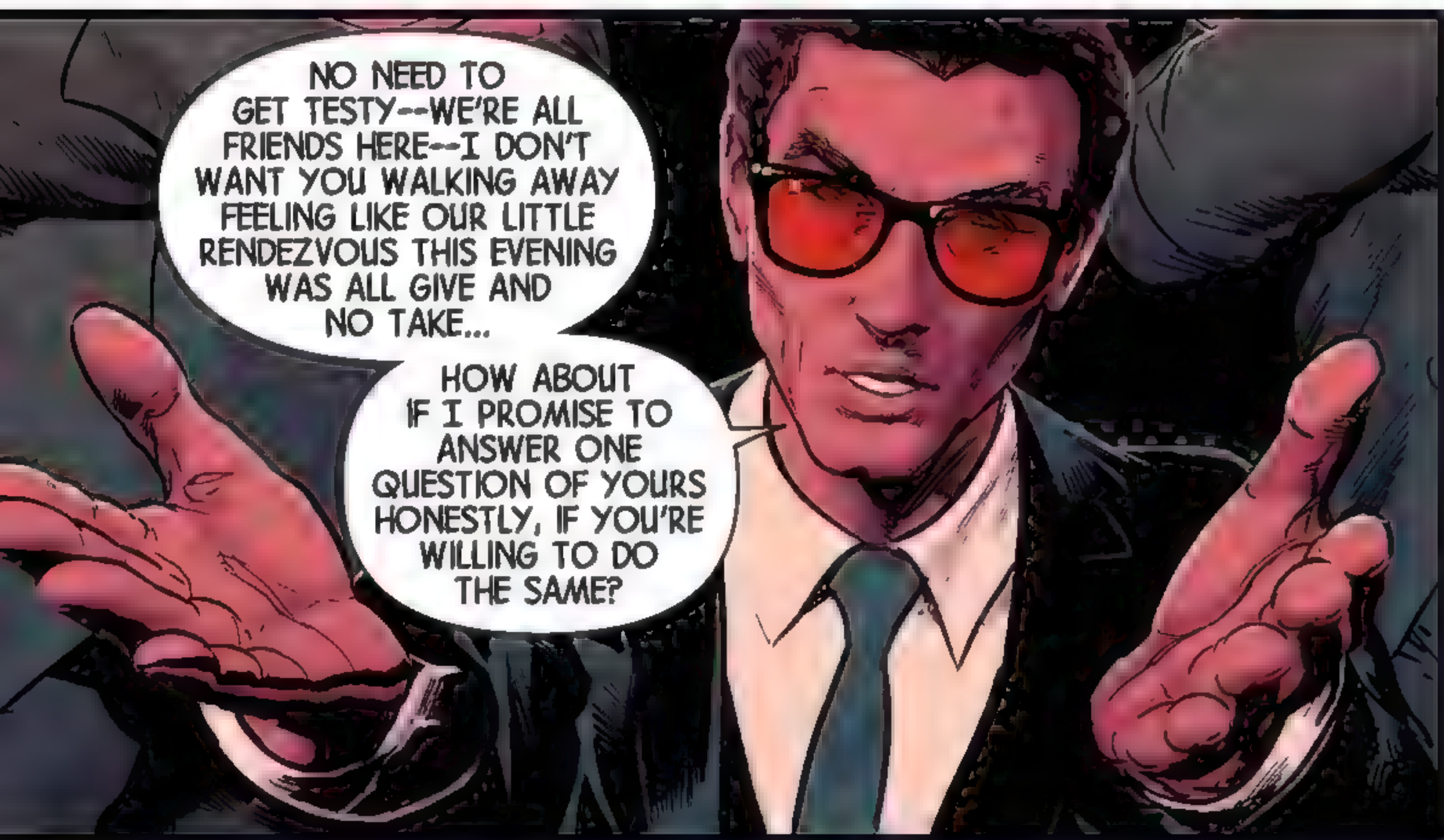
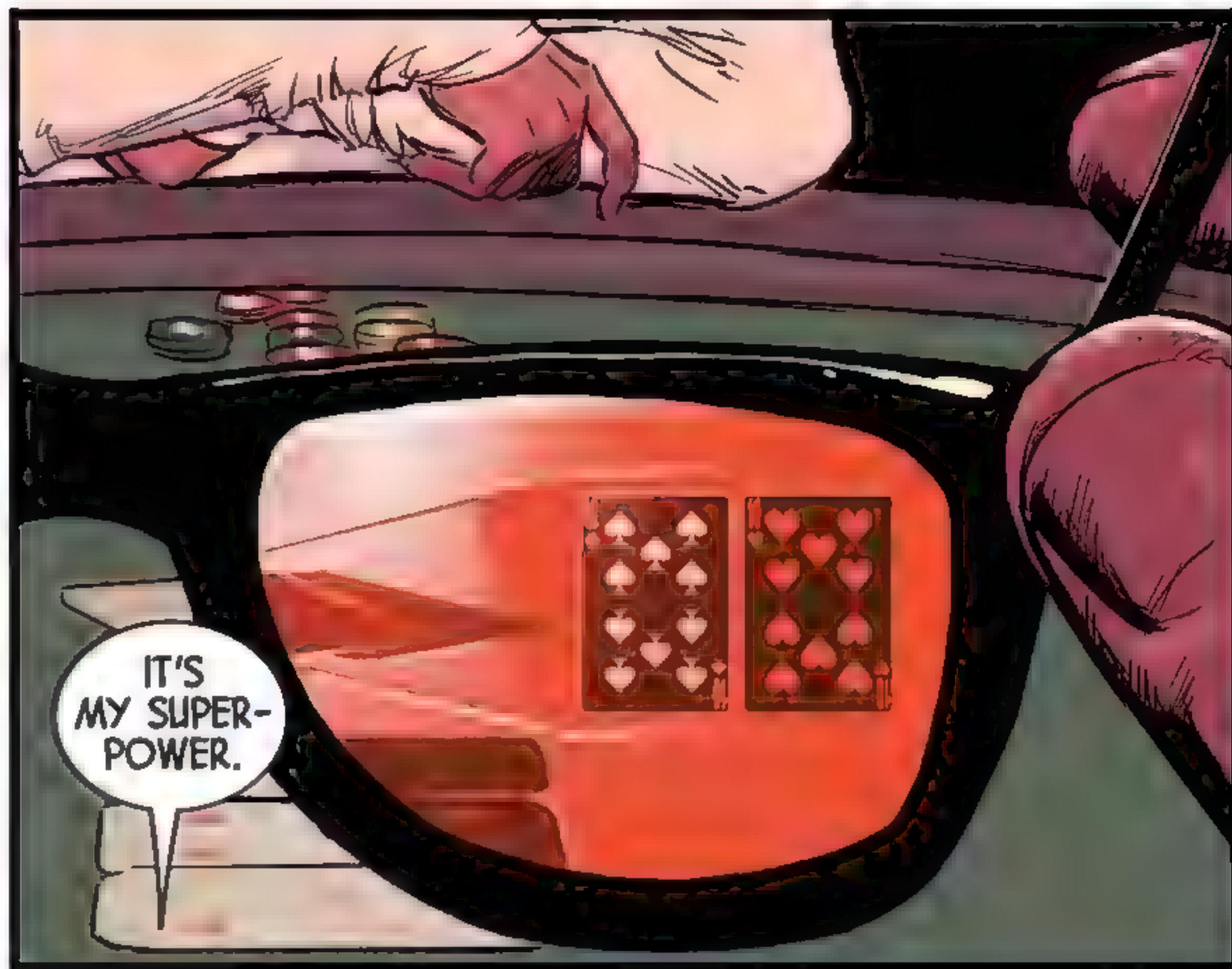
I HAVE CHANGED IN
A NEW ENVIRONMENT.
I HAVE ADAPTED.



HAVE YOU
THOUGHT ABOUT
WEAPONS?



I LOOK BACK AT
WHO I WAS, AND
UNDERSTAND WHO
I HAVE BECOME.





YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME. YOU'RE HERE TO *BUY* SOMETHING?

SWEAR. TO. GOD.



REALLY?

REALLY.

THEN WHAT'S UP WITH THE GLOBAL CRIMINAL CONVENTION GOING ON IN THE CASINO?

DON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING...AND I DEMAND YOU UNTIE ME NOW OR I'M GOING TO REPORT YOU!



SHUT UP, DOUG.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT DR. DEEDS IS UP TO--THEY NEVER LET US KNOW ANYTHING.

SAM...CAN I TELL YOU SOMETHING?

SURE, TRAVIS. WHATEVER YOU WANT.

THIS IS THE MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN A REALLY, REALLY LONG TIME.

SERIOUSLY. THANK YOU, GUYS... I WISH IT DIDN'T HAVE TO END.



IT DOESN'T!

COME WORK FOR ME--BE MY PERSONAL SUPER VILLAIN DOUBLE AGENTS...IT PAYS. WELL.

I'M RICH, BABY! RICH!

REALLY?

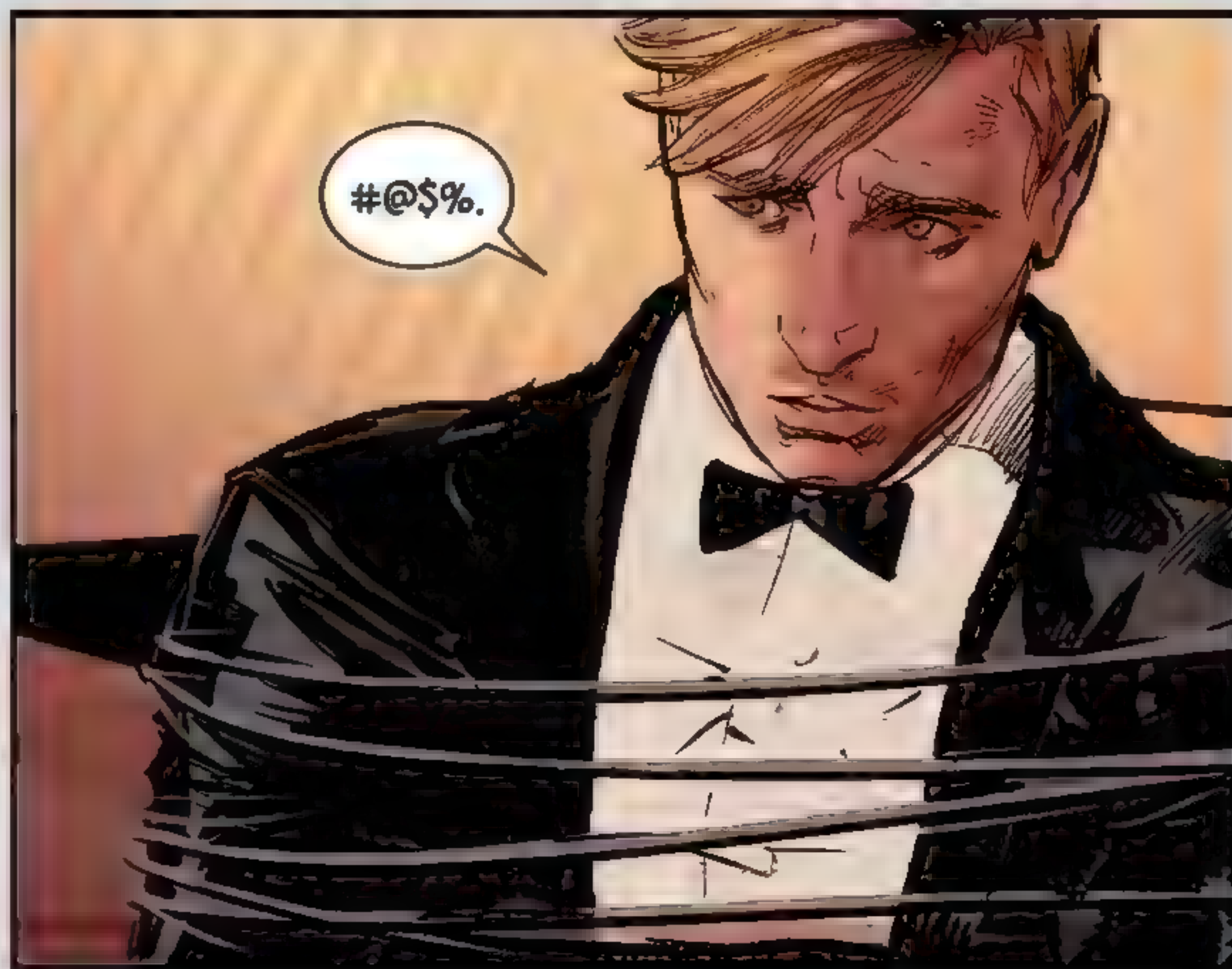
REALLY!



HE MEANS IT, GUYS. IF YOU WANT IN, JUST SAY YES.

YES!

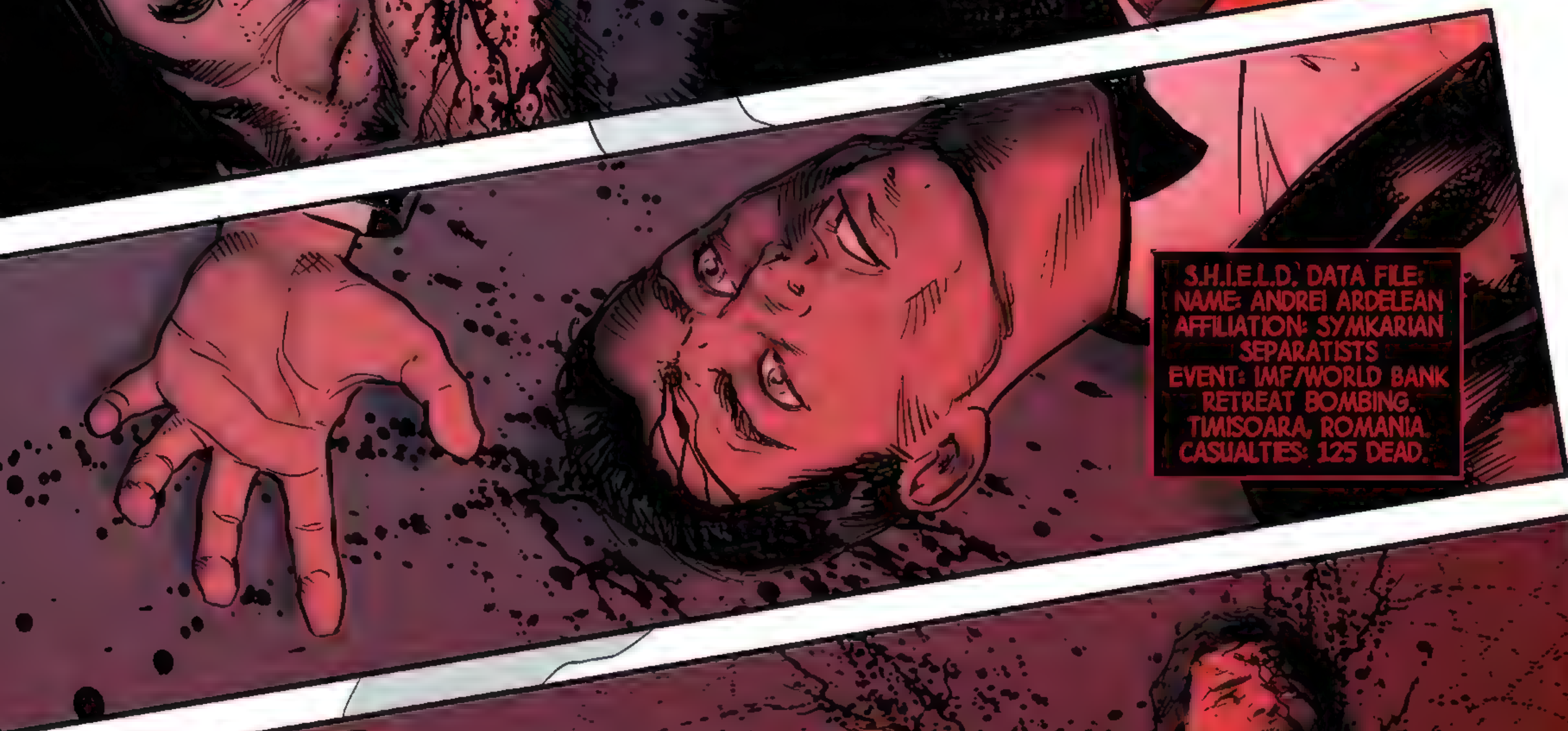
UH-HUH, ME, TOO...BUT IF WE DO THIS, THAT MEANS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT DOUG.



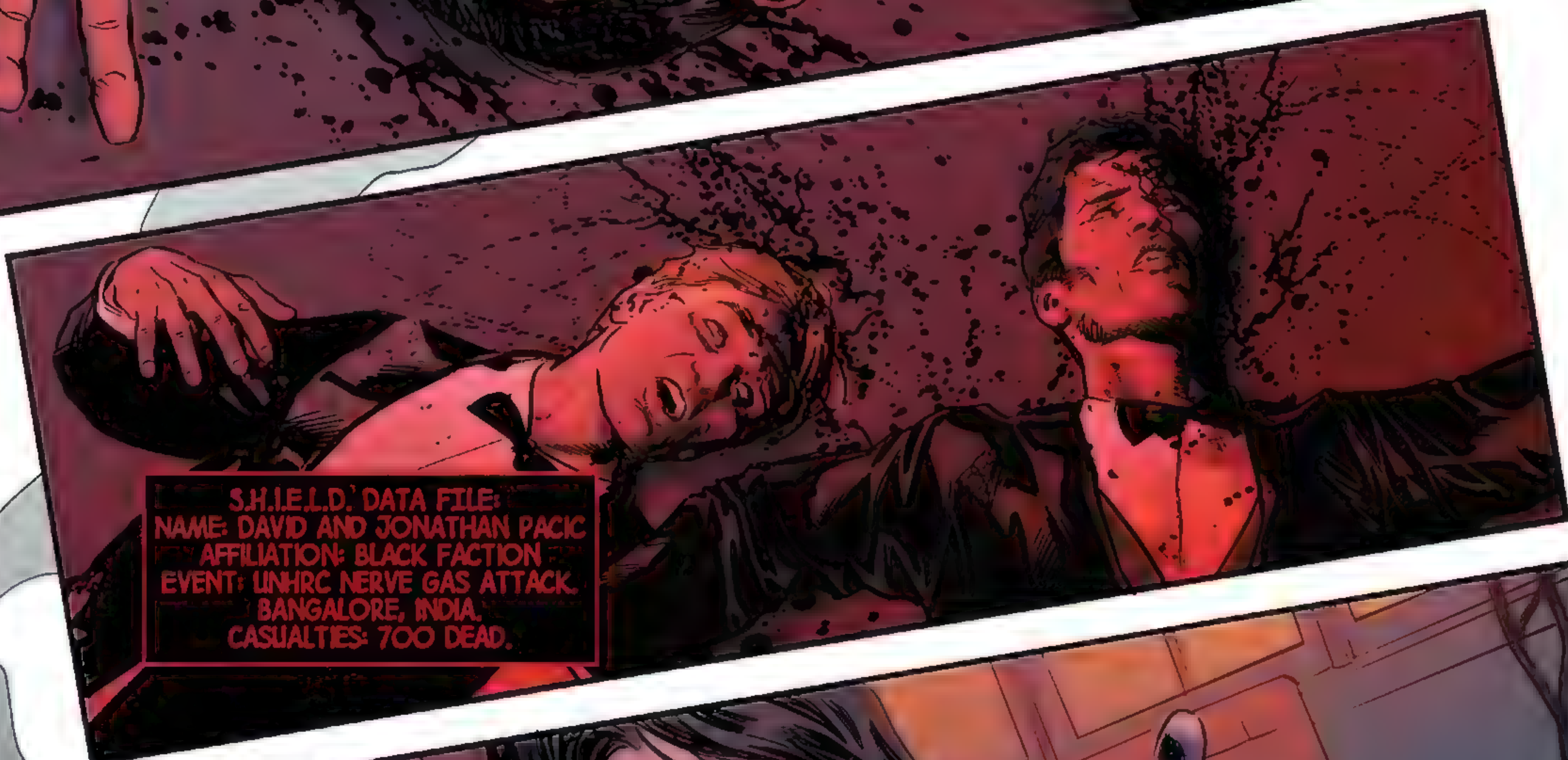
#@\$%.



S.H.I.E.L.D. DATA FILE:
NAME: DENGA BAUTISTA
AFFILIATION: THE CIRCLE
EVENT: CHURCH BOMBING,
MANILA, PHILIPPINES.
CASUALTIES: 245 DEAD,
345 INJURED.



S.H.I.E.L.D. DATA FILE:
NAME: ANDREI ARDELEAN
AFFILIATION: SYMKARIAN
SEPARATISTS
EVENT: IMF/WORLD BANK
RETREAT BOMBING,
TIMISOARA, ROMANIA.
CASUALTIES: 125 DEAD.



S.H.I.E.L.D. DATA FILE:
NAME: DAVID AND JONATHAN PACIC
AFFILIATION: BLACK FACTION
EVENT: UNHRC NERVE GAS ATTACK,
BANGALORE, INDIA.
CASUALTIES: 700 DEAD.



UNNECESSARY!

UNNECESSARY!

WELL,
JESSICA, I'M
SORRY...

BUT I
DISAGREE.





I AM CALM IN
A RAGING SEA.



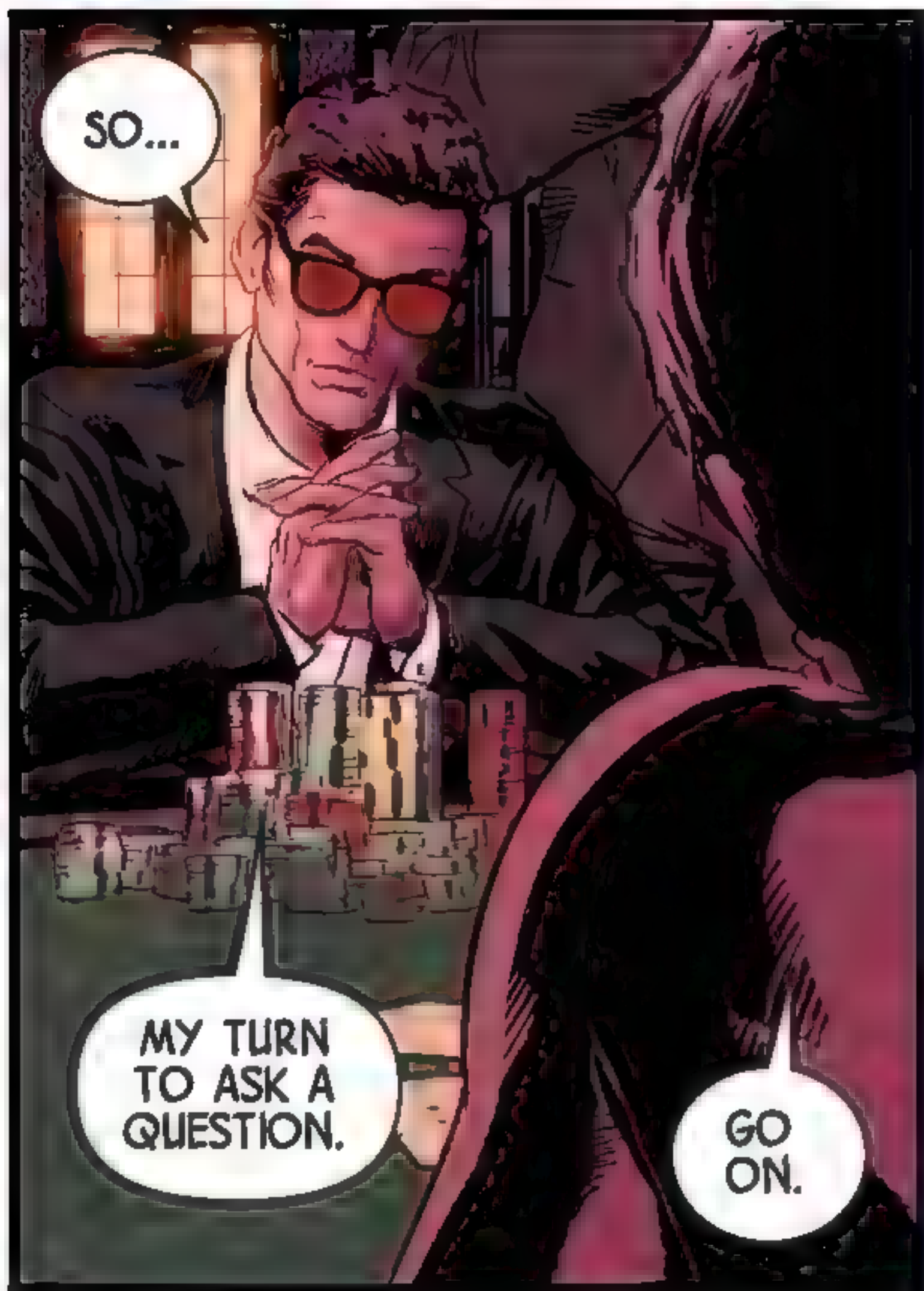
I AM THE OLD WAYS,
FROM WHICH WE CAME.



CHIMERA IS SOMETHING
WICKED PRETENDING TO
BE SOMETHING NOBLE--
IT IS A SERPENT...BUT I...



I AM THE
DRAGON.



LATER.

ALL THAT...
AND WE FOUND
OUT NOTHING.

ACTUALLY, I
LEARNED A FEW OF
THOSE A.I.M. DUDES CAN
SERIOUSLY DRINK.

AND WE
ALSO LEARNED
I SHOULD HAVE
USED THE
PLIERS.

RIGHT...SO,
NOTHING.

ACTUALLY,
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
I FOUND OUT EXACTLY
WHY THEY WERE
HERE.

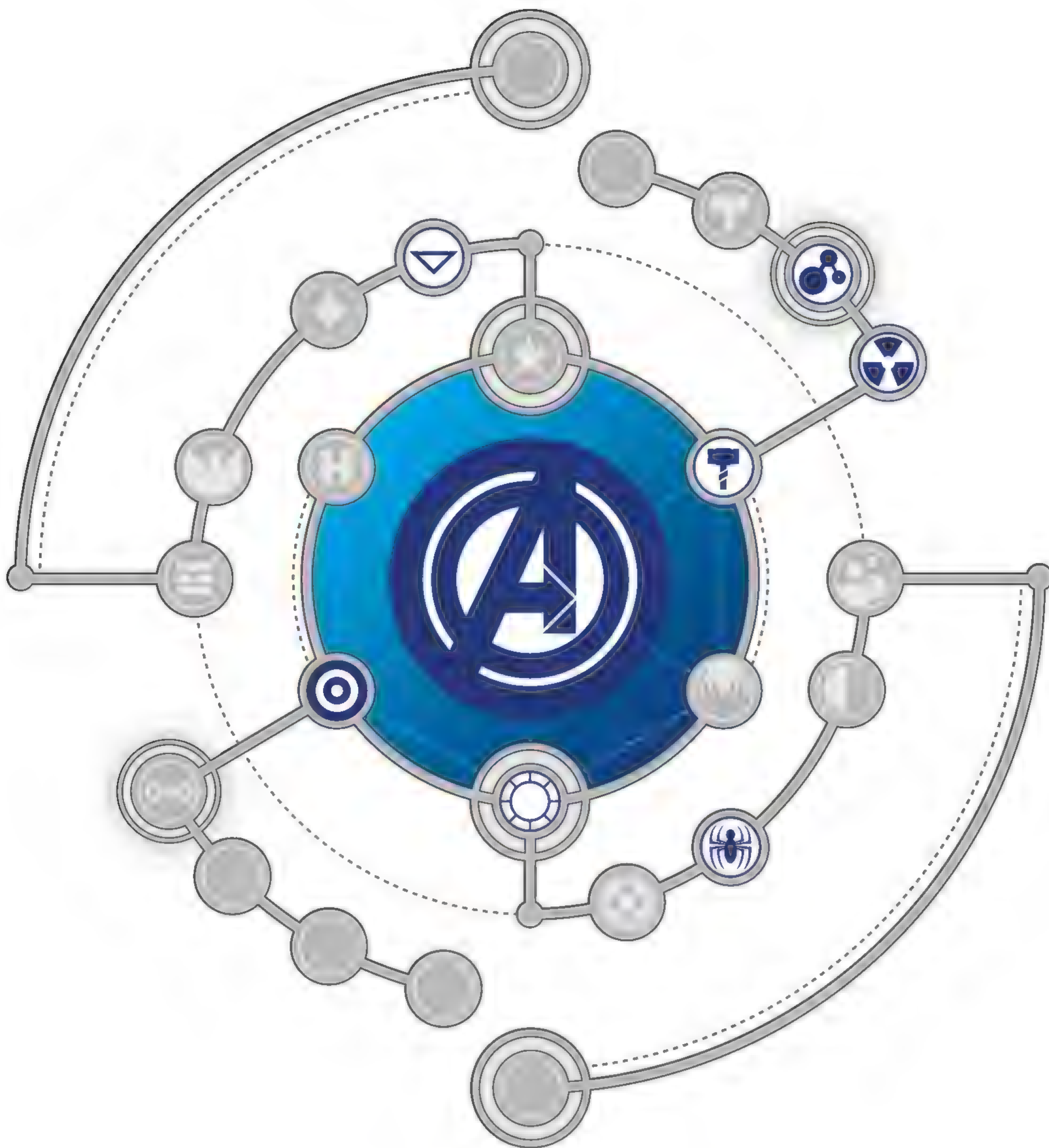
AND WHAT
THEY WERE
BUYING.

AN ARMY OF
ASSASSINS.

IT SEEMS OUR
FRIENDS AT A.I.M.
ARE GEARING UP
FOR A WAR.



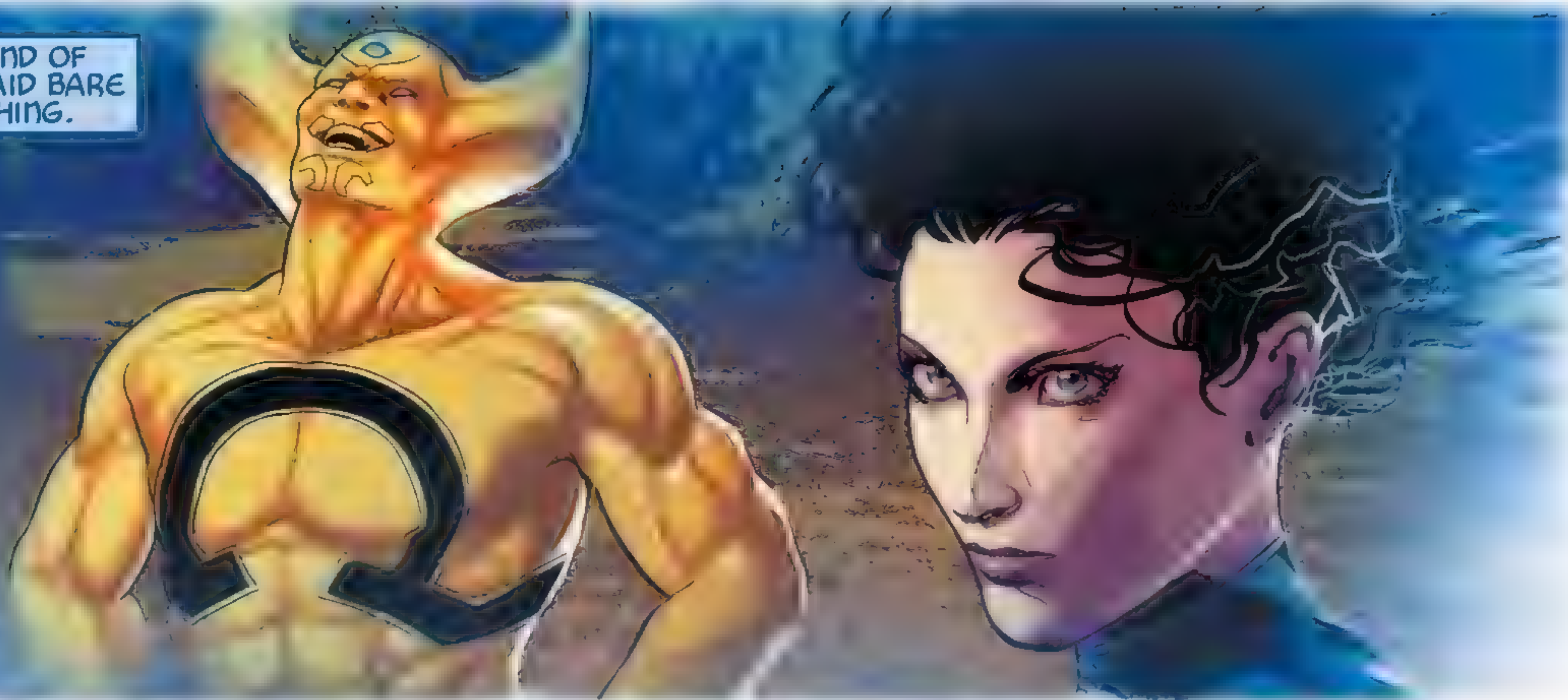
“EVOLVE”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SONSPOT • CANNIBAL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION

"THE LEGEND OF
CREATION, LAID BARE
AND LAUGHING.



"THE UNIVERSE ITSELF
BREAKING APART
BEFORE THEIR EYES.

HELP THEM,
FATHER--"

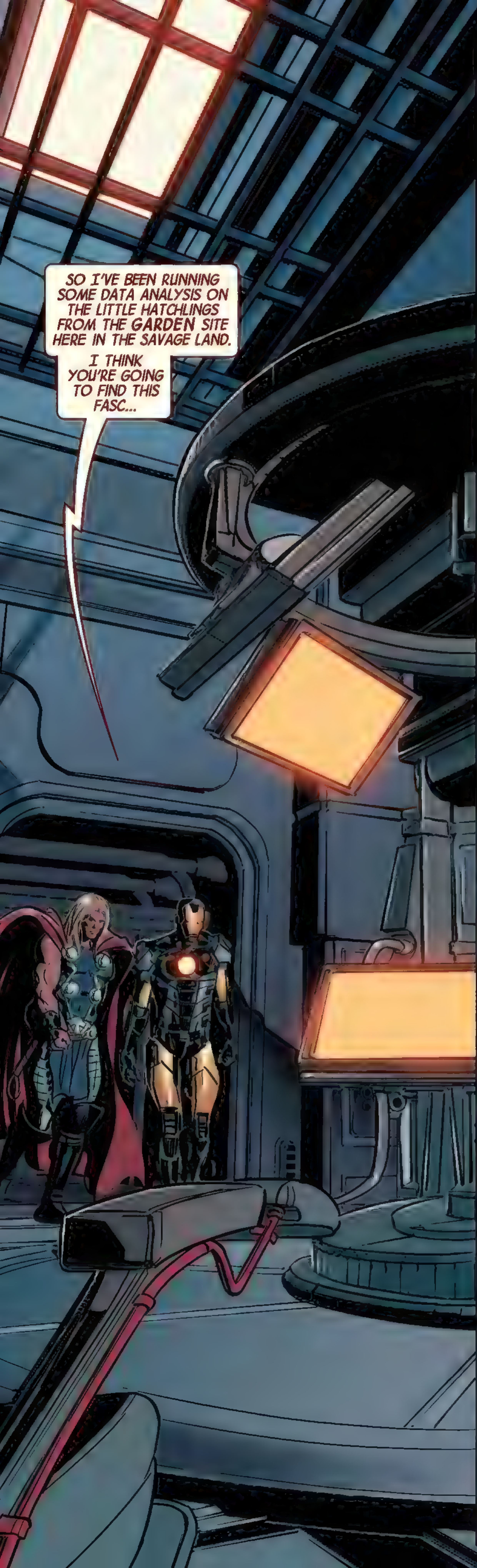


THEY
ARE ONLY
MEN.

THOR--A
MOMENT?



YOU
NEED TO
SEE THIS.



SO I'VE BEEN RUNNING SOME DATA ANALYSIS ON THE LITTLE HATCHLINGS FROM THE GARDEN SITE HERE IN THE SAVAGE LAND.

I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THIS FASC...

...CINATING. WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT.

THE HELIX NEBULA. RECORDING AT SEVEN HUNDRED STILLS PER SECOND, ARCHIVE FOR LATER ANALYSIS.

STARK?

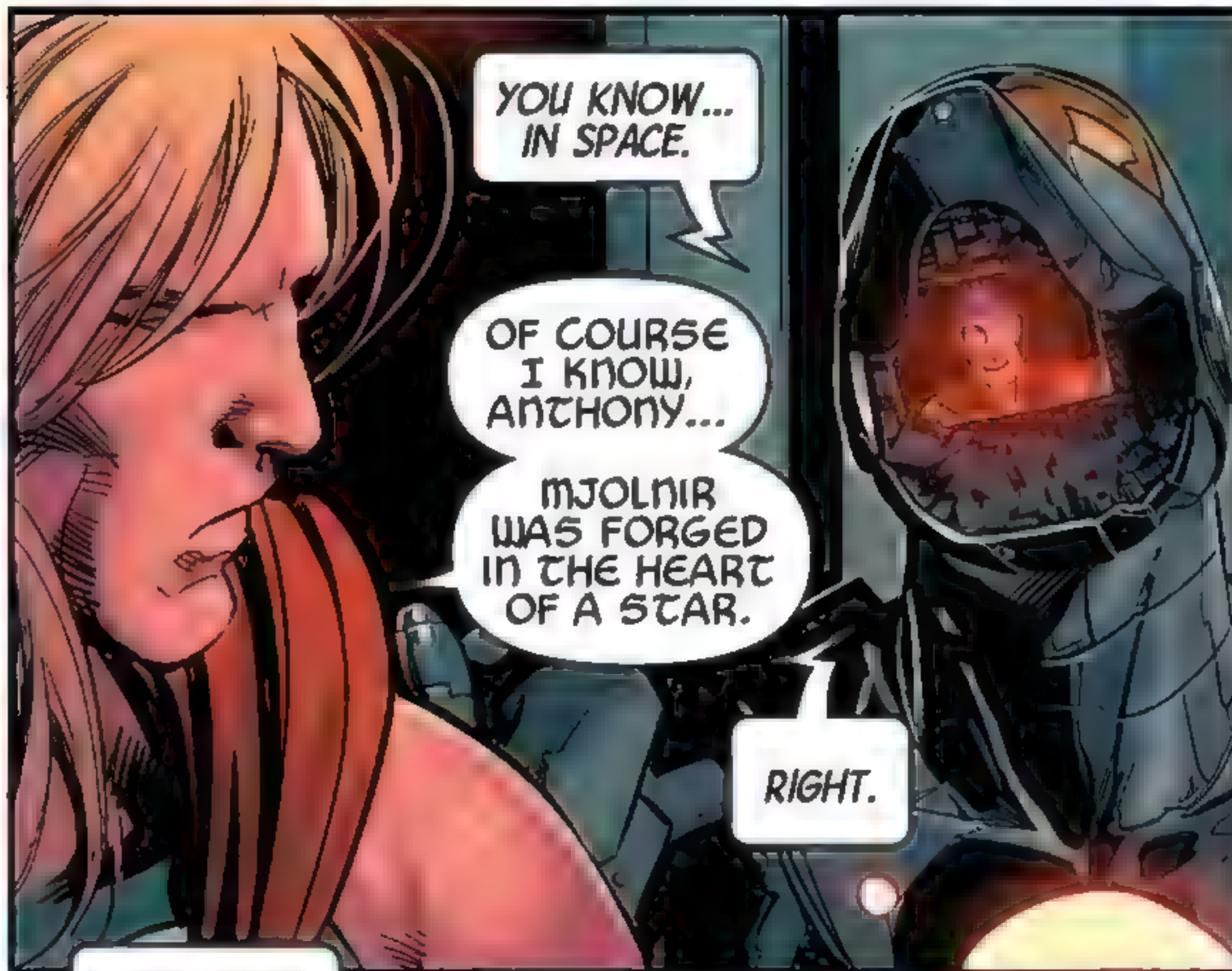
OH, SORRY...



I AM HERE, BUT NOT HERE.

THE LATEST IN STARK OMNIVERSAL MULTITASKING AND PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE MEANS THAT WHILE I AM INTERFACING WITH YOU, I ALSO HAPPEN TO BE SEVEN HUNDRED LIGHT YEARS AWAY WATCHING CELESTIAL FIREWORKS.

...WITH A TALKING RACCOON.



YOU KNOW... IN SPACE.

OF COURSE I KNOW, ANTHONY...

MJOLNIR WAS FORGED IN THE HEART OF A STAR.

RIGHT.

ANYWAY, MY POINT...

THESE KIDS--SINCE THEIR EVOLUTIONARY REBIRTH--THEY'VE BEEN EXHIBITING SOME VERY INTERESTING TRAITS--

SUCH AS?

HERE--

TAKE A LOOK.



ON THE LEFT IS IMMEDIATE, POST-BIRTH, AND AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE ALREADY AT TODDLER STAGE DEVELOPMENT, IN HUMAN TERMS.

"ON THE RIGHT IS WHERE THEY ARE NOW. IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS, AND ALL OF THEM HAVE GROWN SOMETHING EQUIVALENT TO SEVEN YEARS, RIGHT INTO NASCENT PRE-ADOLESCENCE. AND HERE'S THE REALLY TRICKY BIT--

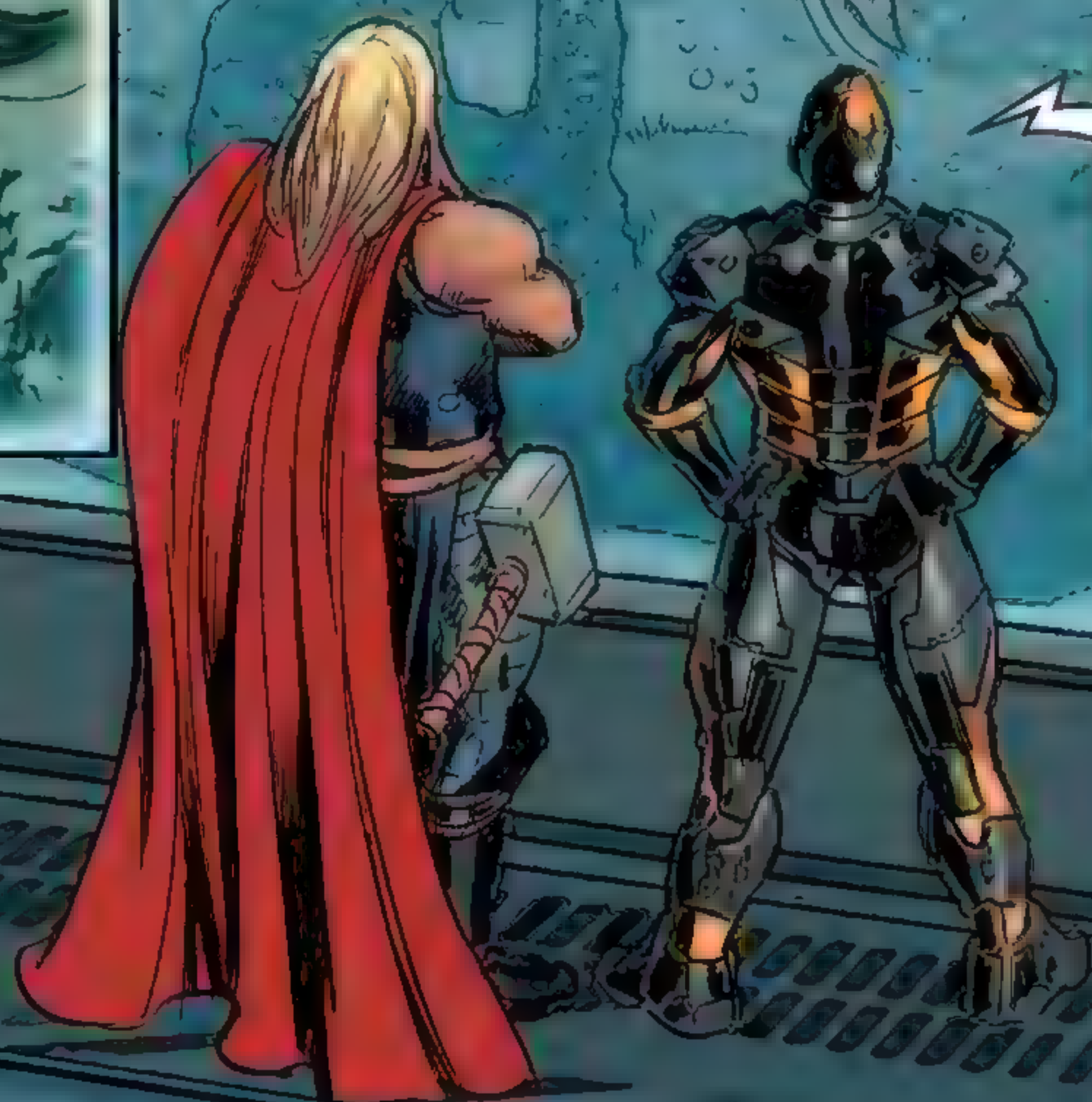
"IN THAT TIME, NOT ONE OF THEM HAS SLEPT AT ANY POINT. HALF OF THEM STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED TO SIT DOWN. JUST ASK ANY OF THE CHILD CARE SUPPORT TEAM--



"THE ONES THAT HAVEN'T QUIT, I MEAN.



"AND THEN THERE'S THEIR DIET, OR LACK THEREOF."

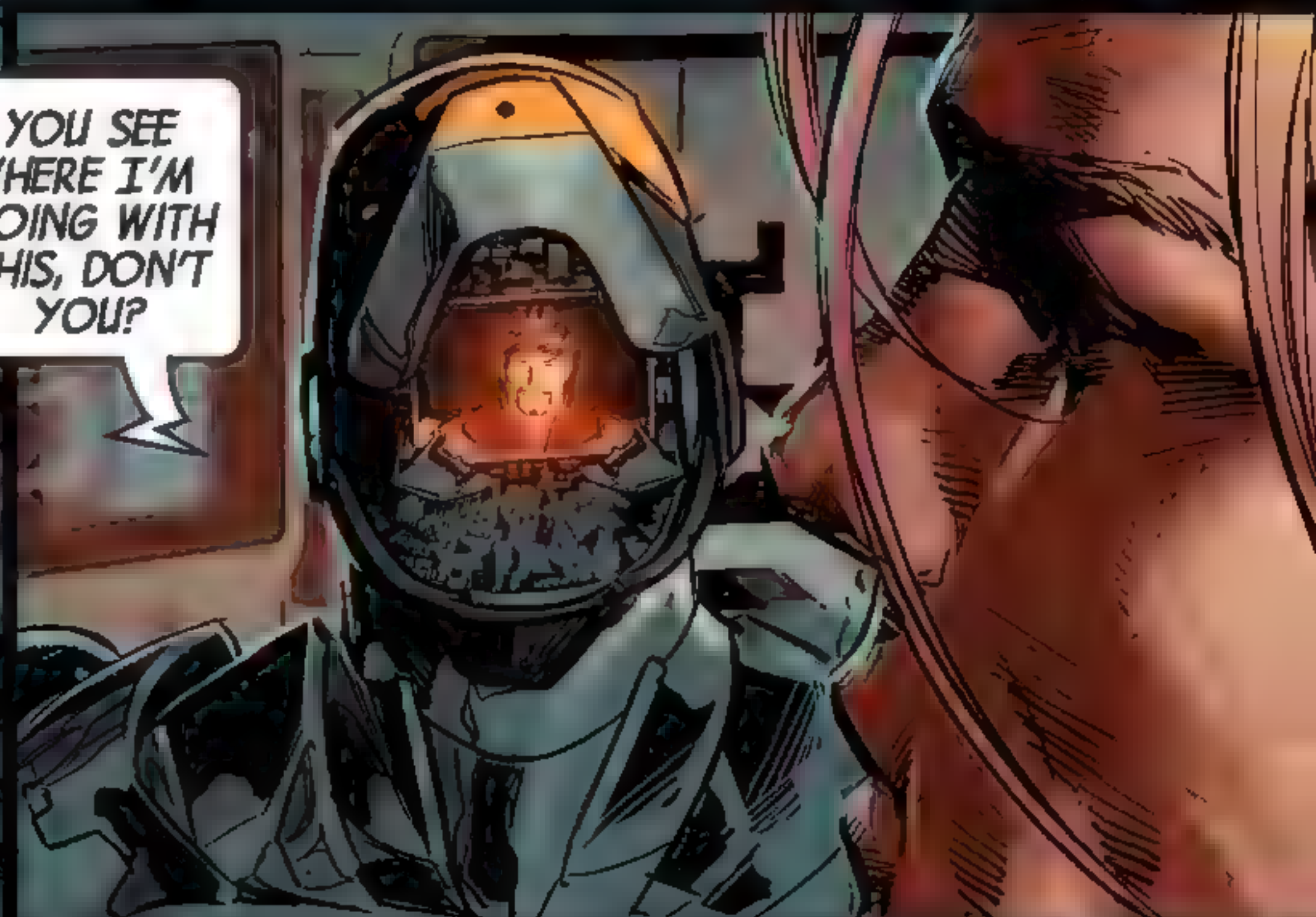


NO FOOD, NO WATER, PICTURE-PERFECT HEALTH. THERE IS NO BASE-LEVEL ENERGY IN/ENERGY OUT SYSTEM AT PLAY HERE. FOR A MINUTE, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE PHOTOSYNTHETIC, BUT LOOK AT THIS--

THERE ARE NO GILLS--HELL, NOTHING RESPIRATORY. NOTHING BREAKING ANYTHING DOWN INTO OXYGEN. THEY DON'T BREATHE.

HE'S BEEN IN THERE FOR FOUR HOURS, HE MIGHT NEVER CATCH THAT FISH...BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP.

YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITH THIS, DON'T YOU?





THEY'RE BEYOND HUMAN NOW. MAYBE SOMETHING LIKE YOU.

AND MAYBE SOMETHING MORE.

PERHAPS THEY ARE WHAT'S NEXT FOR THIS WORLD... MAYBE THEY'RE SOMETHING BETTER.

AYE, HYPERION, MAYBE THEY ARE...BUT AS THE ALL-FATHER HAS OFTEN SAID, CHILDREN NEED SHAPING.

RIGHT. AT SOME POINT, SOMEONE'S GOING TO NEED TO INTEGRATE THESE KIDS INTO A LARGER SYSTEM.

AND WHEN WE DO THAT? WELL, LOOK--SCARCITY, NEED, DESIRE--UGLY AS THESE THINGS CAN BE, THEY'RE THE FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF MOST ANY SOCIETAL STRUCTURE.

WITH NOTHING TO LOSE, THERE'S NO SACRIFICE. WHEN YOU NEED FOR NOTHING, DO YOU DREAM OF ANYTHING? FROM STRUGGLE COMES VIRTUE. IT'S PART OF OUR NATURE.

AND IF IT'S NOT PART OF THEIRS--

THEN I WILL TEACH THEM, AND THEY WILL LEARN.

PERHAPS, WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM ALSO.

IT IS A WORTHY CAUSE...

ONE THAT YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TO UNDERTAKE ALONE.

AND SO YOU WILL NOT.

THE SAVAGE LAND.

MY MEMORIES ARE STORED IN LIGHT.

MY MEMORIES, ALWAYS DOMINATED BY MY LIFE'S MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT.

YESTERDAY, I SAW MY EARTH COLIDE WITH ANOTHER EARTH AND DIE. I SEE IT NOW, AND I WILL SEE IT TOMORROW.

MY MIND, A NONLINEAR, PHOTONIC ARRAY WITH VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS RECALL, MEANING THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW, AND THEN.

SO I WORK TO CREATE BETTER MEMORIES, I WORK TO MAKE THIS WORLD BETTER.

I WORK TO SAVE IT.



WE'VE BROKEN THE CHILDREN INTO SMALL GROUPS FOR AN INFORMAL, HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR DESIGNATED INSTRUCTOR.

THE HOPE IS IF WE CAN MAKE THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERY SOMETHING INTIMATE, AND INDIVIDUALIZED, THEY'LL IN TURN WANT TO SHARE THAT NEW KNOWLEDGE WITH THEIR PEERS OUTSIDE THE GROUP--



TEACHING THEM THE INHERENT MEANING OF VALUE ITSELF. THAT'S GOOD, HYPERION. I LIKE THAT.

HMM. I'VE TRIED TO TAILOR THESE LESSONS TO SUIT OUR PEOPLE THE BEST I CAN, BUT MY EXPERIENCE IS LIMITED...



SO I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INPUT YOU MIGHT HAVE REGARDING MY CHOICES.

GOOD IDEA. SO, SPIDER-MAN...

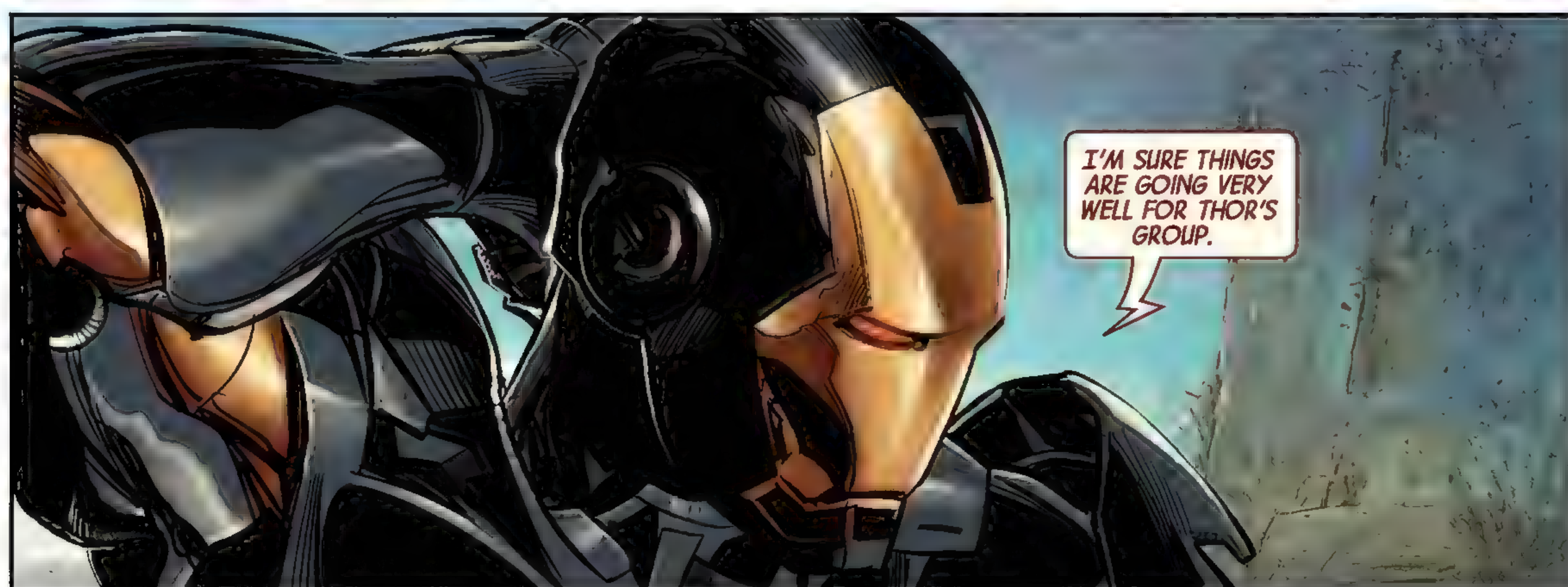
WHAT'S HE SUPPOSED TO BE TEACHING THEM?

--WITH HIM DISTRACTED BY YOUR SUDDEN GENEROSITY, YOU TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE--



TRUST.

AND THEN YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR ENEMY AS YOU WILL!

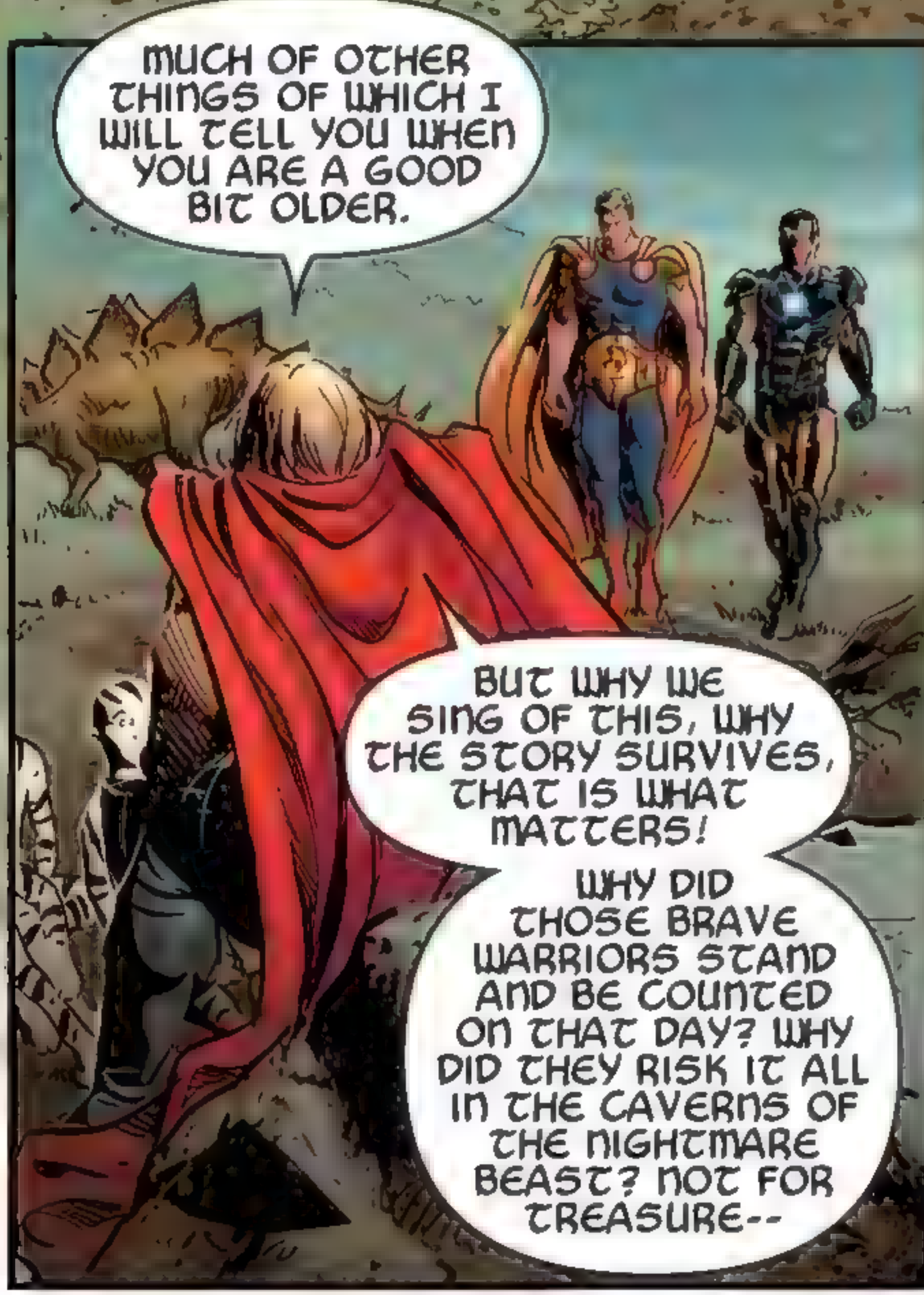




...AND WHEN THE SUN ROSE, A ROAR ERUPTED FROM THE ARMIES OF ASGARD WHEN THEY SAW THE WARRIORS THREE RETURNING ON THE HORIZON, FOR WITH THEM THEY CARRIED THE HEAD OF THE GREAT BEAST.

THE CELEBRATION THAT FOLLOWED FILLED THE HALLS OF ASGARD. THERE WAS MUCH WINE... AND MUCH...

MUCH...



MUCH OF OTHER THINGS OF WHICH I WILL TELL YOU WHEN YOU ARE A GOOD BIT OLDER.

BUT WHY WE SING OF THIS, WHY THE STORY SURVIVES, THAT IS WHAT MATTERS!

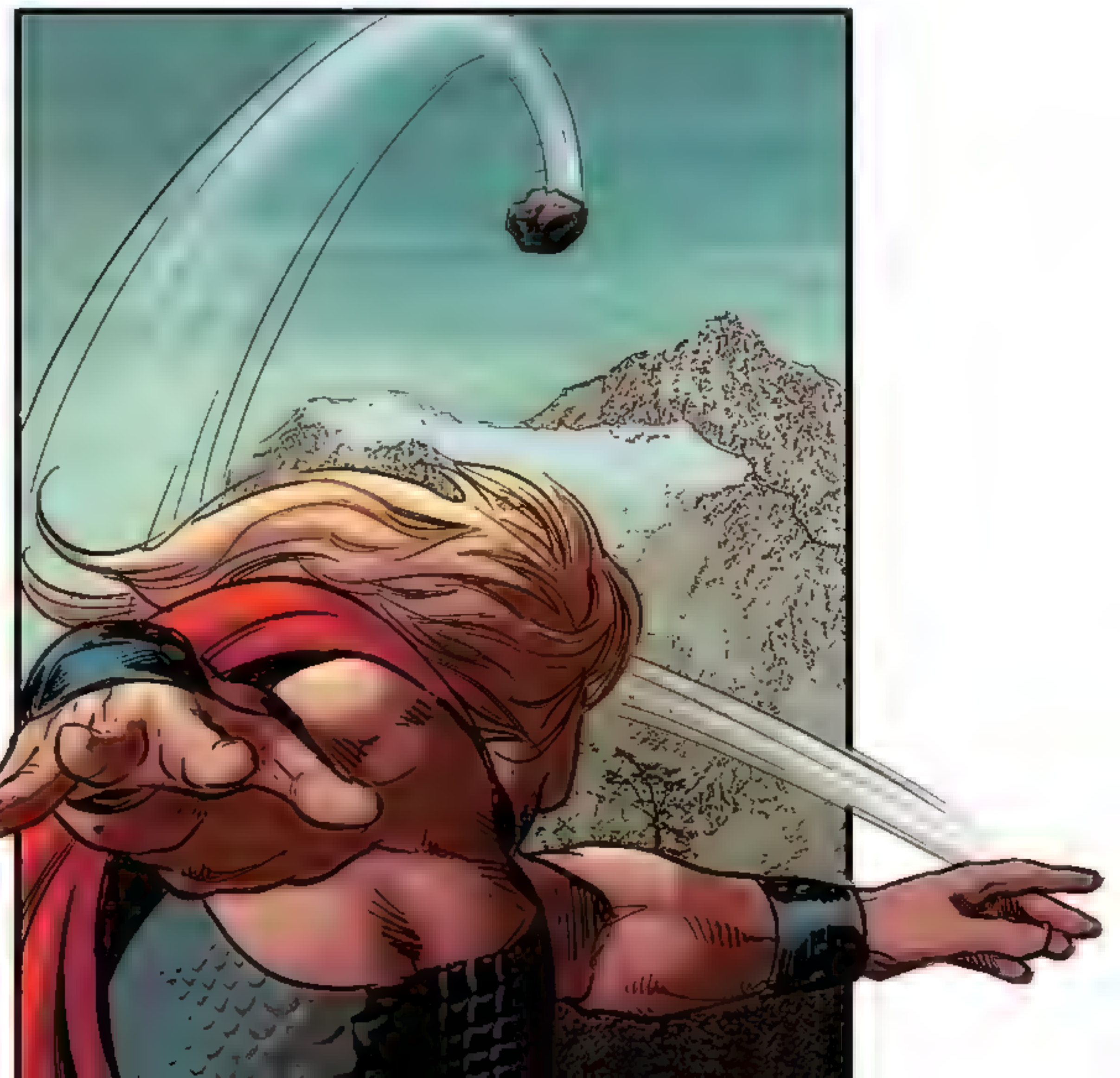
WHY DID THOSE BRAVE WARRIORS STAND AND BE COUNTED ON THAT DAY? WHY DID THEY RISK IT ALL IN THE CAVERNS OF THE NIGHTMARE BEAST? NOT FOR TREASURE--



--BUT FOR GLORY. FOR ASGARD. FOR ALL THAT THEY LOVED.



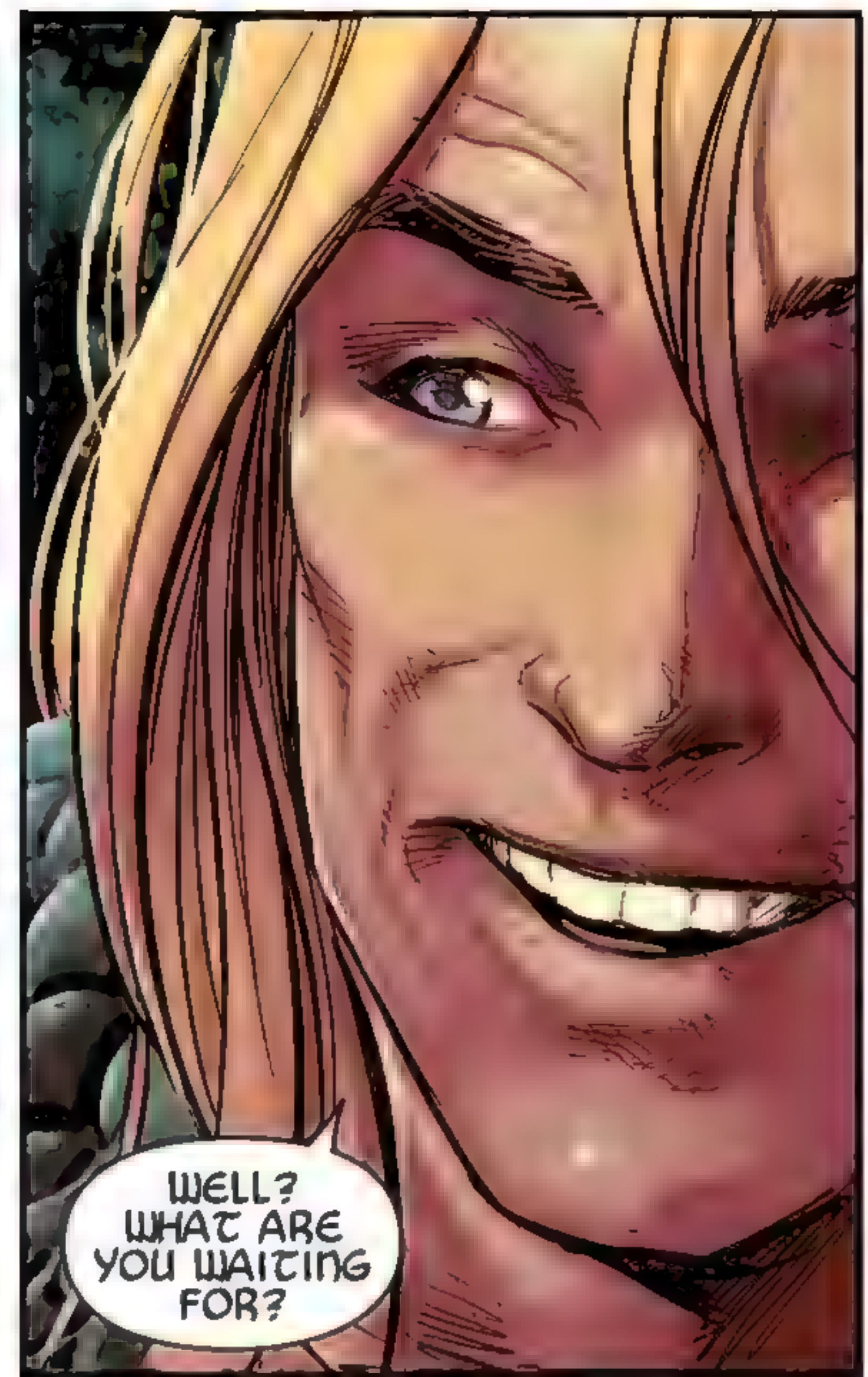
THERE ARE QUESTS WORTH UNDERTAKING... AND NOW YOU WILL DO THE SAME.





YOU THREE, YOU THREE, AND YOU THREE--THE STONE I JUST THREW IS NO ORDINARY STONE--IT IS THE, EH, THE ROCK OF ETERNAL ENCHANTMENT!

IT WILL BE YOUR FIRST QUEST. TOGETHER, YOUR TEAM WILL WORK TO RETRIEVE IT FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP. MY FAVOR WILL FALL ON THE WORTHY.

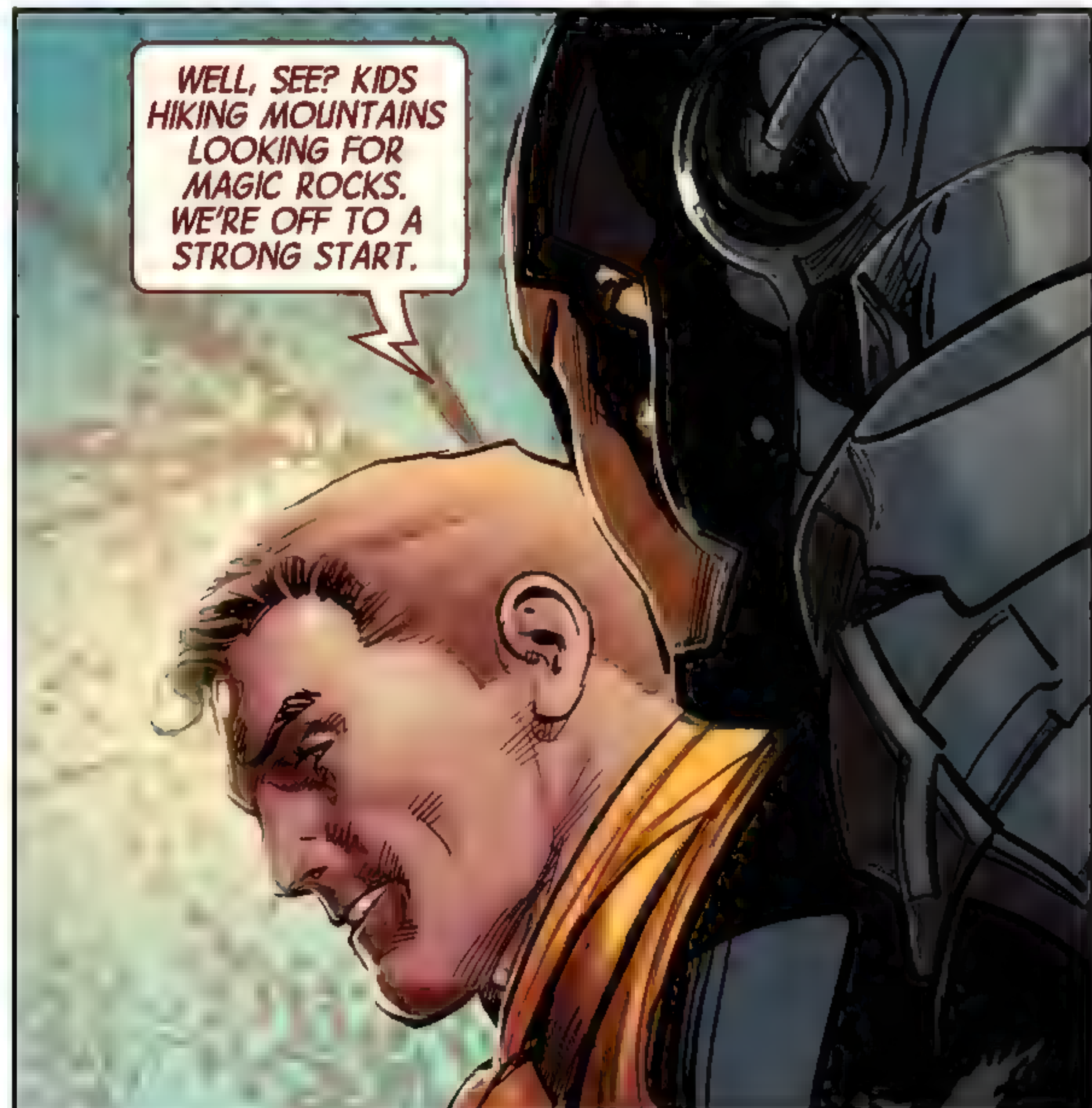


WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



GO! GO NOW!

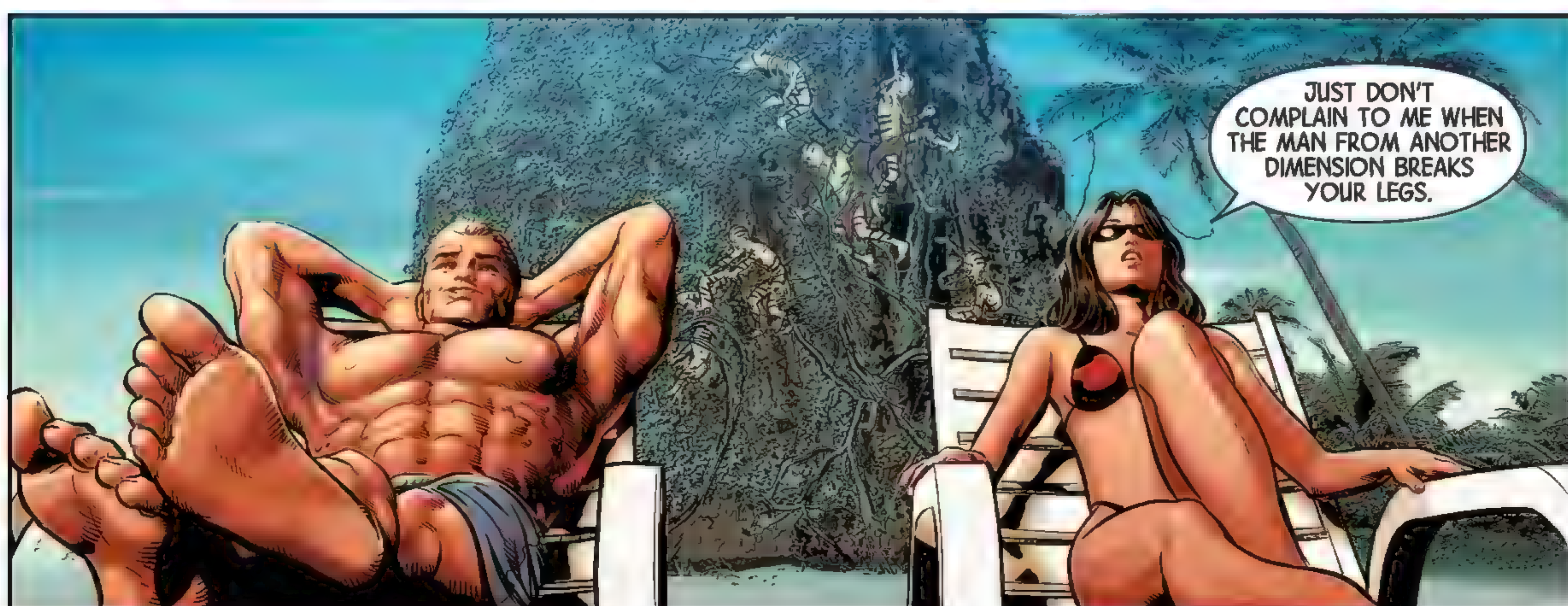
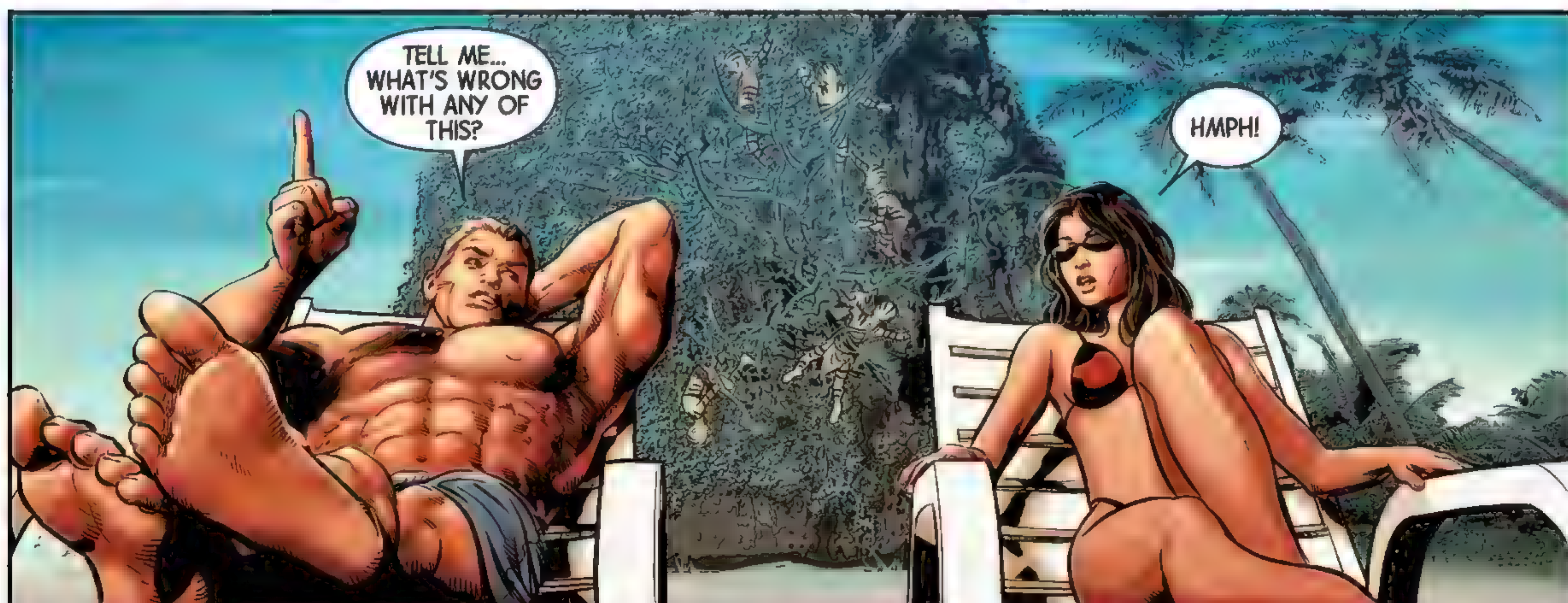
RUN! RUN LIKE AN ICE GIANT WITH HIS FUNDAMENT IN FLAMES!



WELL, SEE? KIDS HIKING MOUNTAINS LOOKING FOR MAGIC ROCKS. WE'RE OFF TO A STRONG START.



AH, BROTHERS! THIS WAS A WONDERFUL IDEA. IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I SAW THE JOYFUL SMILES OF CHILDREN. WE SHOULD DRINK NOW. A LOT, AND FOR QUITE SOME TIME...



FROM THE TOMB OF THE
UNDYING ONE, INSIDE THE
LONELY MOUNTAIN,
GAROKK THE PETRIFIED
MAN SEES--AND FEELS--
EVERY MOVEMENT OF LIFE
WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE SAVAGE LAND.

HE IS ONE WITH ITS ESSENCE, ITS
IMMORTAL GUARDIAN. ITS WATCHER.

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN CHANGED BY THE ORIGIN
BOMB--CHAOS INTRODUCED INTO A PLACE OF
ONCE-PERFECT ORDER--BUT AS THE CHILDREN
BELOW LAUGH AND PLAY, HE FEELS SOMETHING
HE THOUGHT LOST TO HIM--

HOPE.

HE WANTS TO SAVOR
IT--WANTS TO ENJOY
THIS NEW DAWN AND
WHAT COMES WITH IT--

BUT THEN HE
REMEMBERS
THE SHIP...

AND HIS HOPE
IS REPLACED BY
SOMETHING ALL
TOO FAMILIAR--

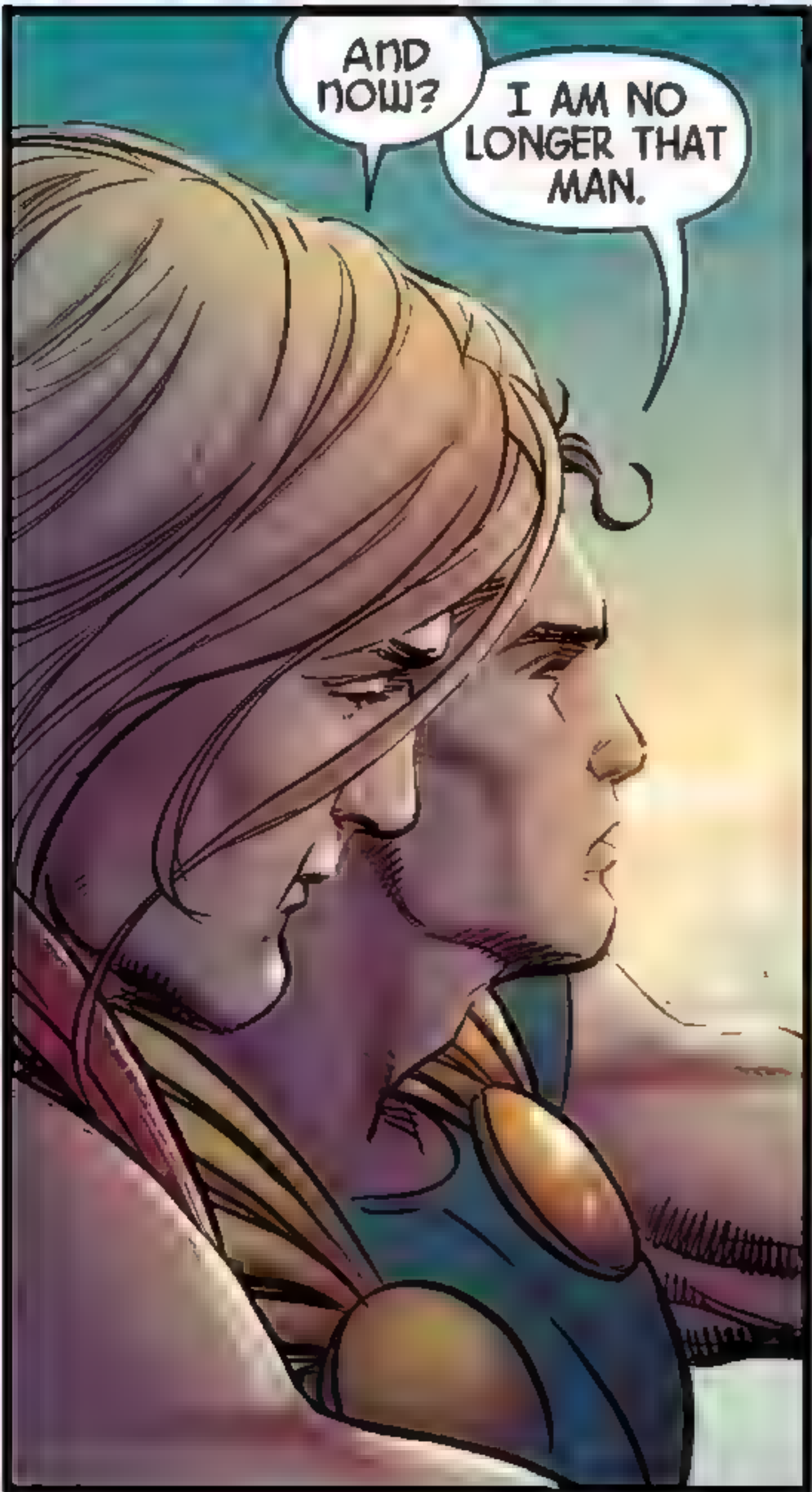
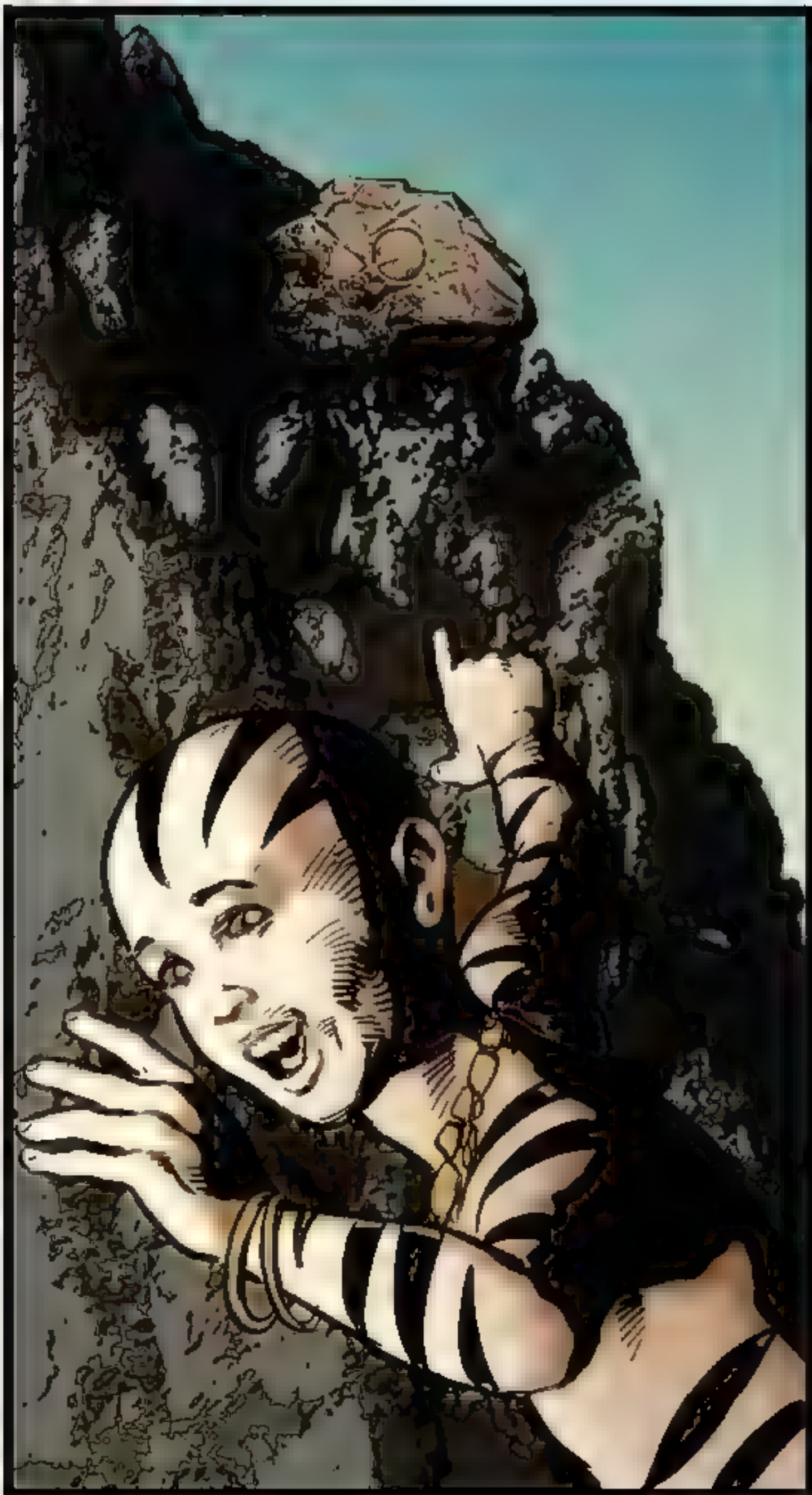
DREAD.

"TELL ME,
HYPERION--"



ON YOUR
WORLD--HAD
YOU CHILDREN
OF YOUR
OWN?

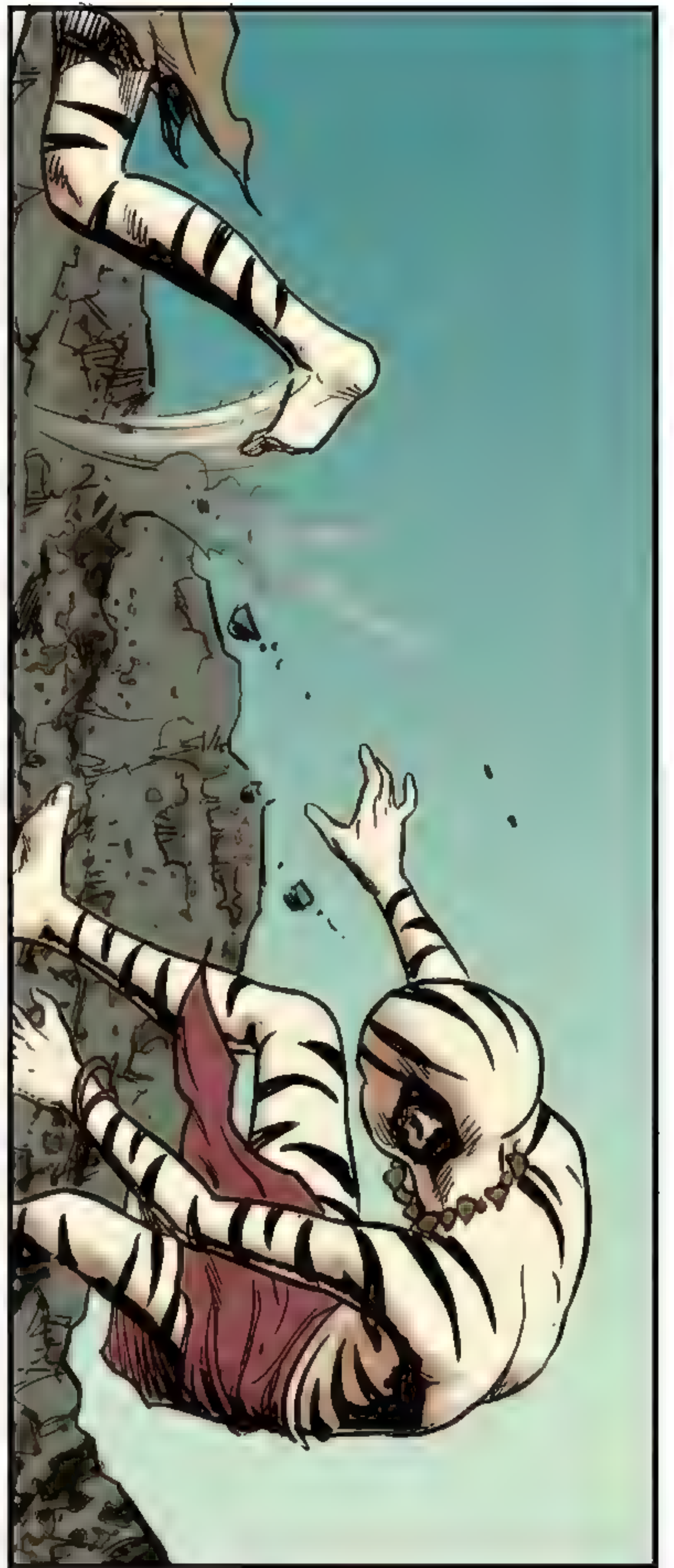
NO. NOT FOR
A LACK OF DESIRE,
MIND YOU, I JUST--I
WAS TAUGHT THE THINGS
IN FRONT OF ME, THE
DUTIES I WAS CHARGED
WITH, WERE MORE
IMPORTANT.

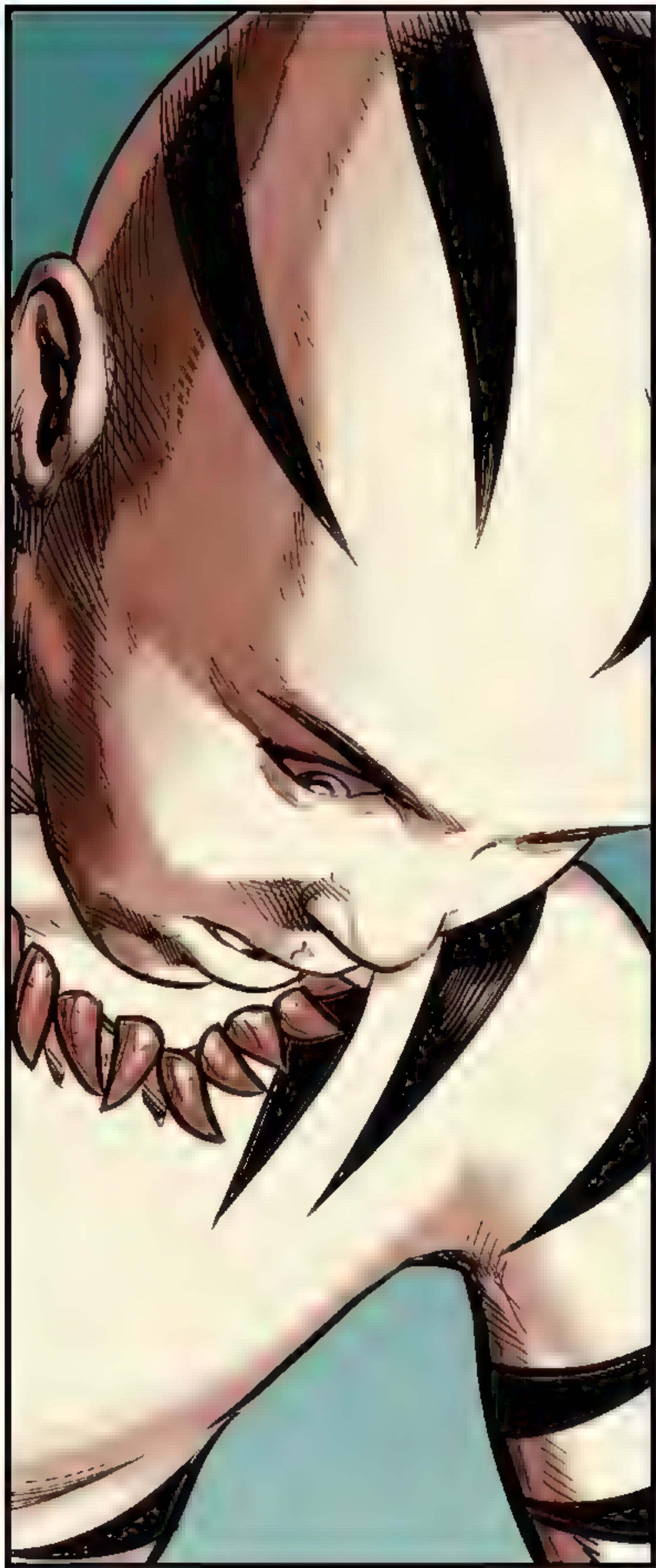


AND
NOW?

I AM NO
LONGER THAT
MAN.







YOU HAVE
SEEN THE DEATH OF
A WORLD, HYPERION--AND
FELT THE NOTHING THAT
LIES IN ITS WAKE. I FEAR
THERE IS MORE OF THAT
AHEAD. MUCH
MORE.

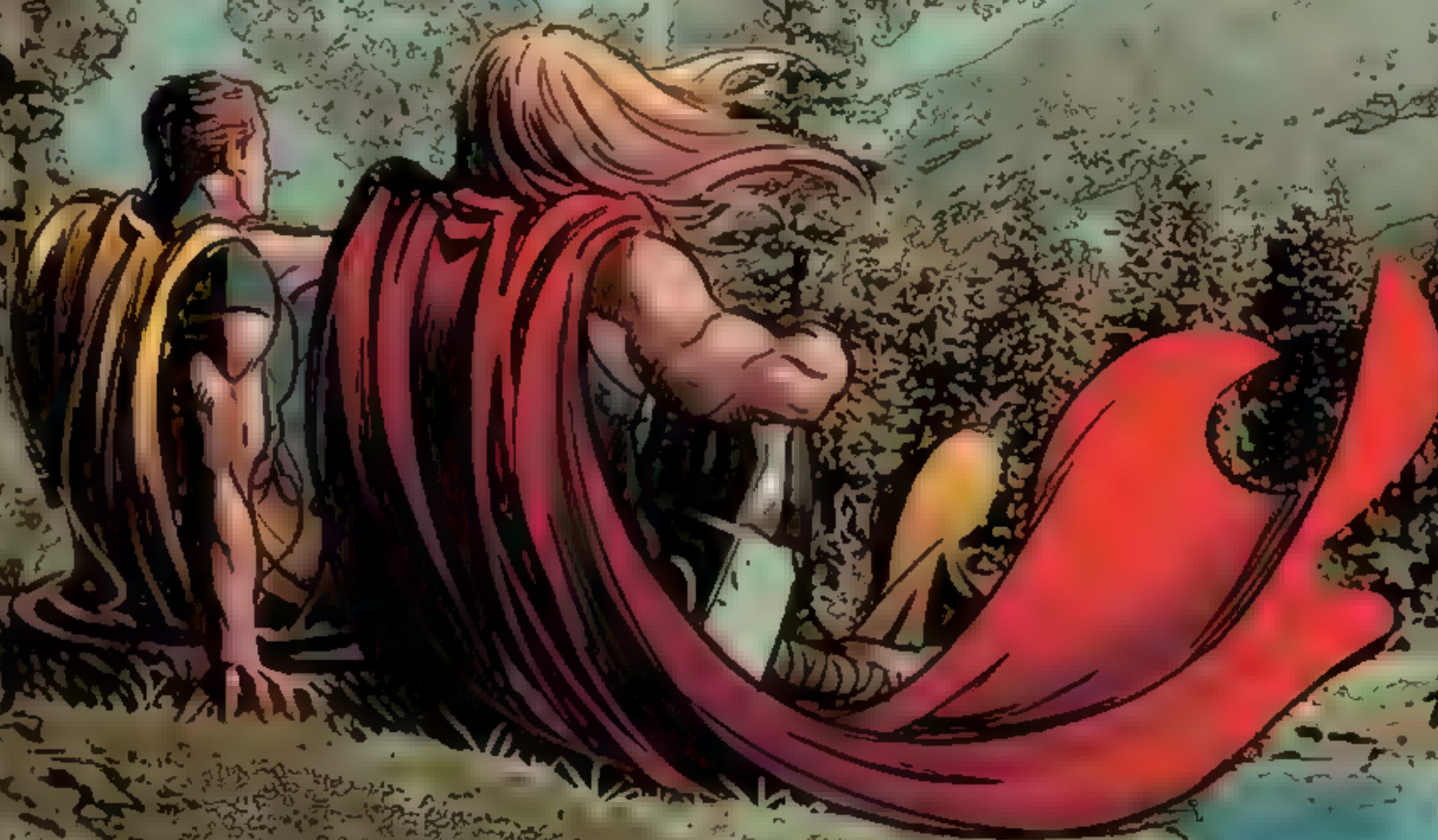


SO
THIS IS THE
WORLD, AND
OUR CHILDREN
IN IT.

WE EITHER
CHOOSE TO BE
CRIPPLED BY THAT
FEAR, OR WE RAISE THE
INNOCENT TO BE
STEADFAST. WE TEACH
THEM HOPE...



AND
THEN BELIEVE
IT WILL BE
ENOUGH.



EH?





AH-HA!
THE STONE
IS FOUND,
THEN!



AND NOW YOU
WOULD BE
DECLARED VICTOR,
LITTLE ONE?

ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ
ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ



HM.



WORTHY.



ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ
ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ

YOU WANT
TO UNDERSTAND
WHY, DO YOU?

ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ
ᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ

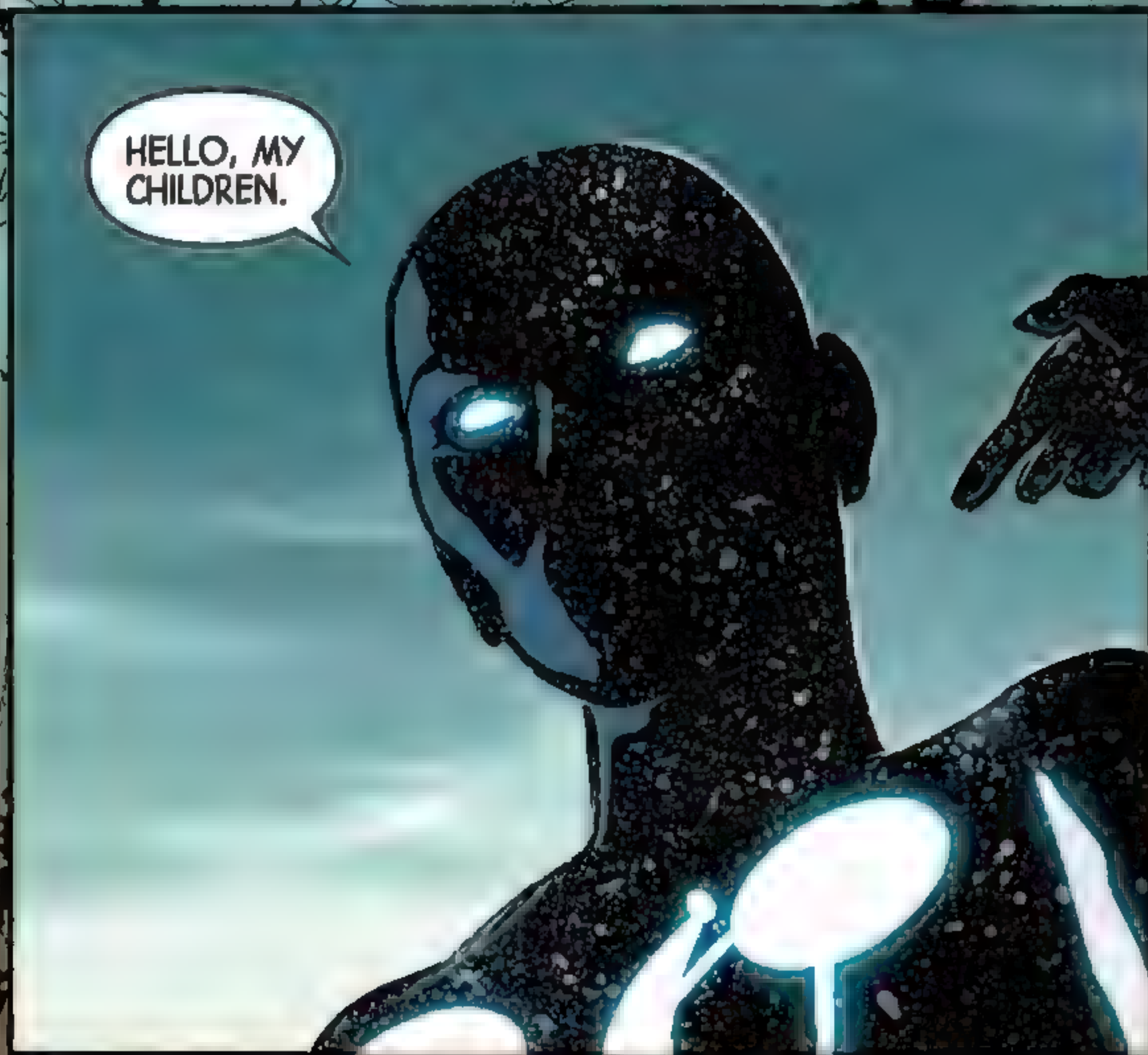
OH! I
KNOW! I
KNOW THIS
ONE!



I CAN TEACH THEM SOMETHING, TOO! I CAN HELP... BE HELPFUL...

ER, I'M NOT SURE THIS IS--

IN ANY WAY SAFE.



HELLO, MY CHILDREN.



YOU HAVE LEARNED MANY THINGS TODAY, HAVEN'T YOU?

EXCITING THINGS. CHALLENGING THINGS. A WAY TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS NOT LIKE YOU.

THESE CREATURES--- THEY RELY ON THE AIR, THE EARTH BENEATH THEIR FEET, OTHER LIFE AROUND THEM--FOR SUSTENANCE. AND YOU HAVE NO SUCH RELIANCE. THAT IS YOUR GIFT.

BUT IF THAT IS SO--WHAT ROLE WILL YOU PLAY IN THIS SYSTEM? WHAT WILL BE YOUR PURPOSE, IN WALKING ALONGSIDE THEM?

TO PROVIDE.





A MAN
ASKED EARLIER--IF
ONE NEEDS NOTHING,
DOES HE DREAM OF
ANYTHING?

I THINK
HE DOES...

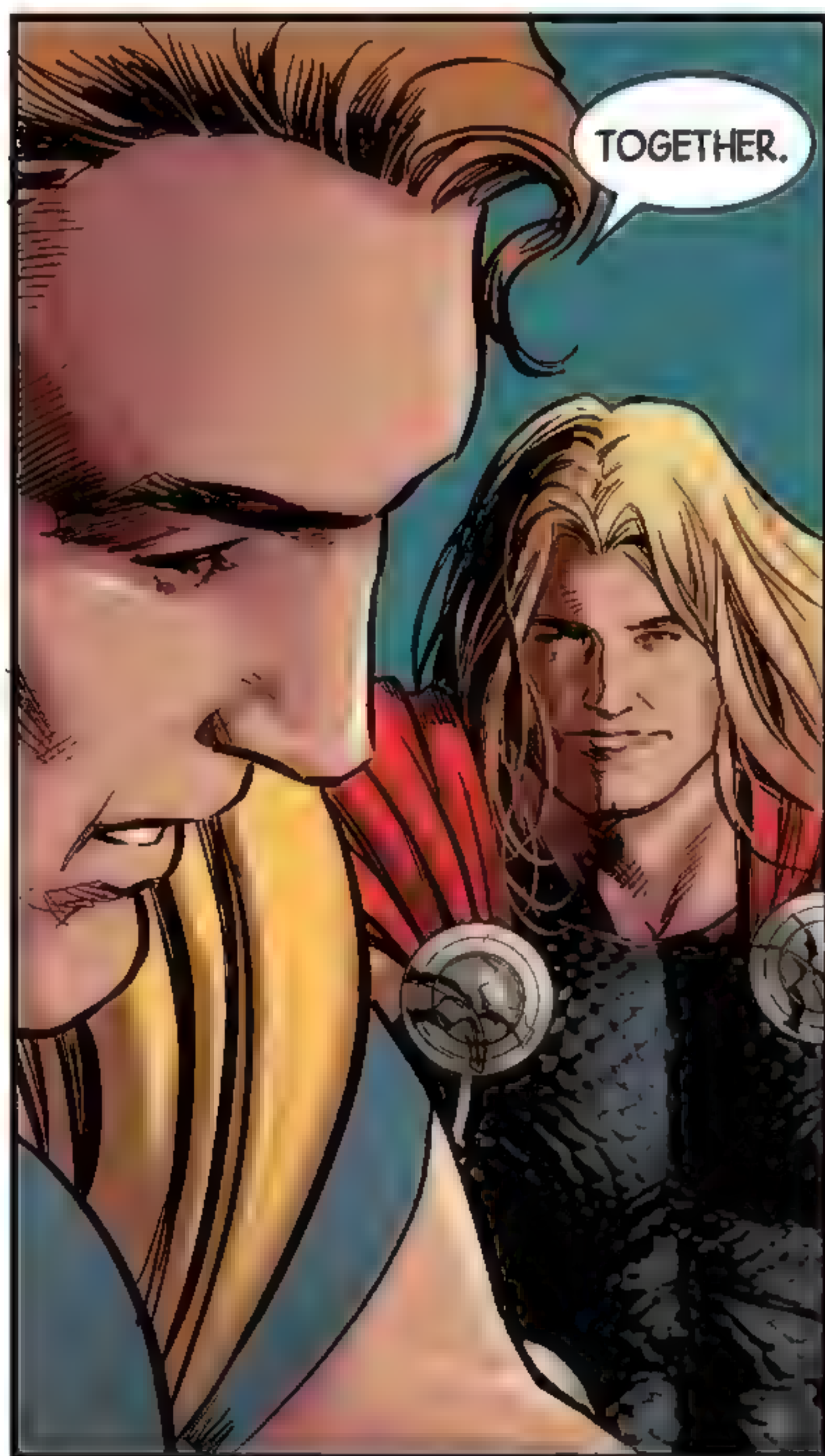


A
WORLD
WITHOUT
NEED.



TO BE GIVEN,
IS TO KNOW WHAT
IT IS TO GIVE. WE KNOW
VIRTUE BECAUSE WHILE
WE MAY NOT SUFFER, WE
CAN HEAR THE SUFFERING
OF THOSE AROUND
US.

AND IT IS
OUR CALLING
TO END ALL
OF THAT.



TOGETHER.



BAH! MORE
SENTIMENTAL
HOGWASH FROM
THE ETHEREAL
PLANE, I SAY.

THESE CHILDREN
MAY NOT BREATHE
AIR, BUT CUT THEM,
THEY BLEED. YOU RAISE
THEM TO BE MESSIAHS,
THEY'LL MAKE FOR
WONDERFUL
MARTYRS.



REMEMBER WHAT UNCLE SPIDER-MAN
SAYS, BRATS--IT'S ALL WELL AND
GOOD TO LIVE ABOVE THE
FOOD CHAIN...

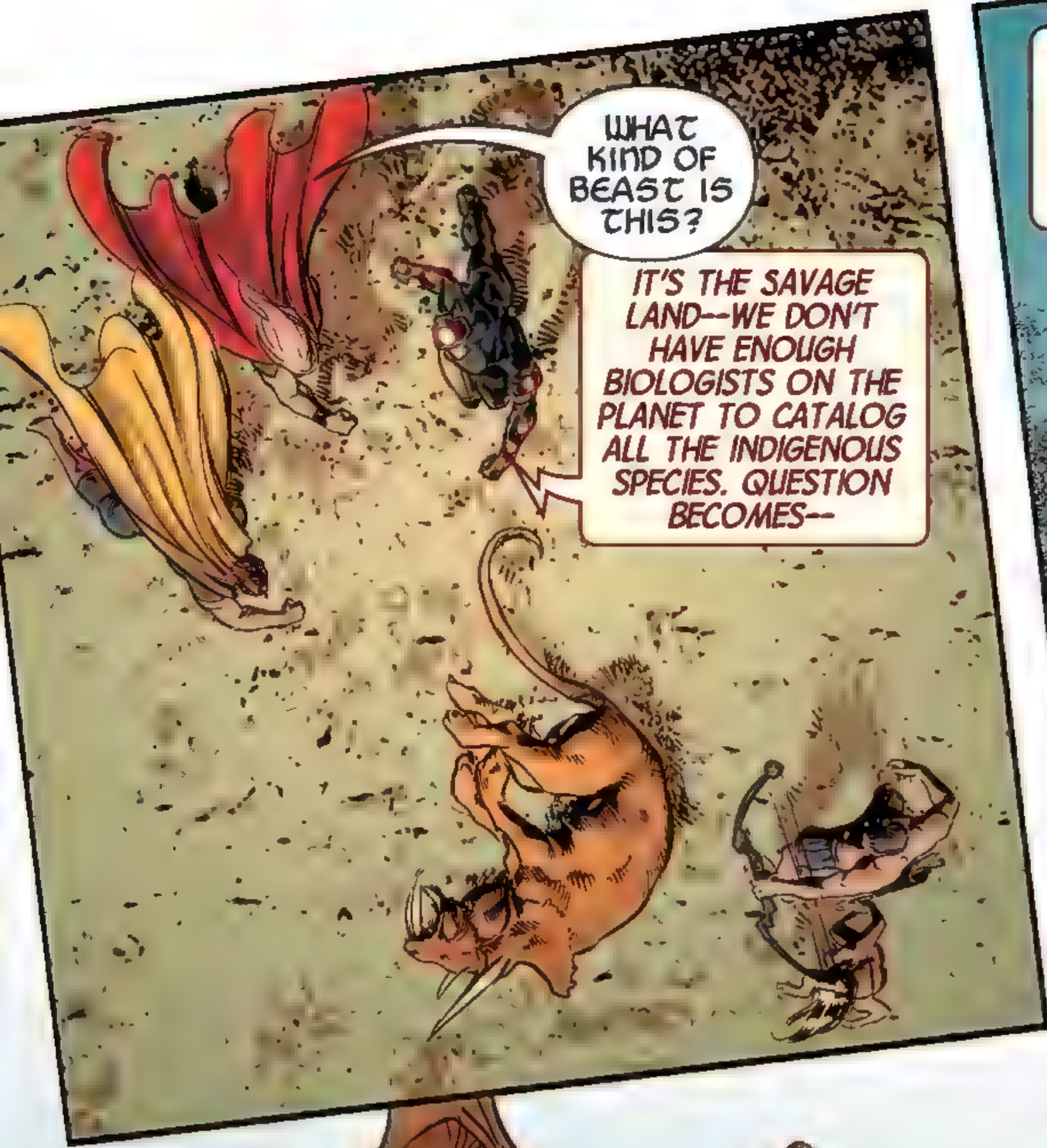


"...UNTIL YOU
COME ACROSS
A PREDATOR."



AHEM!
ACCOUNTABILITY—
BEING THERE WHEN
IT COUNTS.

HE WAS
STARTING TO
BURN.





AH,
WELCOME--
WELCOME, MY
LITTLE ONES.

I HEAR
YOU'RE QUITE
ADVANCED...

THE BEST
THAT NATURAL
SELECTION HAS
TO OFFER.

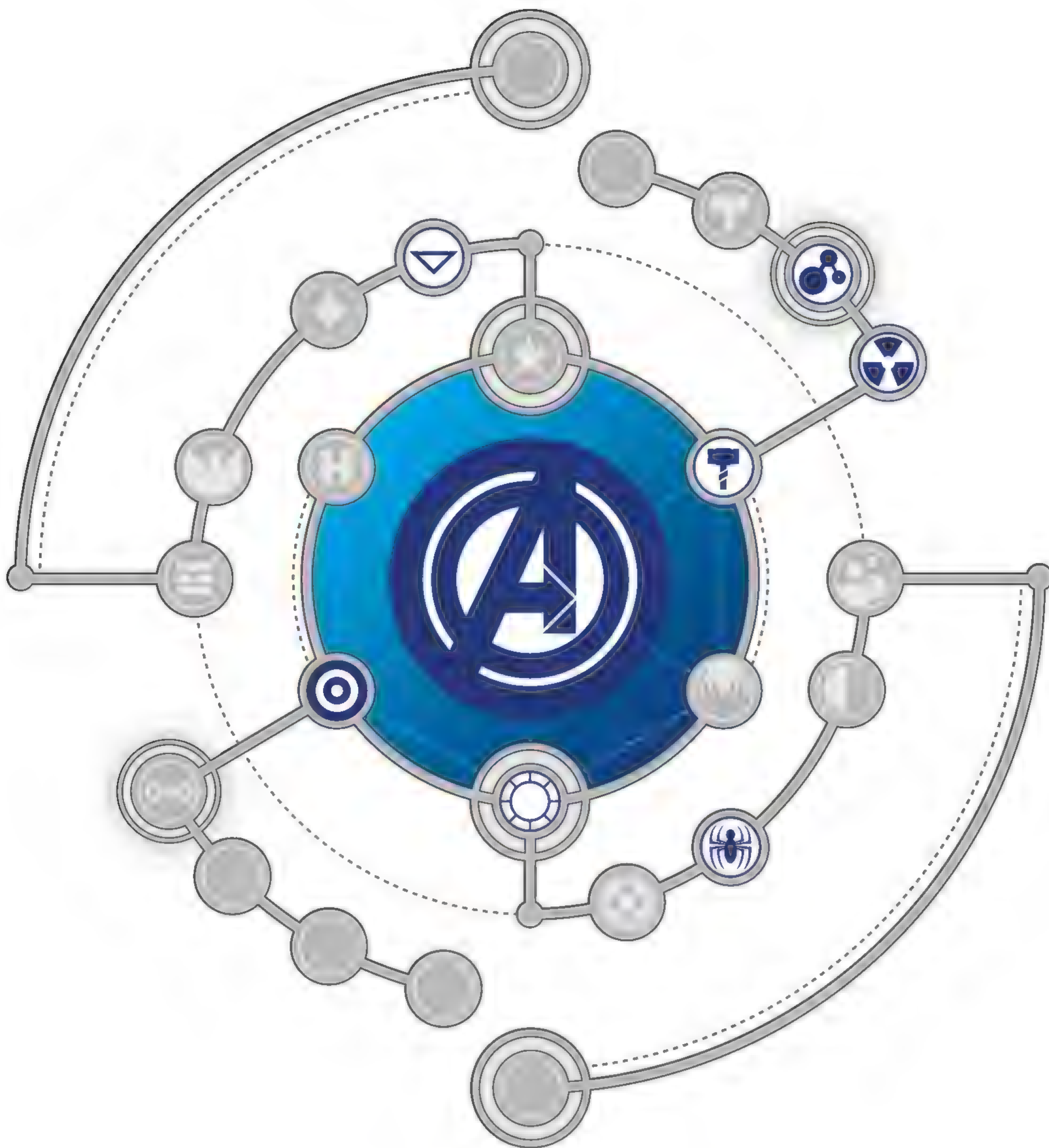


WHAT GOOD
FORTUNE THAT THIS
PROGRESS HAS CAUGHT
THE EYE OF THE **HIGH**
EVOLUTIONARY.

I HAVE
THE URGE
TO MAKE
SOMETHING
NEW.



“STRONG”



EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION

THE SAVAGE LAND.

THIS PLACE WAS CREATED
LONG AGO, BY THOSE
THAT LIVE BEYOND THIS
UNIVERSE.

IT HAS KNOWN
MANY MASTERS
SINCE THEN.

SOME RULED.
SOME DESTROYED.

SOME DID
SOMETHING
ALTOGETHER
DIFFERENT.

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY
MADE SOMETHING OF
THE SAVAGE LAND.

HE CREATED,
LIKE A GOD.

AND AS WITH ANY GOD,
A MAKER HAS A PECULIAR
FAMILIARITY WITH HIS
CREATIONS.

HE KNOWS WHEN THERE IS
A CHANGE IN THEM OR IN
THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

BUT UNLIKE THE GODS, HERBERT
WYNDHAM IS NOT COVETOUS
OVER WHAT HE HAS MADE...

HE SEES CHANGE
FOR WHAT IT IS.

HE APPRECIATES
A CATALYST.

HOW ELSE WILL
THINGS *EVOLVE*?

ELSEWHERE.

WHERE
ARE THEY?!

HYPERION--
EASY! YOU'RE
GOING TO--

WHAT? I
CANNOT HARM
WHAT ISN'T THERE,
IRON MAN!

ONE MINUTE
THEY WERE HERE
WITH US, AND THEN
THEY WERE JUST...
GONE.

THIS IS
UNACCEPTABLE.

THE BEASTS
THAT TOOK THEM
SEEM TO HAVE
VANISHED FROM
PLAIN SIGHT--

RIGHT...

HEAT, MOTION,
SOUND FREQUENCY--
EVERY SENSOR I'VE
GOT IS DRAWING A
BLANK--IT'S LIKE THEY
FLEW INTO NOWHERE.
HATE TO SAY IT,
GENTS, BUT I'M AFRAID
ALL WE CAN DO--



"--IS HOPE THE
TRADITIONAL ROUTE
HAS MORE SUCCESS."

NO
TRACKS?

NONE THAT
I CAN FIND. WHERE
THE HELL IS WOLVERINE
WHEN HE WOULD
ACTUALLY BE
USEFUL?

DO YOU
HEAR THAT
QUIET?

PLEASE,
DON'T--

DO YOU
HEAR THAT
NOISE?

NO. I
DON'T HEAR
ANYTHING.

EXACTLY!

IT'S PERFECTLY
PEACEFUL AND SERENE.
NATURE, JUST AS IT SHOULD
BE, WITHOUT SEVERAL DOZEN
SCREAMING ZEBRA
ANDROGYNIDS RUNNING
AROUND, BEING WEIRD.

DON'T
HATE HIM
BECAUSE HE'S
RIGHT.

YEAH, WELL,
HE'S GONNA GET
EXACTLY WHAT HE
WANTS UNLESS WE
GET SOME HELP
FROM--

WE ALL...
EVERYBODY...
NO MATTER HOW
GROWN-UP WE
ARE...

WE ALL
NEED HELP
SOMETIMES.

AND YET
THIS ONE SEEMS
TO PROVIDE SO
LITTLE HERSELF...

IT IS
NOT MY
HELP YOU
NEED--



--BUT
HIS.

GREETINGS,
AVENGERS.



I AM
GAROKK, YOUR
SERVANT.

HE IS NO
SUCH THING.
HE IS A
WATCHER.



AND HIS
WORK HERE
PLEASES ME.

I'M
HUNGRY.

YOUR
WORDS HUMBLE
ME, GODDESS.



A WATCHER?
GREAT. YOU
WATCHED OUR RUGRATS
GET SNATCHED UP,
THEN?

INDEED,
CLINT BARTON. I
KNOW WHERE YOUR
LOST CHILDREN ARE,
AND WHO HAS THEM.
IF YOU COME
WITH ME NOW--

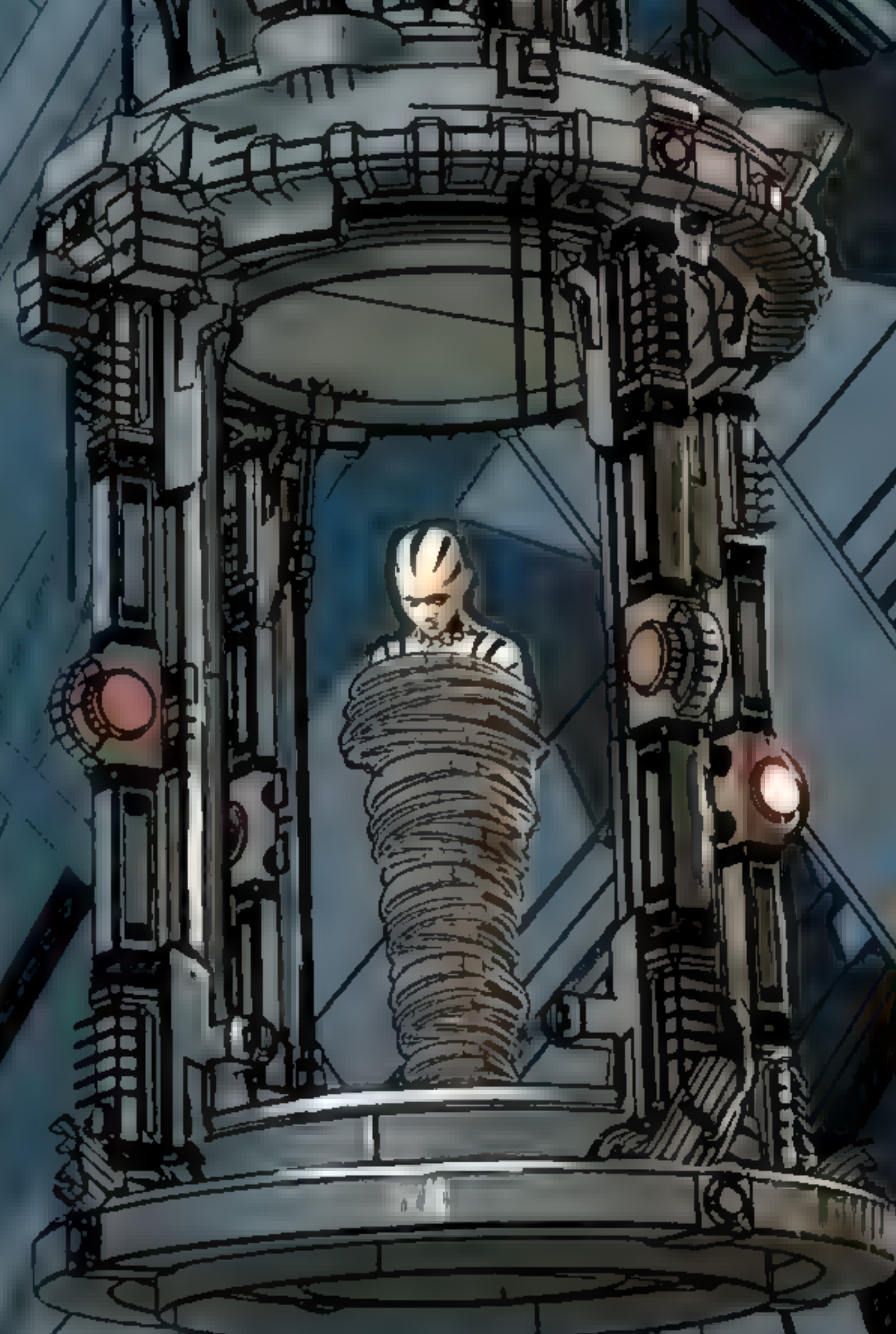


I WILL
TAKE YOU
TO HIM.

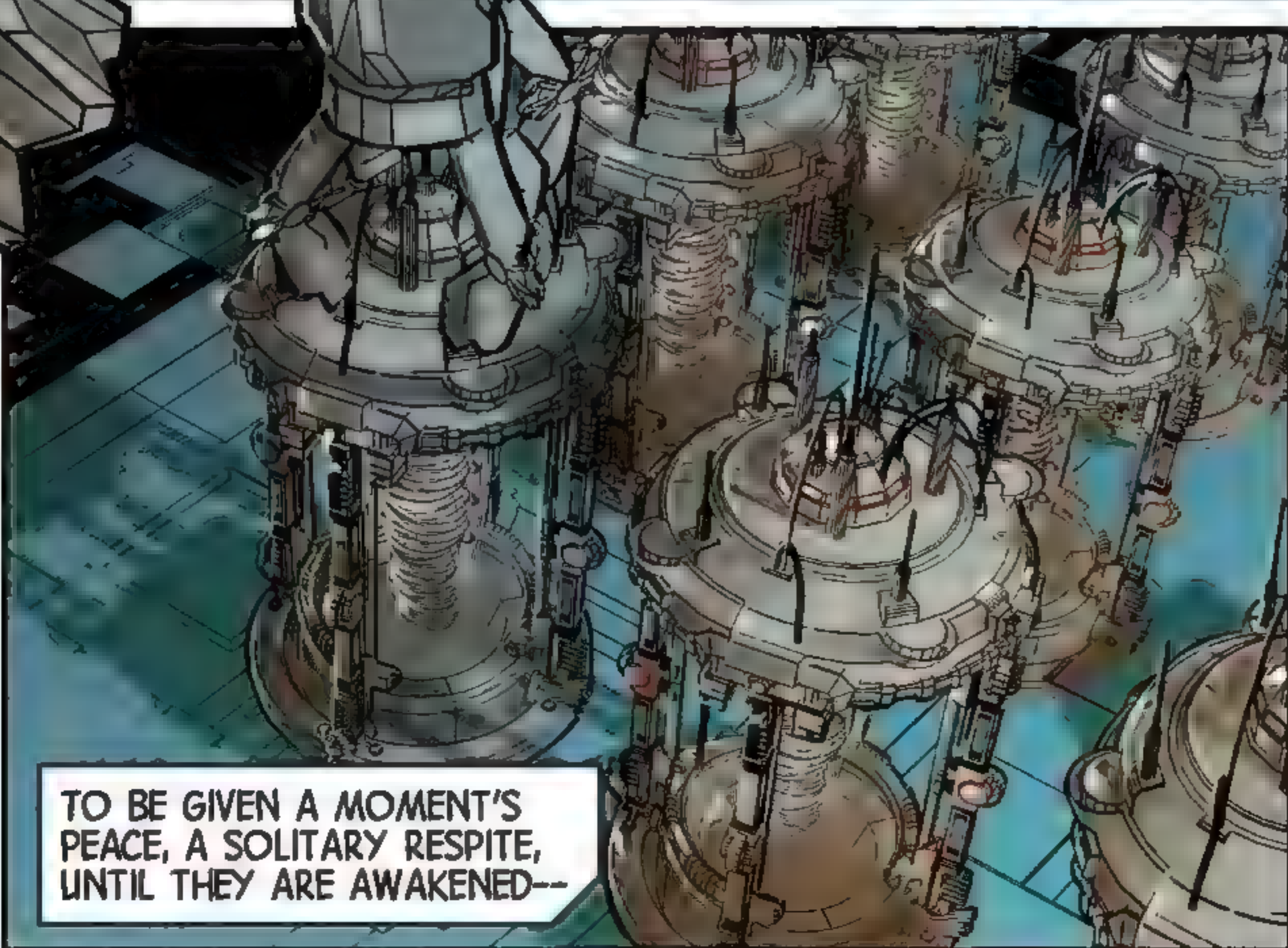
THE CHILDREN
SLEEP.



THEY DO NOT KNOW
THIS PLACE, OR THEIR
PURPOSE IN IT. IT IS
HIS GIFT TO THEM.



TO BE GIVEN A MOMENT'S
PEACE, A SOLITARY RESPITE,
UNTIL THEY ARE AWAKENED--



ॐॐॐॐ

AND THEY CRY
OUT FOR THEIR
FATHER.



ONCE WE ARRIVE, UNDERSTAND—I CANNOT INTERFERE. IT IS NOT MY ROLE.

WE'LL DEAL WITH THIS OURSELVES. HOW MUCH FARTHER TO GO, GAROKK?

NOT LONG AT ALL, MY LORD. IN FACT--



WE ARE HERE.

WHAT?

I DON'T GET IT.

HA! WHAT'S NOT TO UNDERSTAND?



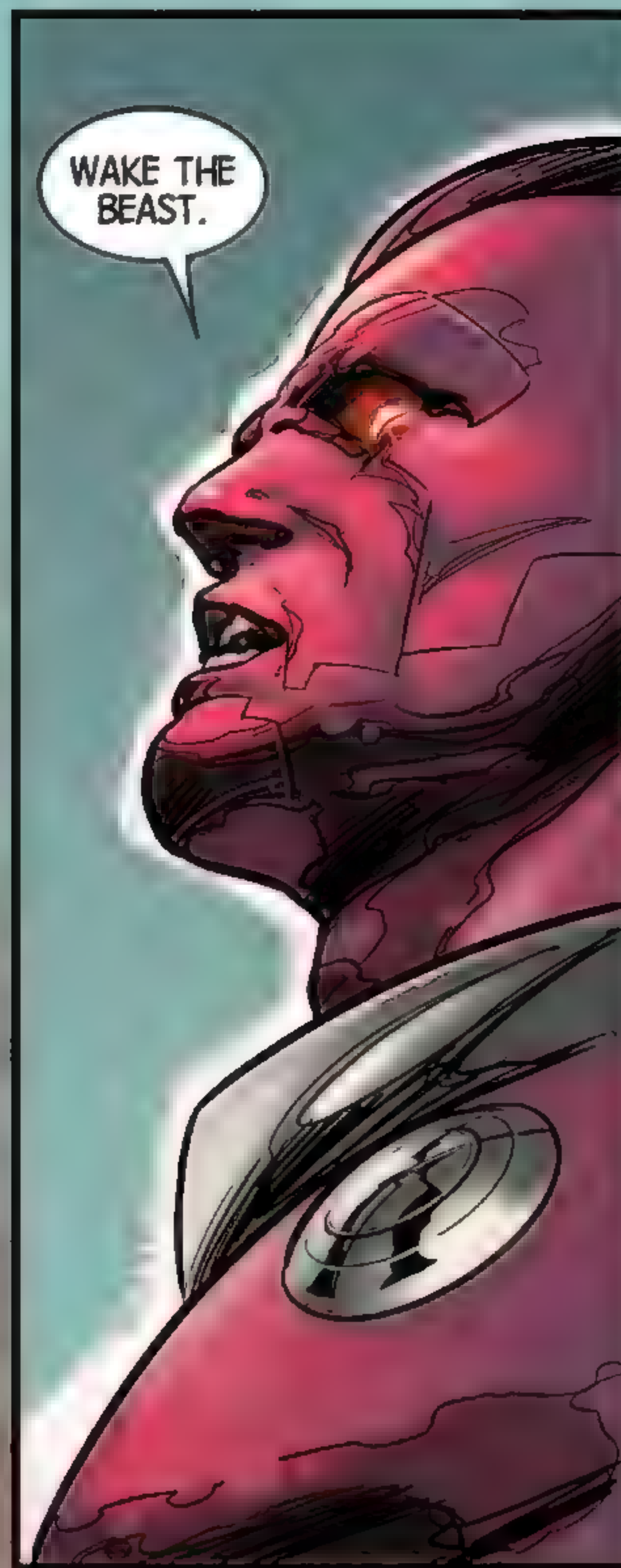
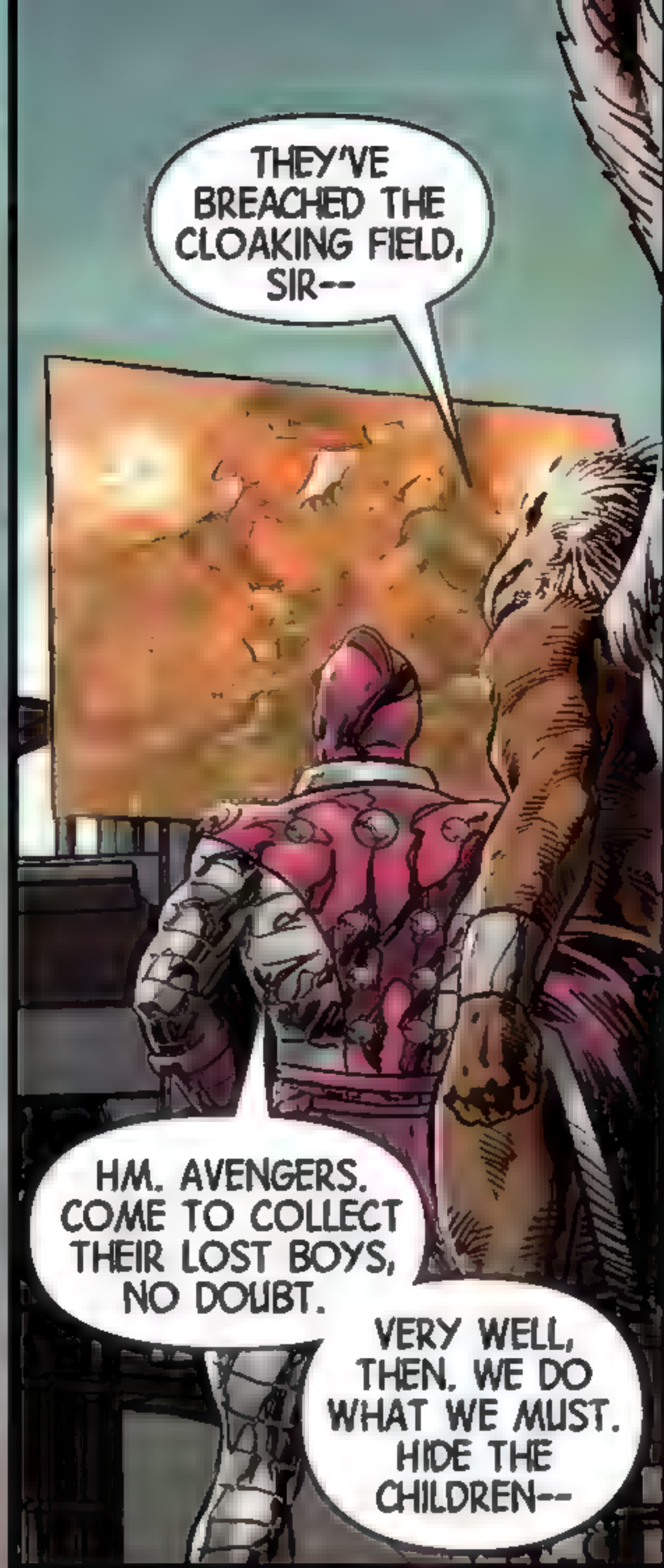
THE STONE GERIATRIC HAS LED US TO HIS IMAGINARY TREEHOUSE.

I TOLD YOU. THIS IS WHAT COMES FROM LISTENING TO NEW AGE HALFWITS. WE'RE PROBABLY ONLY MOMENTS AWAY FROM HOLDING HANDS AND TALKING TO DEAD PARENTS VIA CRYST--



OH, DAMN YOU ALL.







DAMN IT.





THEY'VE GOT
A FULLY FUNCTIONAL
TERMINUS, AND IT JUST
CRUSHED IRON
MAN.

SOMEONE
GOT A PLAN
HERE?



HYPERION,
GO! FIND YOUR
CHILDREN

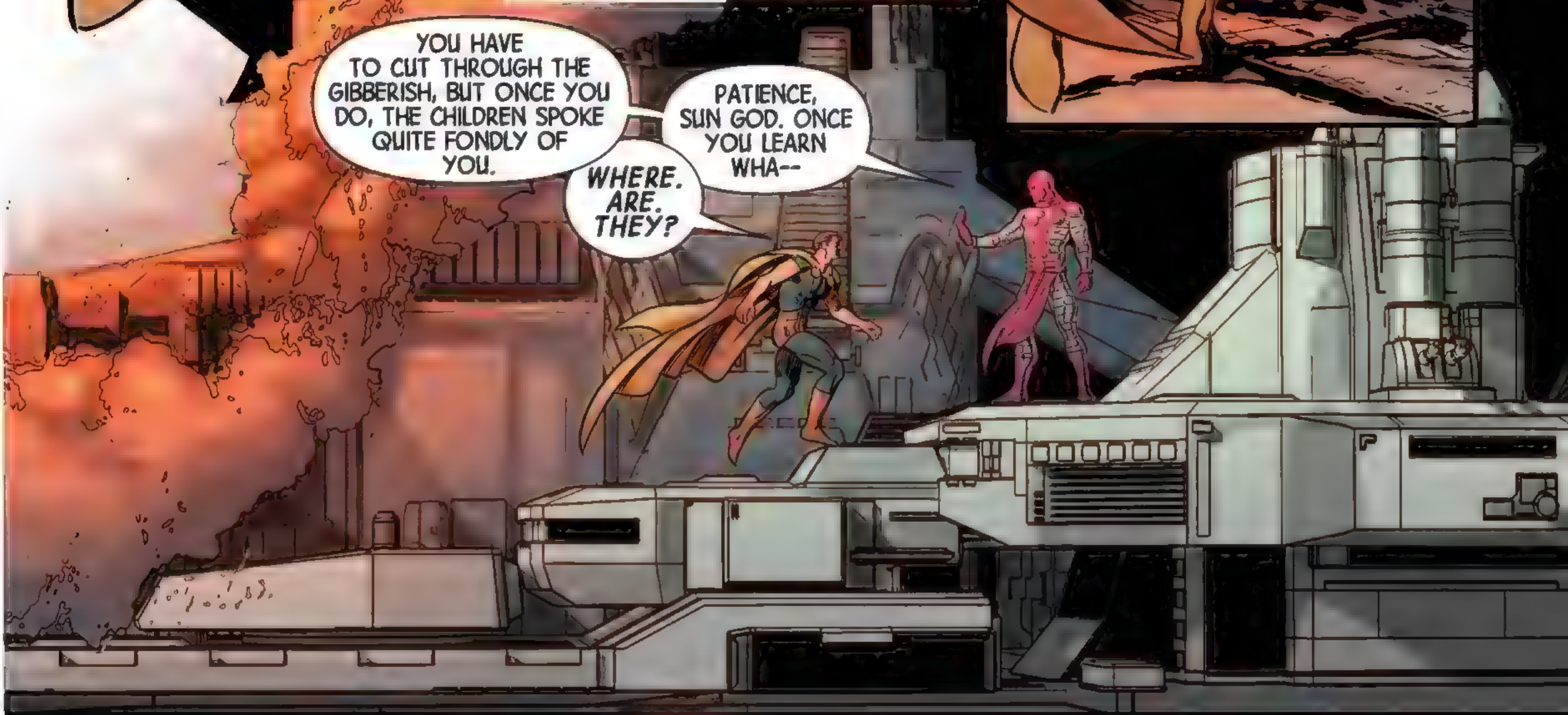
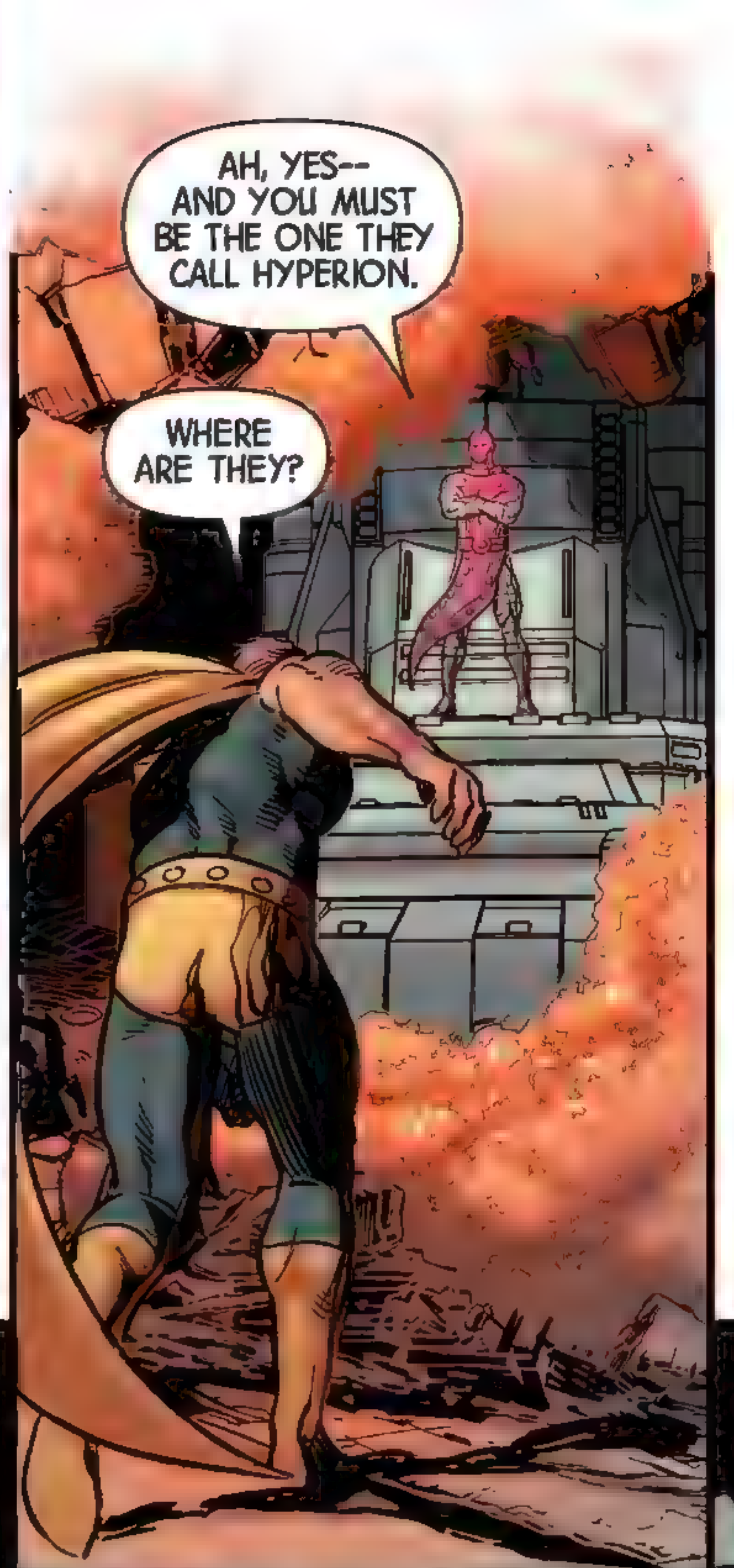
I CAN
HELP YOU WITH
THIS--

YOU ARE A
BRAVE AND FEARSOME
WARRIOR, AND TOGETHER
WE ARE SURE TO FACE
MANY FOES ON MANY
ADVENTURES...

STANDING
SIDE-BY-SIDE IN
GREAT BATTLES, AND
THE CELEBRATIONS
THAT WILL
FOLLOW.

BUT
THIS IS A
GIANT.

AND I
WAS BORN
TO FELL
GIANTS.





Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M DOING...

I DON'T CARE.



YOU MUST!
DO YOU KNOW
WHAT THOSE
MAGNIFICENT
CREATURES ARE CAPABLE
OF? THEY ARE LIVING
BATTERIES...SELF-
SUSTAINING.

THEY ARE CHILDREN.

THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE.



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I COULD
DO WITH LIMITLESS
POWER?

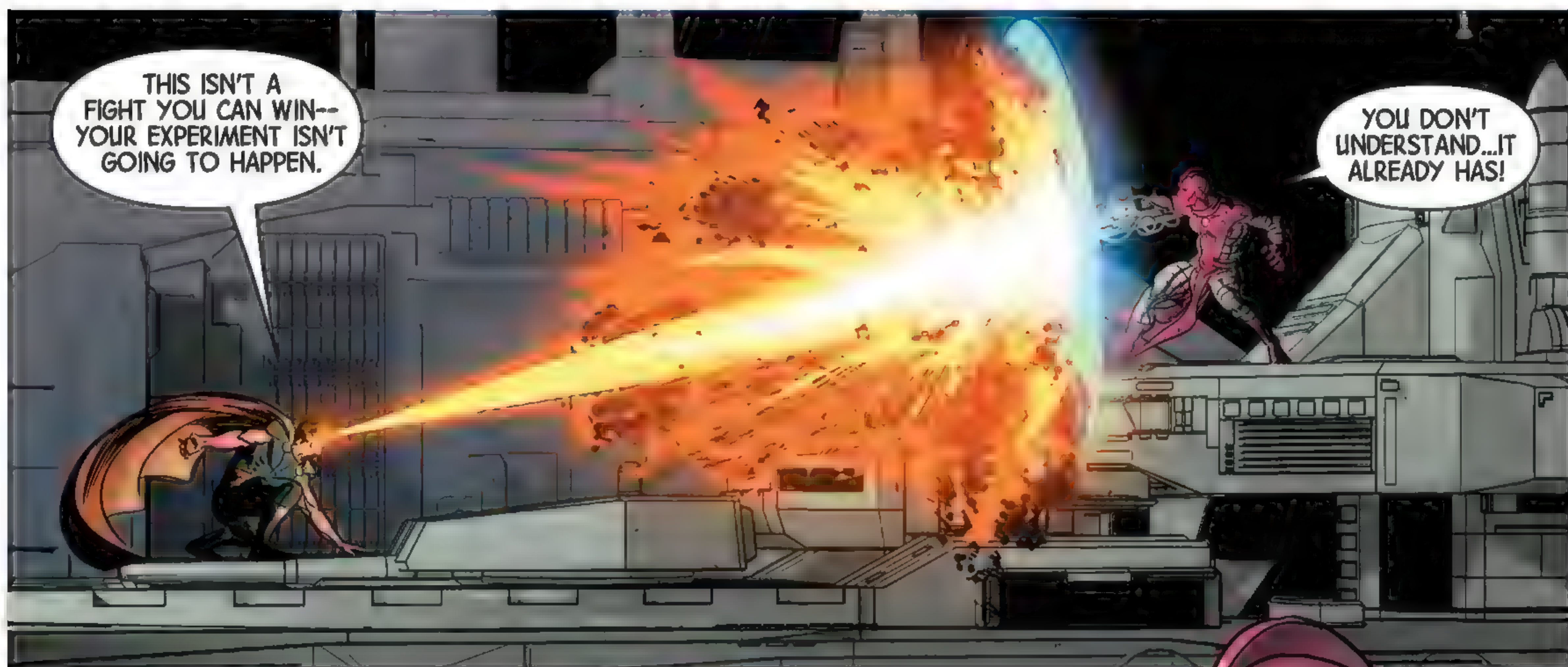
WHAT I
COULD DO IF I
COULD HARNESS IT?
THE EVOLUTIONARY
FOUNTAINHEAD THAT
WOULD FLOW?



"THAT'S A
HIGH PRICE THAT
SHOULD BE PAID,
ISN'T IT?"



ISN'T IT?



THIS ISN'T A FIGHT YOU CAN WIN-- YOUR EXPERIMENT ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...IT ALREADY HAS!



"HOW DO YOU THINK I RESURRECTED THE TERMINUS?"



IT WAS A BROKEN MACHINE BUILT TO CONQUER WORLDS, AND I RESURRECTED IT.

ALL IT TOOK WAS THE RIGHT--



POWER SOURCE.

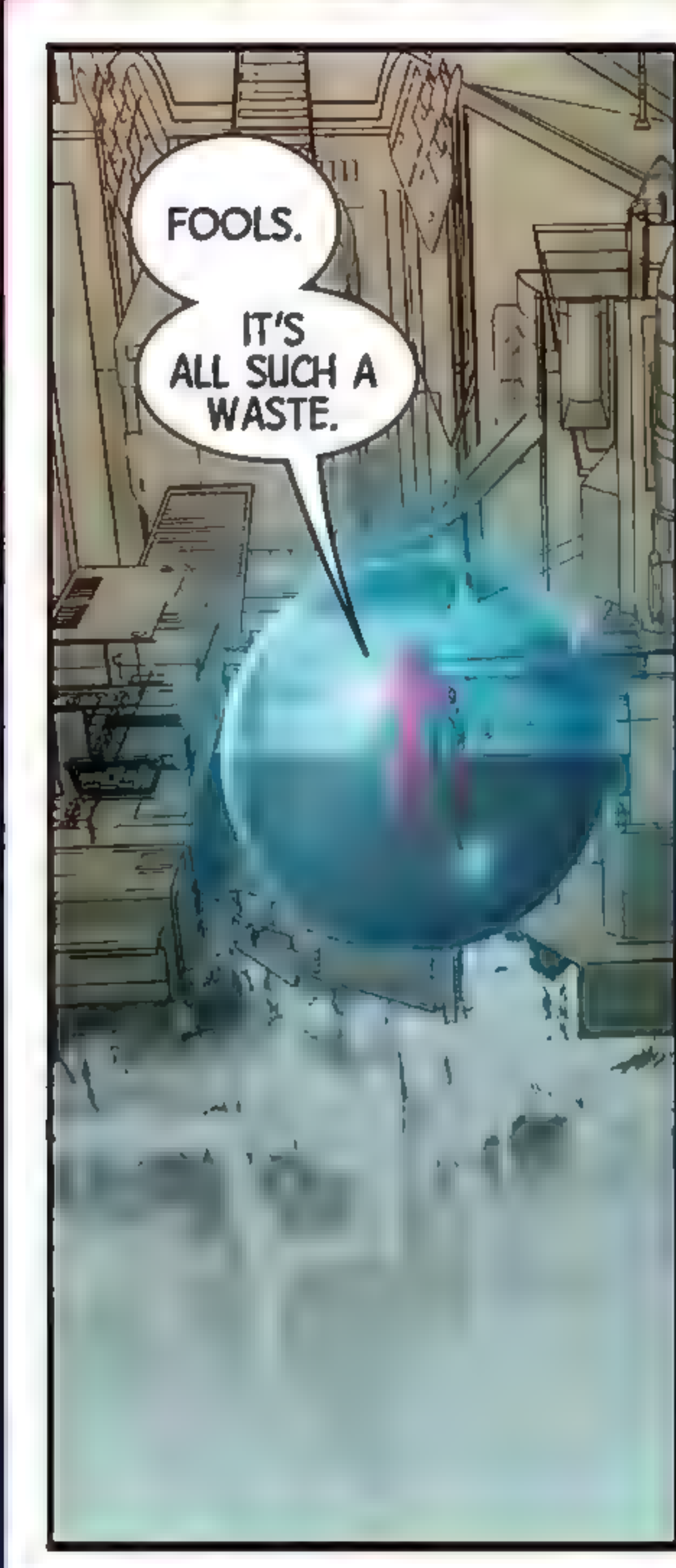
I SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE NOW...

NO...



OOOFFF!

FATHER,
GIVE ME A
STORM THAT
WOULD TEAR
THE SKY.



FOOLS.
IT'S
ALL SUCH A
WASTE.

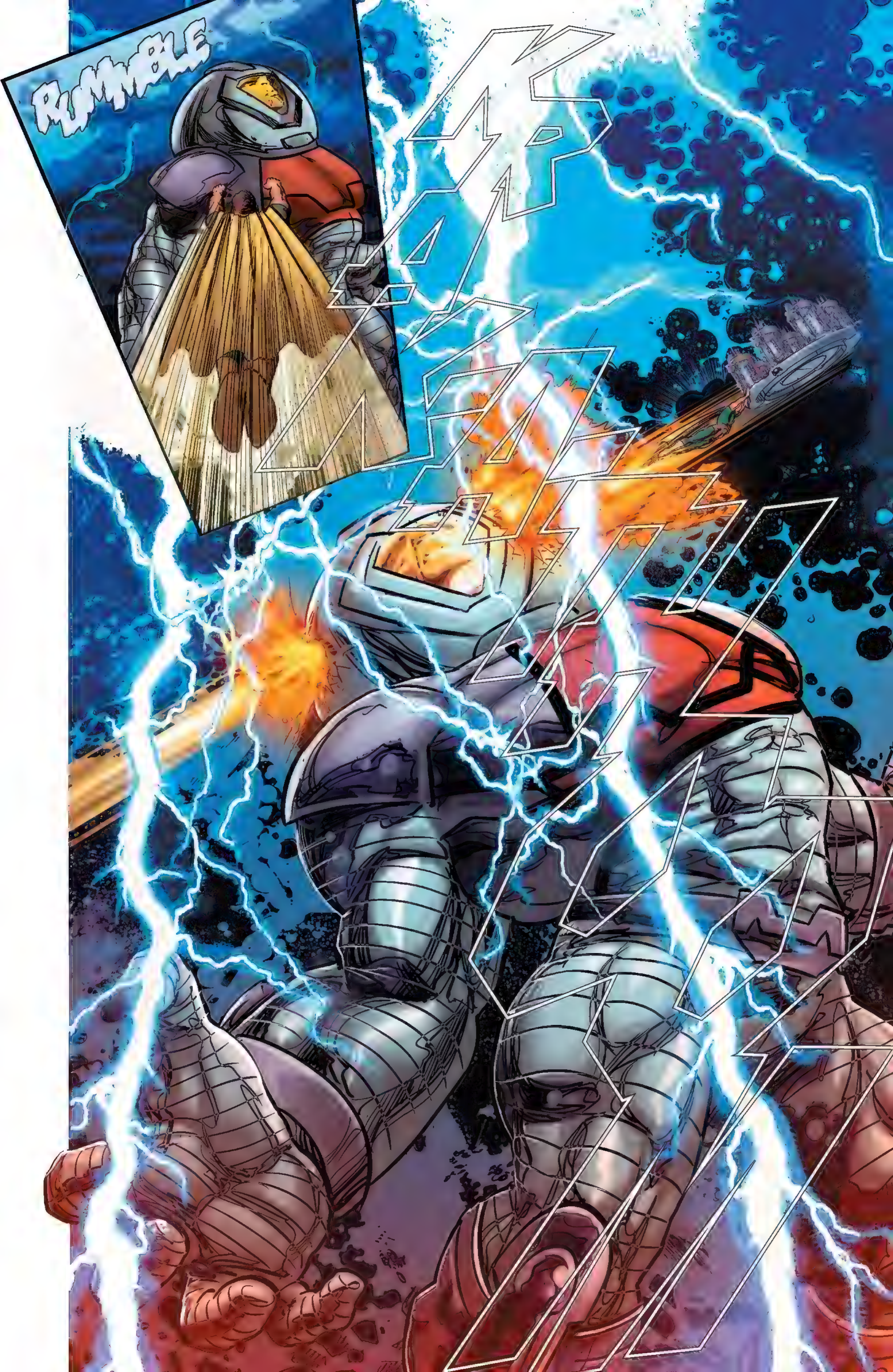


THOR!

HOLD!



GIVE ME
LIGHTNING THAT
WOULD BURN THE
WORLD.



HOURS LATER.

MY MEMORIES ARE STORED IN LIGHT.

MY MIND, A NONLINEAR PHOTONIC ARRAY WITH VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS RECALL, MEANING THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NOW AND THEN.

MY MEMORIES ALWAYS DOMINATED BY MY LIFE'S MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT.

--WITHOUT ITS POWER SOURCE, THE MACHINE POSES NO THREAT.





I AM A GOD.
I UNDERSTAND
THE NEEDS OF
MEN.

WHEN TO
FOCUS ON THE
LIVING...AND WHEN
TO PREPARE FOR
THINGS THAT
WOULD ROB US OF
THAT JOY.



THERE IS A
STORM BREWING,
BROTHER...I KNOW
YOU CAN FEEL IT,
JUST AS I DO.

THE CALL OF A
FAMILY IS A STRONG
ONE. I'VE FELT IT MYSELF,
MANY TIMES--BUT IN THE
END, GREAT WARRIORS ARE
TOO OFTEN LAID LOW BY
THAT WHICH THEY
MUST PROTECT.

YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND,
THOR.



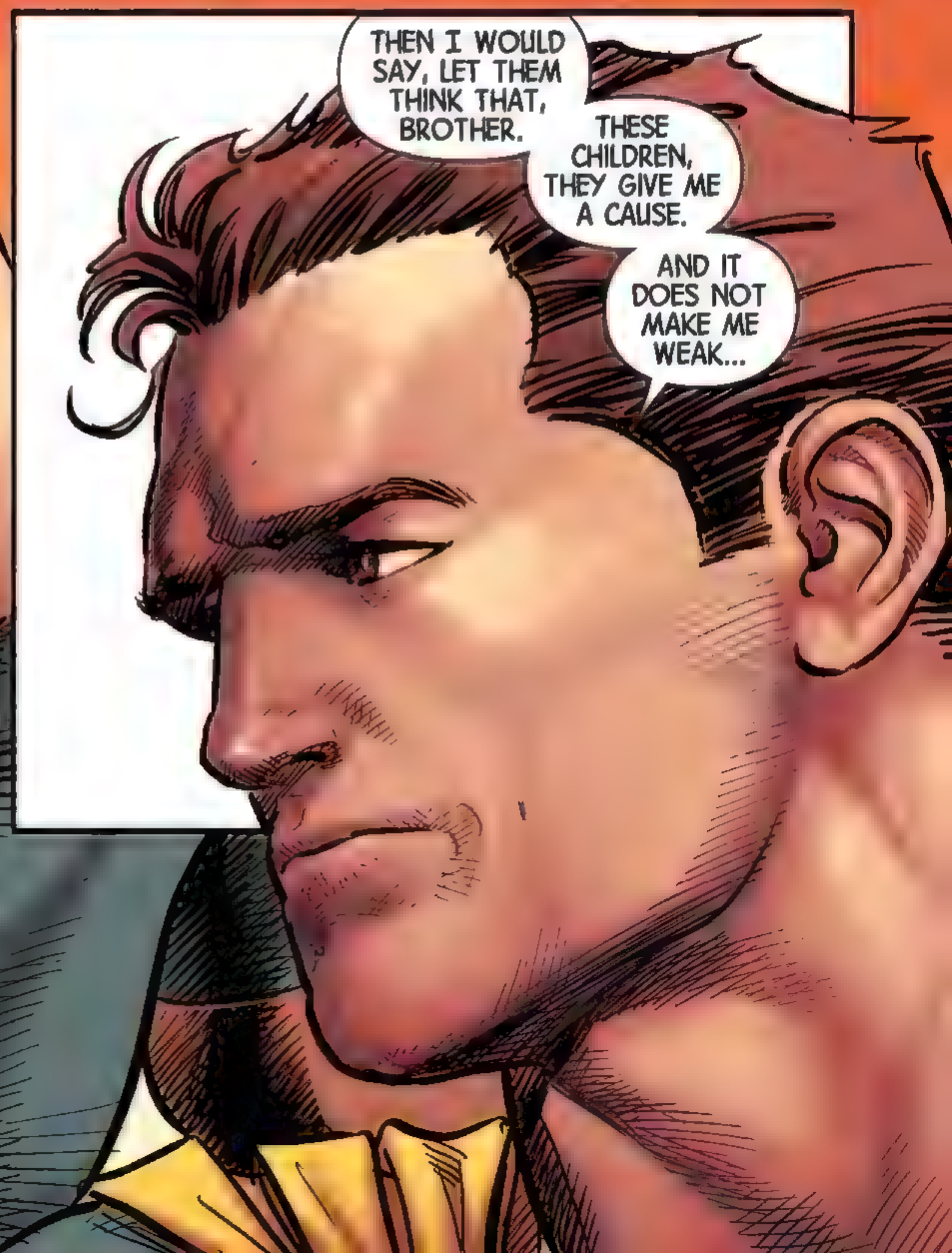
THERE'S NO
DULLING THIS. THERE'S
NO AVOIDING WHAT IT'S
DONE TO ME.



MY WHOLE LIFE,
I HAVE FOUGHT FOR
IDEAS. GRAND EXPERIMENTS
AND SYSTEMS AND
STRUCTURES OF BELIEF.
AND NOW...

NOW I FIGHT
FOR SOMETHING
BETTER. I FIGHT
FOR THEM.

YOU
SHOULD KNOW...
THERE ARE MANY
WHO WOULD CALL THAT
A FLAW IN ONE'S ARMOR.
SOMETHING TO
BE EXPLOITED.



THEN I WOULD
SAY, LET THEM
THINK THAT,
BROTHER.

THESE
CHILDREN,
THEY GIVE ME
A CAUSE.

AND IT
DOES NOT
MAKE ME
WEAK...



IT
MAKES ME
STRONG.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE LIGHT REPLACING
LIGHT, SO IT TOOK SOME TIME BEFORE I
BECAME AWARE THAT MY LIFE'S MOST
SIGNIFICANT MOMENT WAS NO LONGER
THE DEATH OF MY WORLD...

BUT THE GAINING
OF A NEW ONE

GOD HELP ANYONE
THAT TRIES TO TAKE
IT FROM ME



THRONES



**ONE
MONTH
LATER...**

**SOMEWHERE IN
THE ORION SPUR
OF THE MILKY
WAY GALAXY.**



SO... NOTHING?

IT'S ALL QUIET, ANTHONY.

TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS SINCE OUR LAST INCURSION, AND OUR NEW EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SHOWS CLEAR SKIES FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT 12 HOURS.

FOUR WORLD-ENDING EVENTS IN A SIXTEEN-DAY PERIOD OF TIME, AND NOW NOTHING BUT SILENCE.

TELL ME, REED. IS THIS BOTHERING YOU AS MUCH AS IT IS ME?

YES...

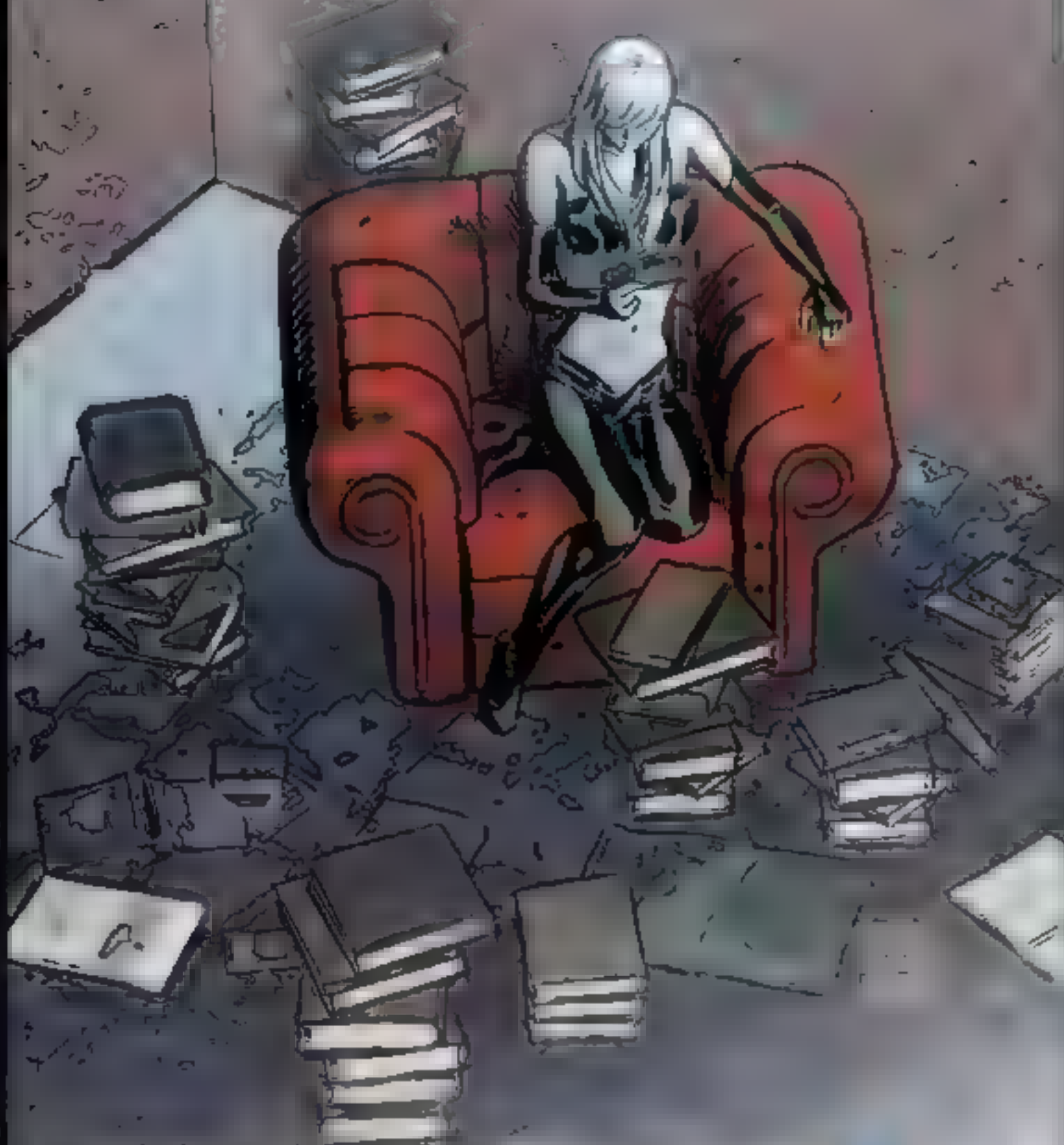
BUT THE GOOD NEWS, APPARENTLY, IS THE SWAN SAYS *THE YYATDAT*, THE ENDLESS FEAR OF LOSING EVERYTHING, SUBSIDES WHEN THE FIRST EARTH YOU CALL HOME DIES.

FILLS YOU WITH HOPE, DOESN'T IT?

WELL, IT'S NICE THERE'S A WORD FOR IT.

WHAT ELSE HAS OUR LADY OF THE APOCALYPSE BEEN UP TO?

"T'CHALLA AND I SPEND THE MOST TIME WITH HER, TRYING TO PARSE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE AND SUPERSTITION."



"SHE'S STARTED READING, QUITE A BIT. BUT WE KEEP THAT RESTRICTED TO ANALOG... T'CHALLA DOESN'T TRUST HER WITH A NETWORKED DEVICE."

"AND THE OTHER?"

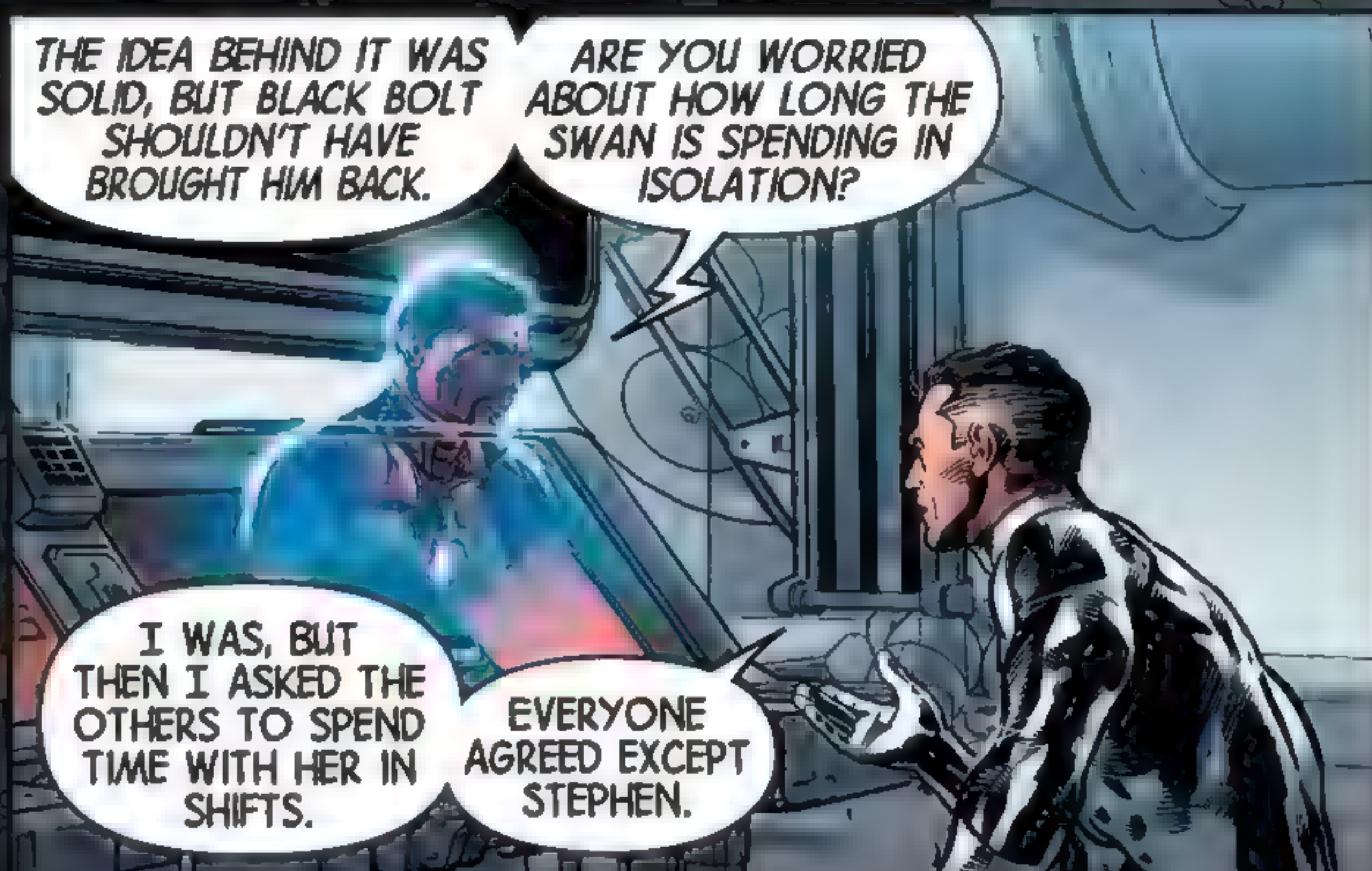
"THE SAME. TERRAX SITS THERE, REFUSING TO SPEAK."



"DAY AFTER DAY."

THE IDEA BEHIND IT WAS SOLID, BUT BLACK BOLT SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT HIM BACK.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HOW LONG THE SWAN IS SPENDING IN ISOLATION?



I WAS, BUT THEN I ASKED THE OTHERS TO SPEND TIME WITH HER IN SHIFTS.

EVERYONE AGREED EXCEPT STEPHEN.

"ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE OTHERS?"

"A FEW. HENRY HAS UNDERGONE A RADICAL PHYSICAL CHANGE. HE HASN'T ASKED ME FOR ANY HELP ASSESSING HIS MUTATION, BUT OUR CONCERN--HIS MIND--SEEMS UNAFFECTED. HE'S AS SHARP AS EVER."

"HE'S TEACHING THE SWAN LATIN..."

"AND SHE'S TEACHING HIM THREE OR FOUR LANGUAGES I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE."



"I HAVEN'T SEEN OR
HEARD FROM STEPHEN
IN OVER A WEEK.

"I CALLED, BUT
WONG INFORMED
ME THAT HE'S...
INDISPOSED.



"AND THERE IS
SOMETHING GOING
ON IN ATTILAN, BUT
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE
TO GET INTO IT..."



BECAUSE?



THERE'S A
MUCH BIGGER
PROBLEM.



"A WAKANDAN STRIKE TEAM CAPTURED SEVERAL ATLANTEAN GENERALS AND PLANS TO TRY THEM FOR WAR CRIMES AGAINST THEIR CAPITAL CITY.



"IN RETALIATION, THE ATLANTEANS TRIED TO ARREST THE WAKANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS ENTIRE ENTOURAGE WERE KILLED.



"THINGS ESCALATED FURTHER. WAKANDA RESPONDED, BUT THE INTELLIGENCE THEY WERE ACTING ON WAS BAD."

IT WAS A RUSE, AND SIXTY ELITE WAKANDANS WERE KILLED.

T'CHALLA AND NAMOR?

LAST TIME I CHECKED, THEY HAVEN'T SPOKEN...



NECROPOLIS.



THAT'S
FAR ENOUGH,
NAMOR--DON'T
TAKE ANOTHER
STEP.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



TO TALK. TO OFFER YOU
SOMETHING...

TO
DO YOU A
FAVOR.



YOU
FORGOT YOUR
SWORD IF YOU'RE
OFFERING TO
FALL ON IT...

POSTURING
IS A BAD IDEA
FOR A DEAD
MAN.

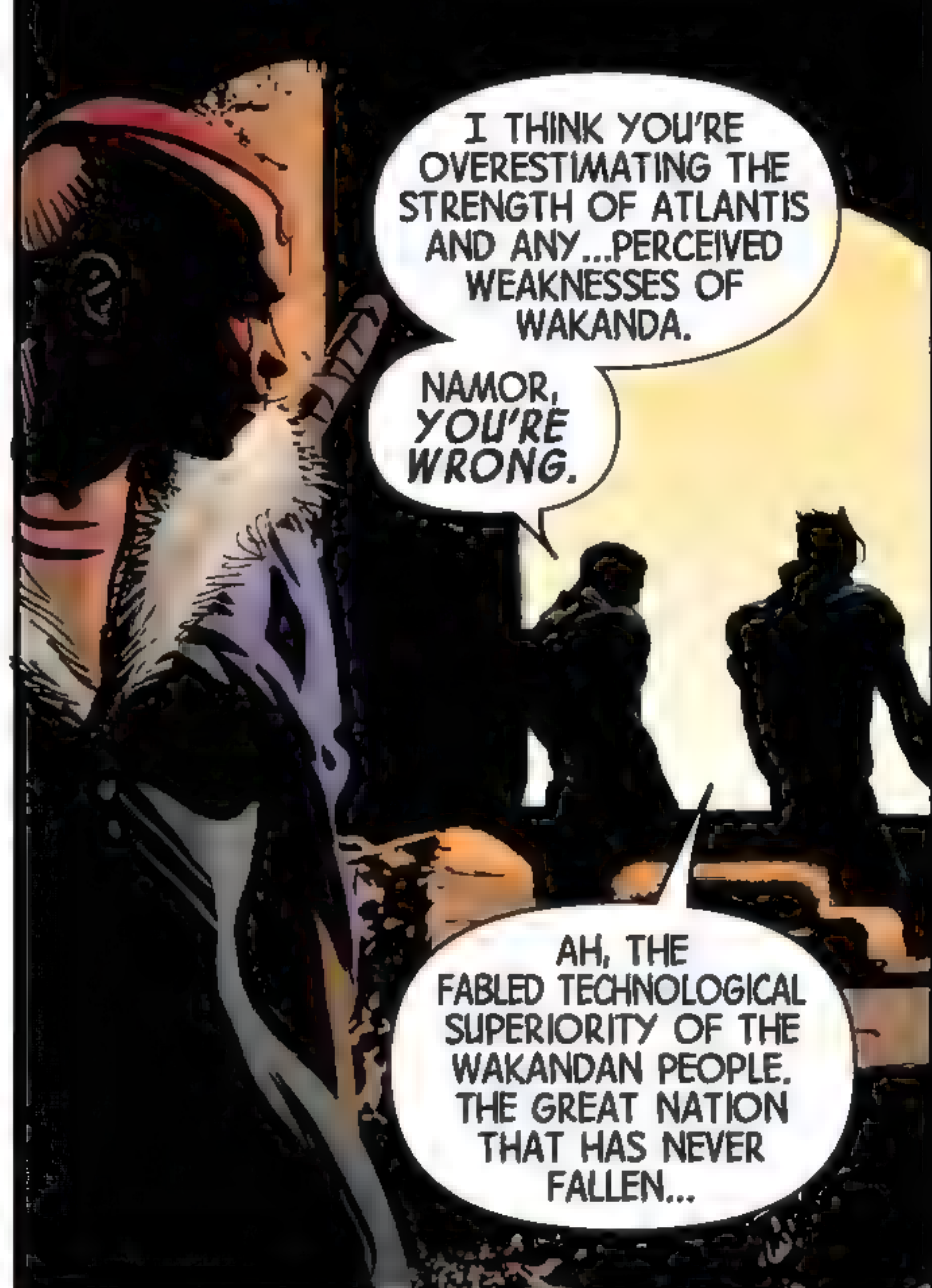


SO IS
PLAYING KING
WHEN ONE IS
CLEARLY
NOT.



I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

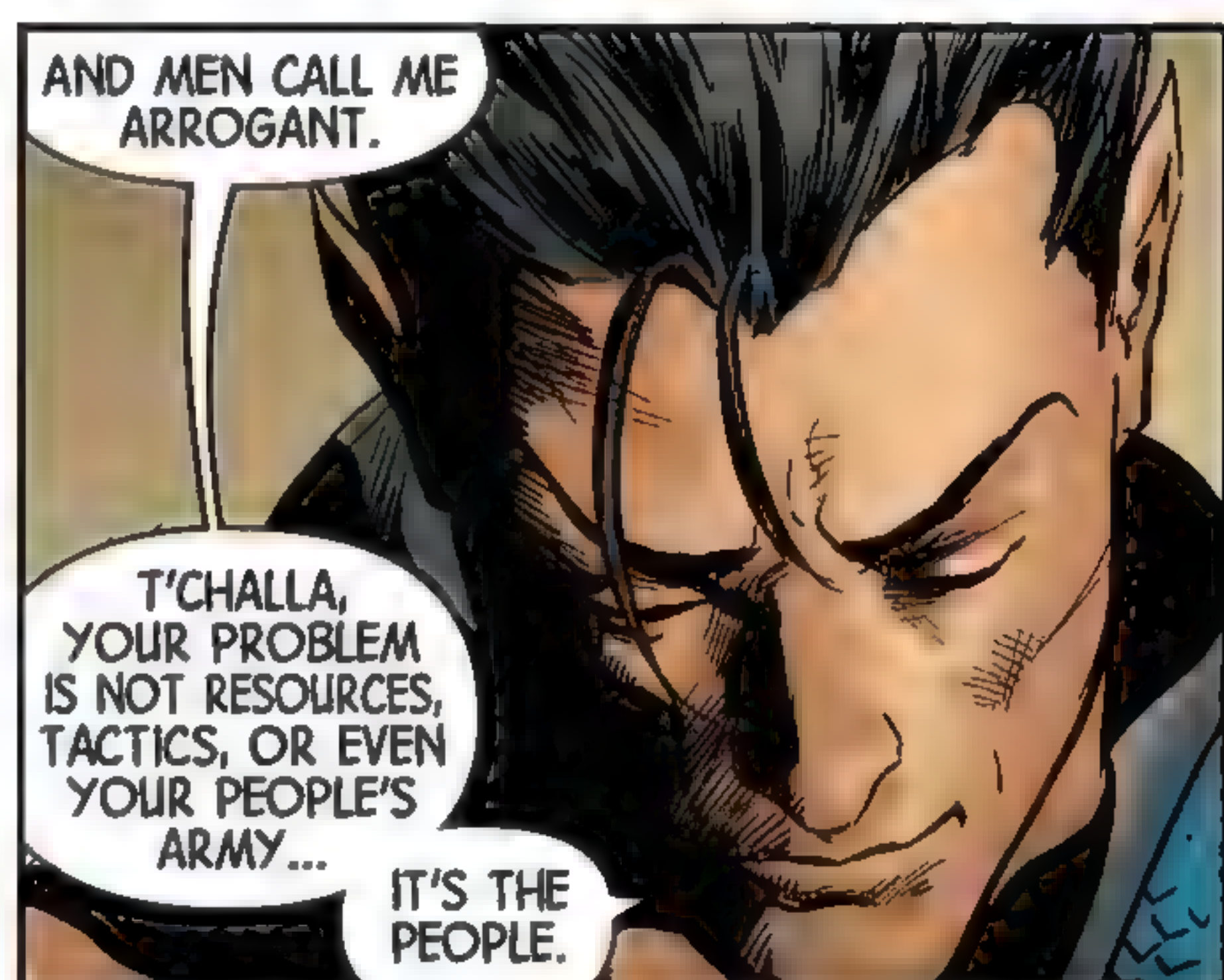
WAKANDA CANNOT WIN A WAR WITH ATLANTIS.



I THINK YOU'RE OVERESTIMATING THE STRENGTH OF ATLANTIS AND ANY...PERCEIVED WEAKNESSES OF WAKANDA.

NAMOR, YOU'RE WRONG.

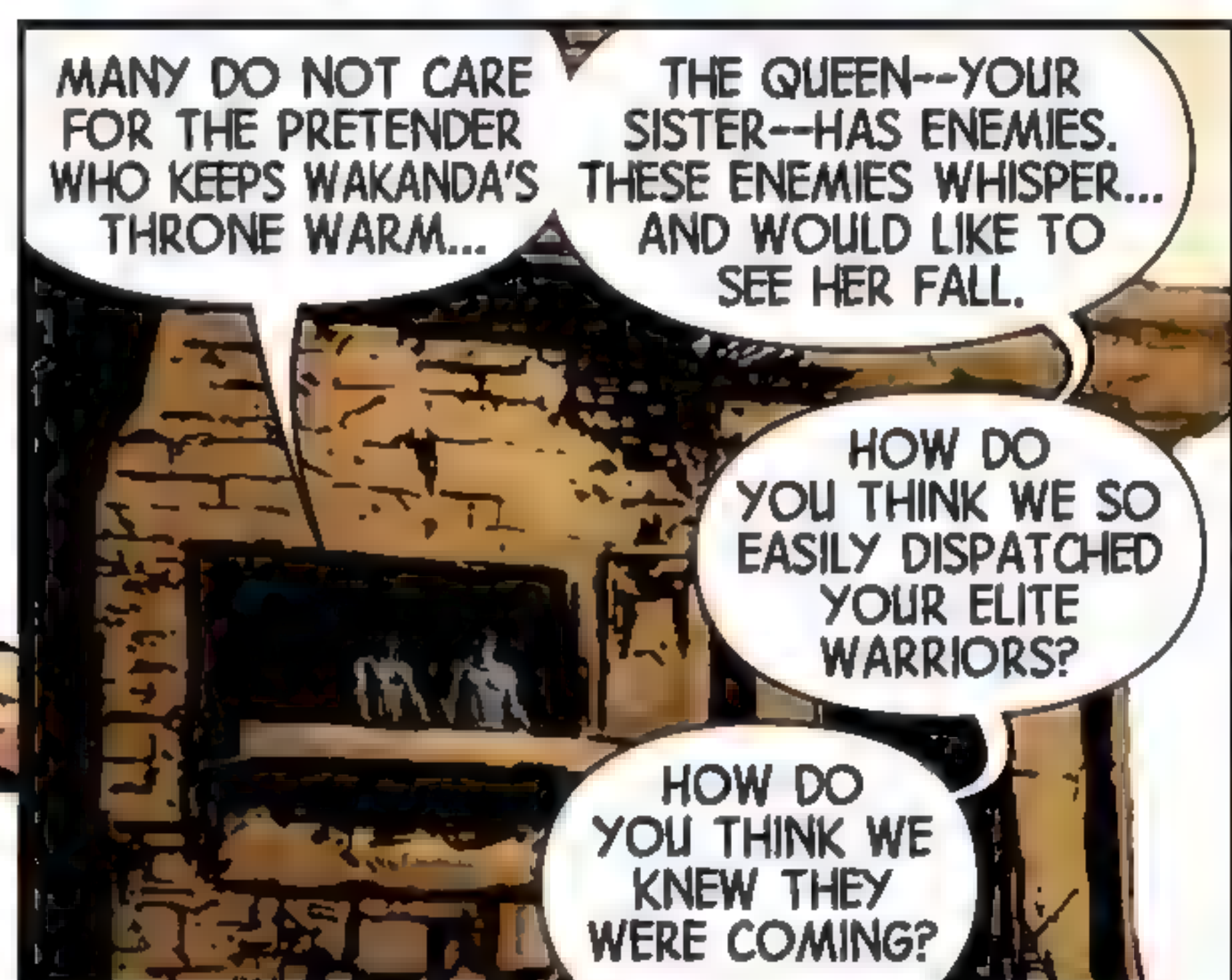
AH, THE FABLED TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE WAKANDAN PEOPLE. THE GREAT NATION THAT HAS NEVER FALLEN...



AND MEN CALL ME ARROGANT.

T'CHALLA, YOUR PROBLEM IS NOT RESOURCES, TACTICS, OR EVEN YOUR PEOPLE'S ARMY...

IT'S THE PEOPLE.



MANY DO NOT CARE FOR THE PRETENDER WHO KEEPS WAKANDA'S THRONE WARM...

THE QUEEN--YOUR SISTER--HAS ENEMIES. THESE ENEMIES WHISPER... AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER FALL.

HOW DO YOU THINK WE SO EASILY DISPATCHED YOUR ELITE WARRIORS?

HOW DO YOU THINK WE KNEW THEY WERE COMING?



NOW... WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR THE FAVOR I CAN DO FOR YOU?

...
IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE THAT NEEDS TO REACH THE QUEEN, I CAN MAKE SURE SHE RECEIVES IT.

BEYOND THAT, I MAKE NO PROMISES.



VERY WELL...



TELL HER
I WANT
PEACE.

I WILL OFFER
FAVORABLE TERMS,
AND IN EXCHANGE,
I ASK ONLY FOR A
CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES.

THIS IS
THE ONLY TIME
I WILL MAKE
THIS OFFER.



SHE WILL
REFUSE.



THEN SHE IS A FOOL--
AND NEEDS SOMEONE
TO HELP HER MAKE
THE CORRECT
DECISION.

I WOULD
REFUSE AS
WELL.



LIAR.

REGARDLESS OF
HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT
ME, YOU KNOW WE HAVE
BETTER THINGS TO BE
DOING THAN SPILLING
BLOOD.

MAKE YOUR
OFFER THROUGH THE
NORMAL CHANNELS...IF I
CHOOSE TO FIGHT FOR IT IN
THE COUNCIL, IT'S BEST IF THE
IDEA DOESN'T ORIGINATE
WITH ME.

VERY WELL.
CONSIDER
IT DONE.

OH...

YOU'RE
WELCOME.

CASTLE DOOM.
LATVERIA.



SO,
KRISTOFF,
TELL ME...

HOW ARE
THINGS?



EXCITING
AS ALWAYS,
DOCTOR
RICHARDS.

IN SPITE
OF THE RECENT
EVENTS AROUND HERE,
WE'RE DOING
SOME VERY--

HE'S
NOT REALLY
INTERESTED,
KRISTOFF...



HE'S
JUST BEING
POLITE.

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
RICHARDS?



NO, I'M
ALWAYS
INTERESTED IN THE
WELL-BEING OF
MY FRIENDS.

AND
YOU ASKED
ME HERE,
VICTOR...

...SO IF
THERE'S
SOMETHING ELSE
ON YOUR
MIND...

IT'S
ODD.

WHEN YOU
POSSESS THE KIND OF
NATIONAL MACHINERY INHERENT
TO MONARCHIES, YOU COME
TO FIND THAT A STEADY FLOW
OF INFORMATION IS ONE
THING THAT IS ALWAYS
CONSTANT.

THE TRICK, OF
COURSE, IS DETERMINING
WHAT IS, AND IS NOT,
VALUABLE. ESPECIALLY IN THE
FACE OF CONFLICTING
INFORMATION.

YOU, FOR
EXAMPLE...

I HAVE
REPORTS OF
YOU LOST IN
SPACE-TIME, AND
YET HERE
YOU ARE.

HOW IS
THAT, DOCTOR
RICHARDS?

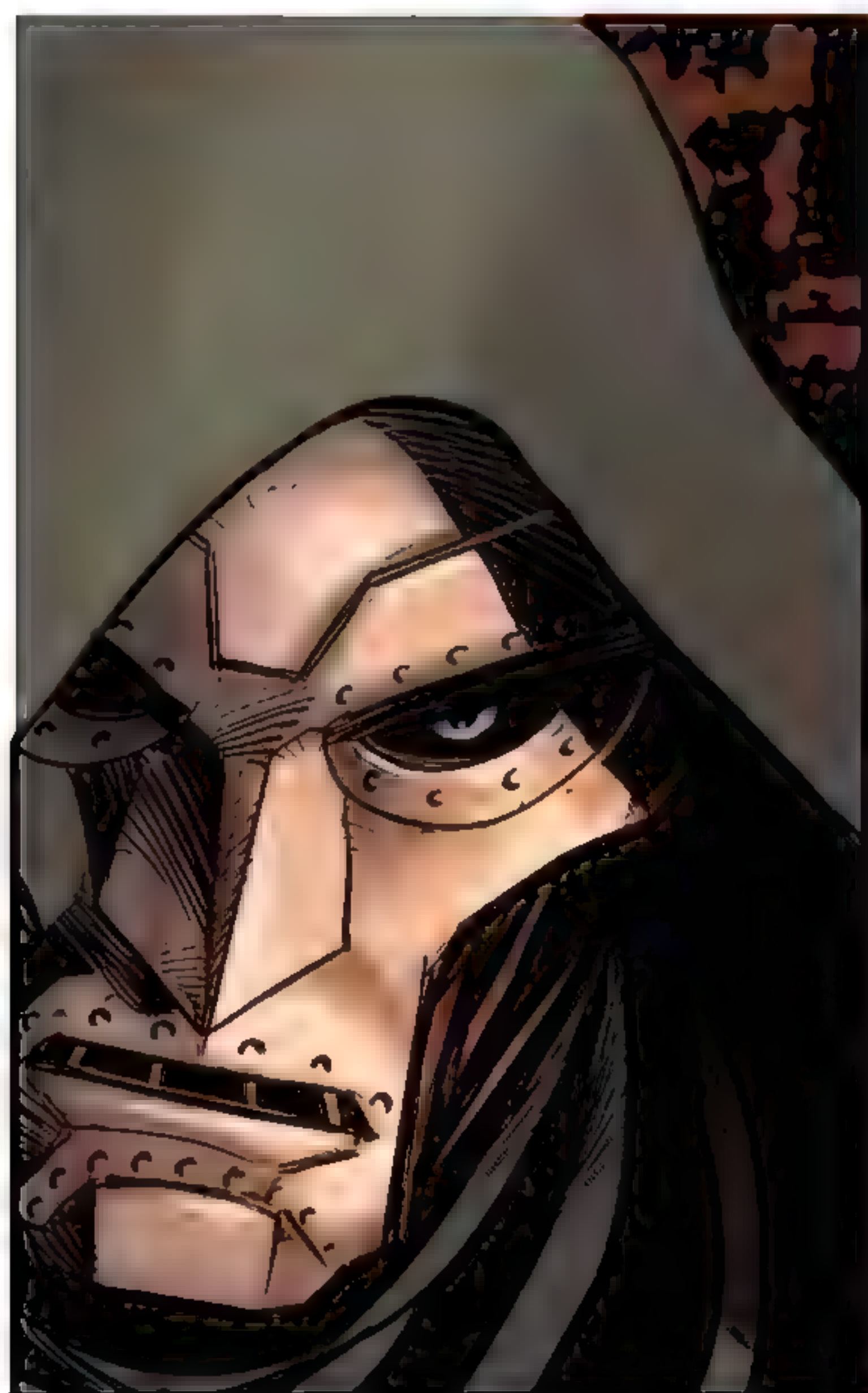
SOMETIMES
I AM IN ONE PLACE,
SOMETIMES I AM IN
ANOTHER...

SOME PEOPLE
SLEEP AT NIGHT,
SOME OTHERS WATCH
OVER THOSE
WHO DO.

SO THIS WILL BE YOUR
ANSWER WERE I TO ASK WHERE
HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY?
EVERYWHERE?

AND WHAT
WOULD YOU SAY IF
I WERE TO ASK WHAT
YOU HAVE BEEN
DOING?

I WOULD
SAY...
MANY, MANY
THINGS.



I SAW IT
WITH MY OWN
EYES.

I HAVE THE
DEAD BODIES OF
SOME CREATURES
FROM ANOTHER WORLD
SECRETED AWAY IN
MY MORGUE.

IT
HAPPENED HERE--
IN LATVERIA--TO MY
COUNTRY...TO MY
PEOPLE.



I WILL
KNOW WHAT
GAME IT IS THAT
YOU ARE
PLAYING.



THERE IS NO
GAME.



IF IT WERE A GAME, THERE WOULD
BE WINNERS AND LOSERS.

I HAVE
COME TO BELIEVE,
IN THIS, THERE WILL
ONLY BE THE
LATTER.



THANK YOU
FOR DINNER,
VICTOR...

BUT DO
NOT CONTACT
ME ABOUT THIS
AGAIN.



THERE WILL
BE NO
WINNERS...

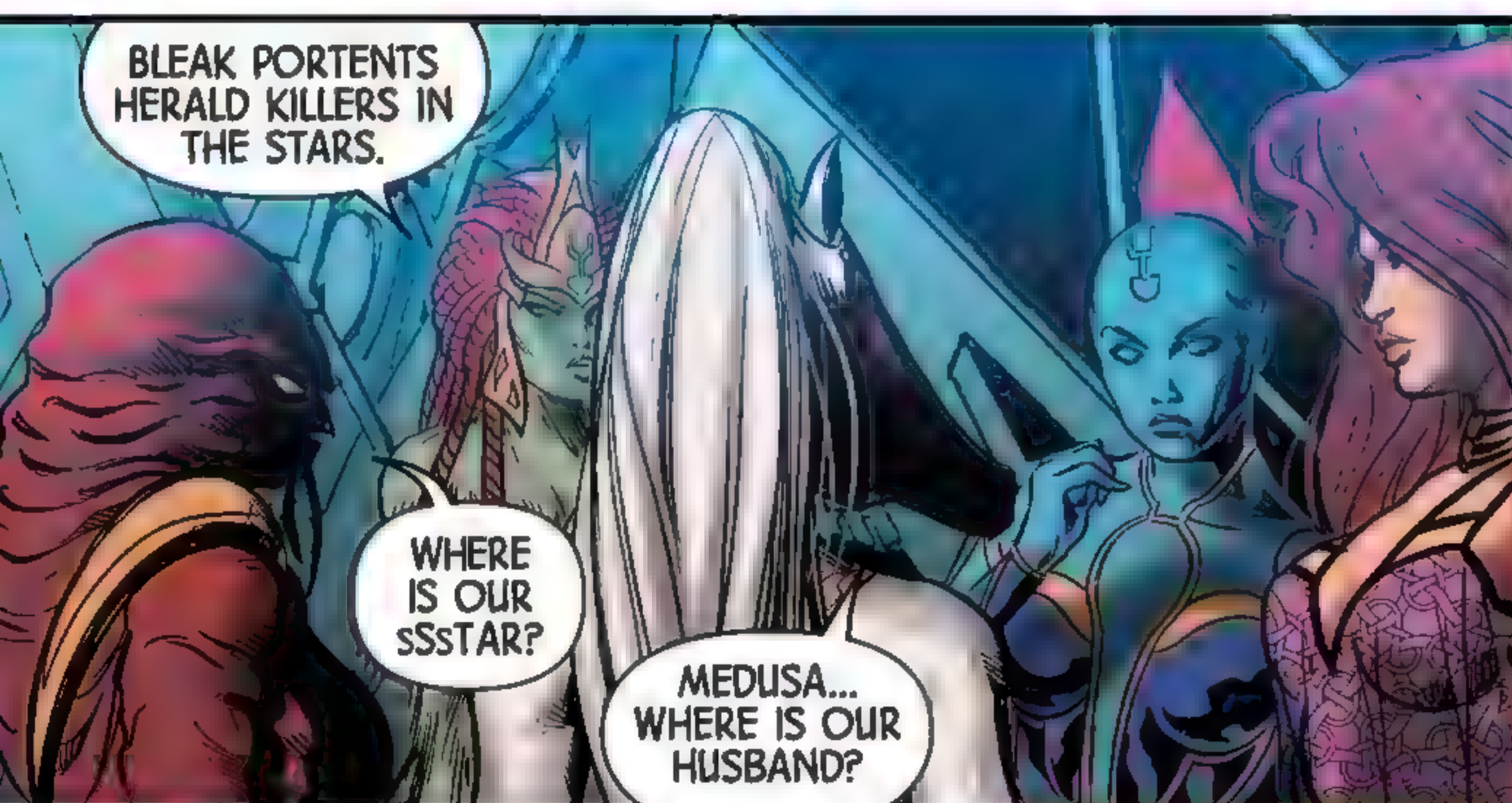


ATTILAN.
HOME CITY OF
THE INHUMANS.

**CURRENTLY OVER
NEW YORK CITY.**



THERE ARE RUMORS IN
THE HEAVENS OF TYRANTS
AND THIEVES.



BLEAK PORTENTS
HERALD KILLERS IN
THE STARS.

WHERE
IS OUR
SSSTAR?

MEDUSA...
WHERE IS OUR
HUSBAND?



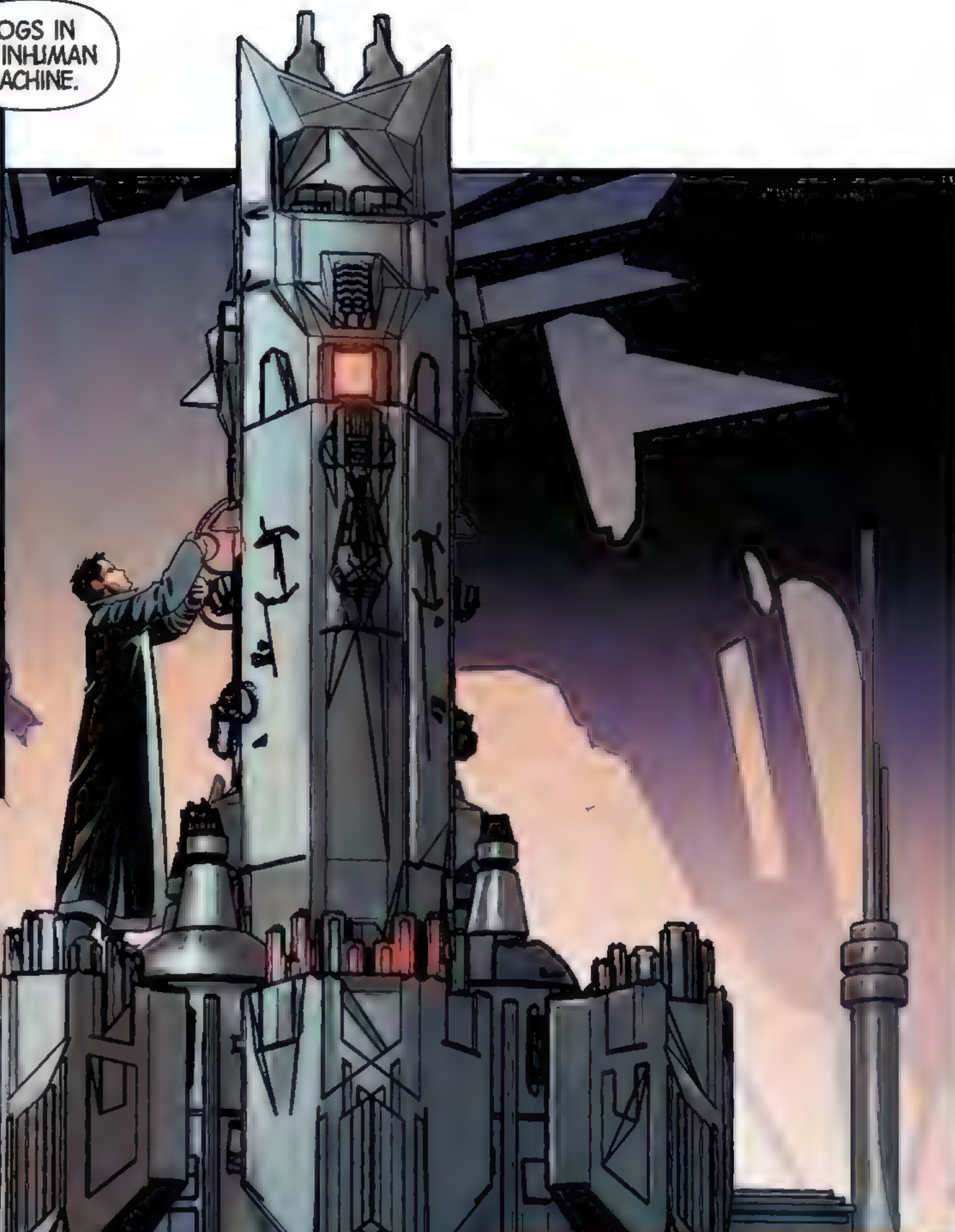
I
DO NOT
KNOW...

BLACK
BOLT IS HIDING
THINGS FROM
US.



I'M
SPINNING
THE CIRCLE,
BROTHER.

COGS IN
AN INHUMAN
MACHINE.



A TERRIGEN
HAZE CLOUDING
MY VISION...

MAXIMUS
THE MAKER
IS BUILDING
SOMETHING
WICKED.



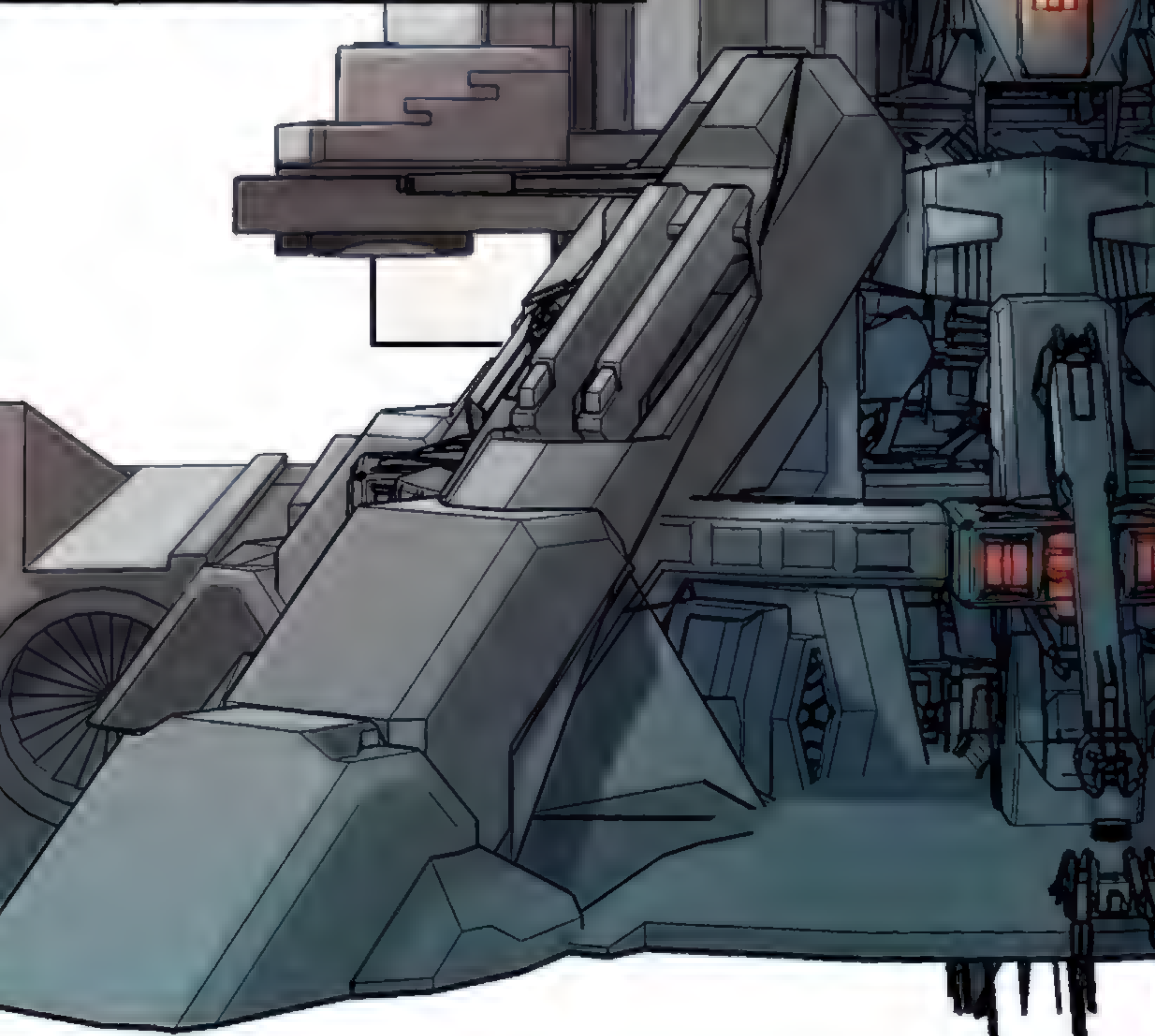
BUT
DON'T BLAME
ME...

THIS WASN'T
MY IDEA. IT
WAS YOURS.



AND I'M
NOT GOING TO
STOP UNLESS
YOU TELL ME
TO.

GO
ON...



NO?
NOTHING?

VERY
WELL.

LET'S
BURN IT ALL
DOWN.

NECROPOLIS.
LATER.



HELLO,
REED.

DO
YOU HAVE A
MOMENT?

ACTUALLY,
I'VE HAD A VERY
LONG NIGHT ALREADY,
AND I WANT TO FINISH
THIS BEFORE I SHOOT
MYSELF BACK ACROSS
THE MULTIVERSE TO
MY FAMILY.



IT'S
IMPORTANT.

TANGENTIAL
SCENARIOS...GAME
THEORY FOR NATION
BUILDING.



...GO
ON.



TWO COUNTRIES AT WAR WITH ONE ANOTHER. AN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF TO POSSIBLY END THEIR CONFLICT...

REASONABLE, BUT IT ALSO MIGHT SERVE AS A DESTABILIZING ELEMENT WITHIN ONE OF THE COUNTRIES-- THE COUNTRY, IT COULD BE ARGUED, MOST LIKELY TO WIN THE WAR.

ALSO, THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS POTENTIAL PEACE ARE EXTERNAL--AFFECTING BOTH COUNTRIES AND CREATING THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE CHANGE STATE OF PEACE TO BE ACHIEVED.

POSSIBLE PEACE BETWEEN ATLANTIS AND WAKANDA, BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF INCURSIONS...

YES.



SEEMS PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD...MAKE THE PEACE.

HOW IS THIS NOT OBVIOUS TO YOU?



I DON'T TRUST HIM.

AND I MADE A PROMISE TO HIM REGARDING HIS MORTALITY THAT I INTEND TO KEEP.



WELL...I DON'T BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE, T'CHALLA.

AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN COMPROMISING EITHER THE SOVEREIGNTY OR THE SAFETY OF MY NATION...BUT LOOK AT WHAT THE WORLD HAS MADE OF US BOTH.



IS IT GOING TO BE ENOUGH?



INFINITE WORLDS, T'CHALLA.

YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.



AND YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, DON'T YOU?



YES.



WAKANDA.
THE NEXT DAY.



"AS YOU KNOW, THOUSANDS OF OUR PEOPLE DIED WHEN PRINCE NAMOR AND HIS ATLANTEAN FORCES FLOODED OUR CAPITAL CITY."

"IN ADDITION TO THIS LOSS OF LIFE, WE SUFFERED THE STRATEGIC DESTRUCTION OF MUCH OF WAKANDA'S MILITARY HARDWARE, AND HAD MASSIVE DAMAGE TO OUR BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE."

THESE ARE SETBACKS THAT WE HAVE NOW RECOVERED FROM, DUE TO OUR DILIGENCE AND PROPER OVERSIGHT.

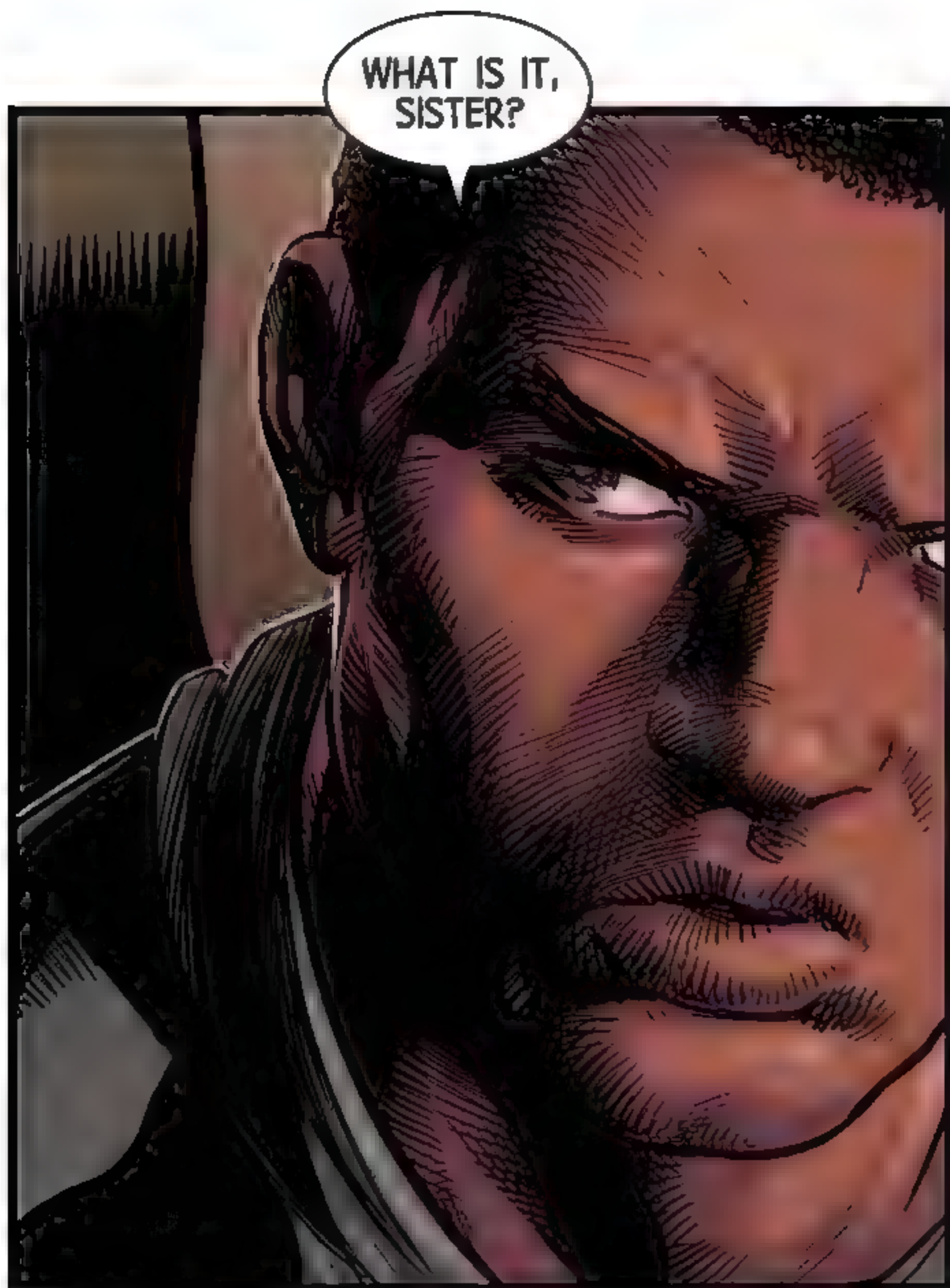
SO WHILE HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THIS WAR COUNCIL, INTERIOR MINISTER N'BAKA IS ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS, OR TO ALLAY ANY FEARS YOU MIGHT HAVE REGARDING PREPAREDNESS.

BUT, AS YOUR QUEEN, LET ME OFFER YOU MY WORD...

WE ARE READY TO ADMINISTER WAKANDAN JUSTICE.

WE ARE READY FOR WAR.

BUT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED.



WHAT IS IT, SISTER?



NAMOR SUES FOR PEACE.

A TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS--FORMALIZED AT A SUMMIT, WHICH WOULD MARK THE END OF HOSTILITIES.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SHURI?

YOU KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE HERE... WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE?



LIFE AND NOT DEATH.

YES, NAMOR MUST PAY WITH HIS LIFE--I HAVE SWORN TO DO THIS MYSELF.

BUT LET'S USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE TO HEAL OUR NATION--ANY WAR MEANS THE LOSS OF MORE OF OUR PEOPLE...WHY WOULD WE DO THAT WHEN WE COULD AVOID IT?

WHAT IS THERE TO GAIN?



THE HONOR WE HAVE LOST. BECAUSE THE WORLD WAS WATCHING AS WAKANDA FELL.

BECAUSE THE WORLD NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON IN THE COSTS INVOLVED WHEN ATTACKING THE WALLS OF THE GOLDEN CITY.



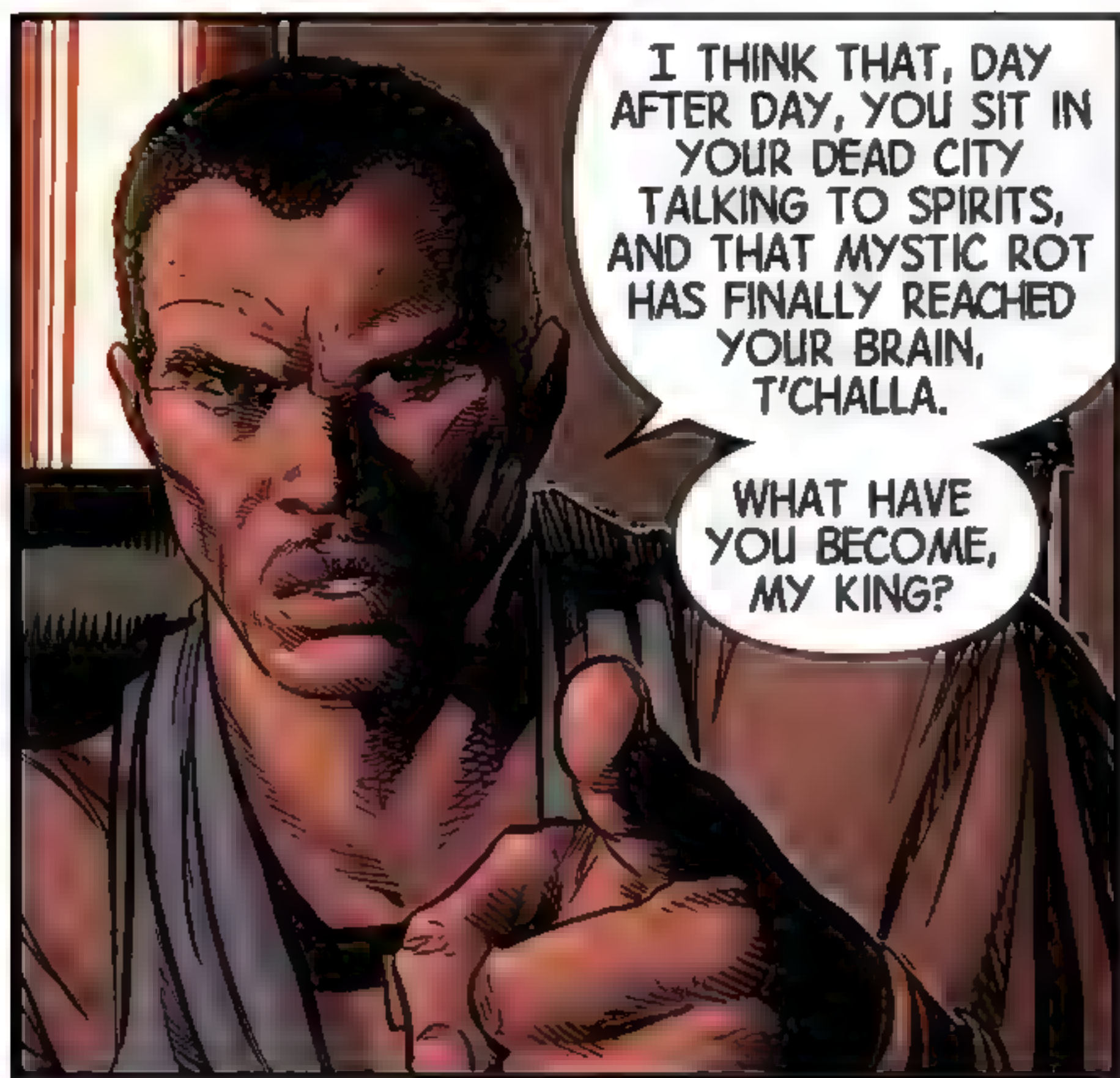
IN ALL OF RECORDED HISTORY THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN US WEAK.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT RETRIBUTION. OR A MAN PAYING THE BLOOD PRICE.

WE MUST SEND A MESSAGE.



AND YOU THINK A FULL SCALE WAR IS THE BEST WAY TO SEND THIS MESSAGE, GENERAL H'LLAH?



I THINK THAT, DAY AFTER DAY, YOU SIT IN YOUR DEAD CITY TALKING TO SPIRITS, AND THAT MYSTIC ROT HAS FINALLY REACHED YOUR BRAIN, T'CHALLA.

WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME, MY KING?



YOU WOULD DARE TO--

HOLD.

I UNDERSTAND AVOIDING VIOLENCE BY APPEARING VIOLENT, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW NAMOR.

I UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE....



AND I ONLY WISH FOR MY SISTER--OUR QUEEN--TO MAKE A DECISION BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE FACTS.

IF WE START A WAR, IT WILL NOT END UNTIL ONE OF OUR NATIONS HAS FALLEN.

THAT IS THE TRUTH, AND A HARD ONE.



AND THERE ARE BEASTS IN THE JUNGLE, T'CHALLA...YET STILL WE HUNT.

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF GREAT PRIDE, MY QUEEN, AND THE PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR JUSTICE. BLOOD DEMANDS BLOOD.

WE ARE YOURS TO COMMAND, SHURI... WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

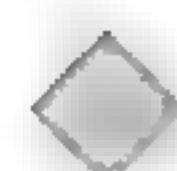


MAKE READY YOUR ARMIES, GENERAL...

WAKANDA IS GOING TO WAR.



THE SIGNAL



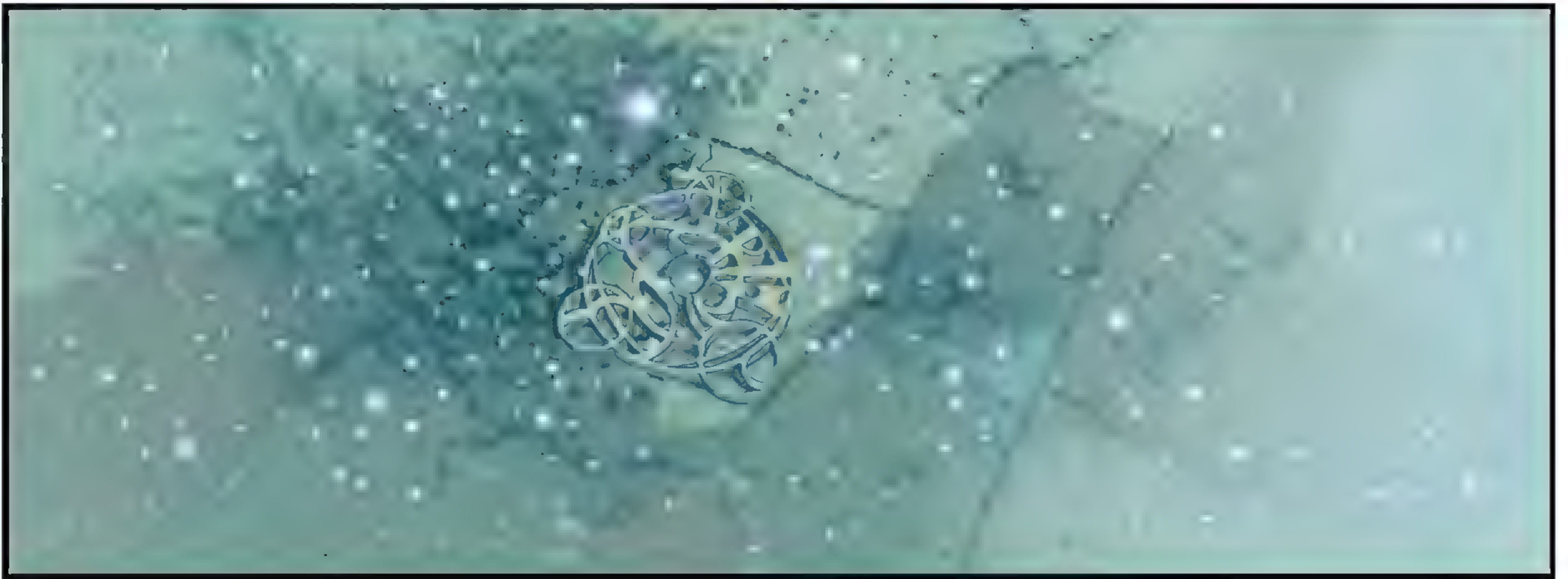
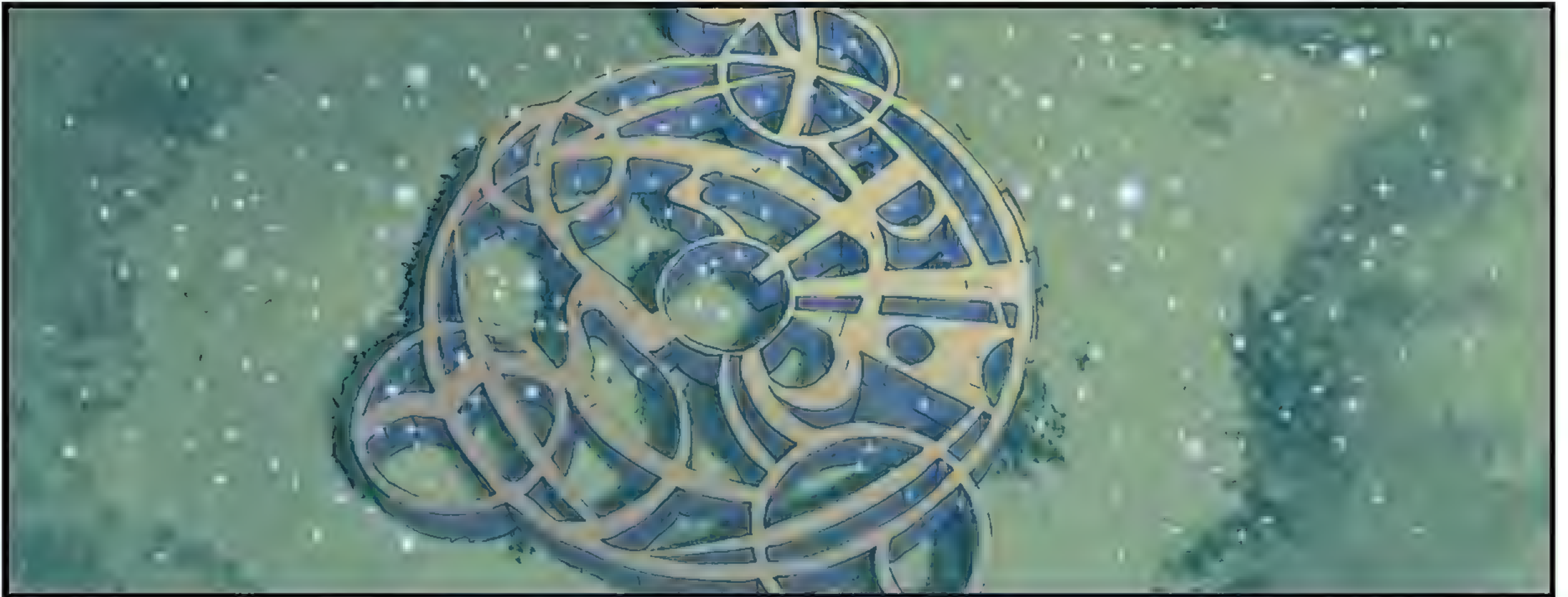
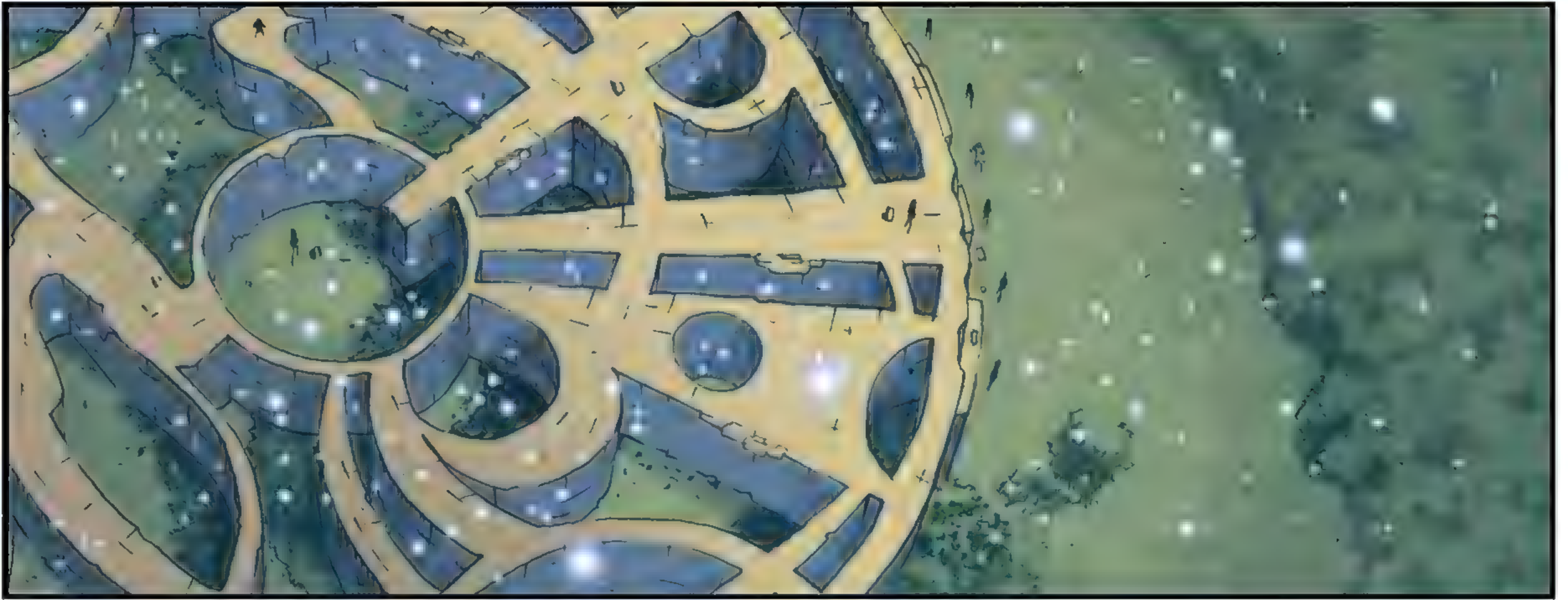
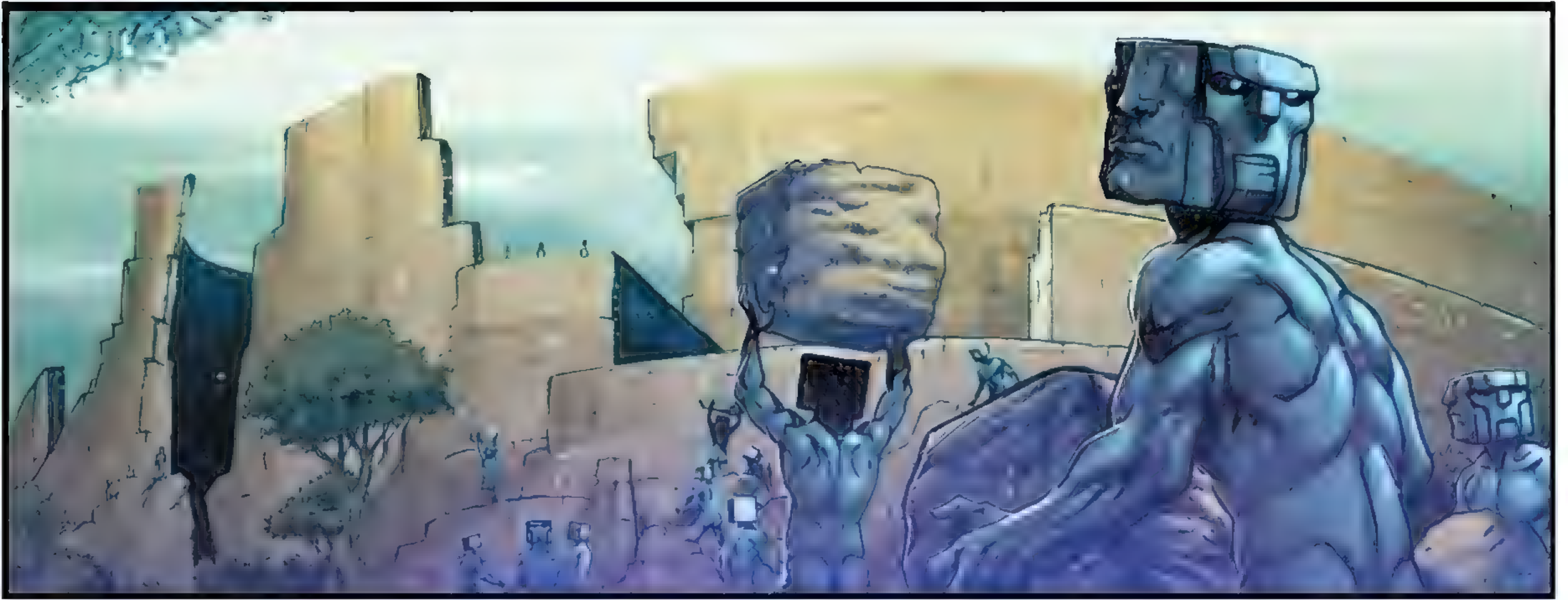


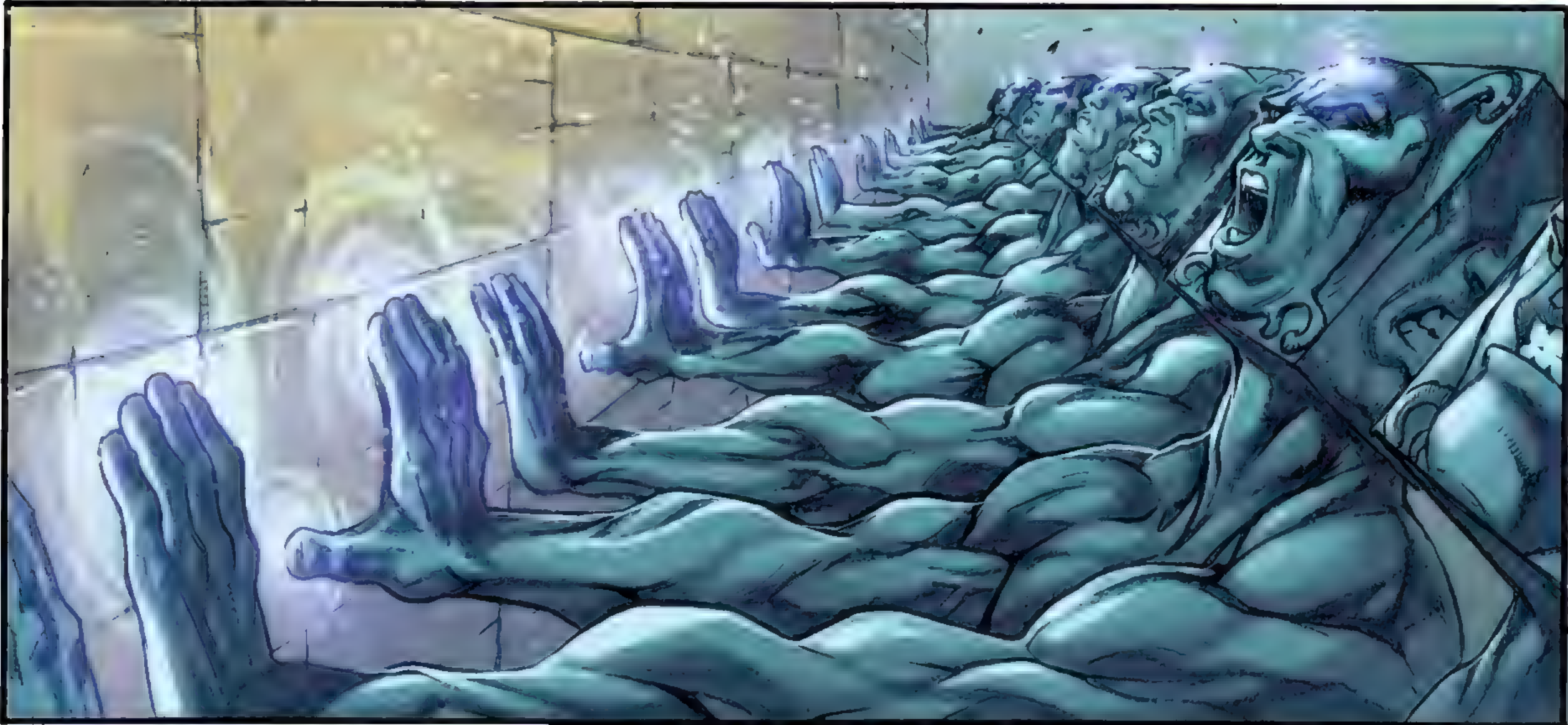
CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION

CHHATARPUR, INDIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
SELF-REPAIR.





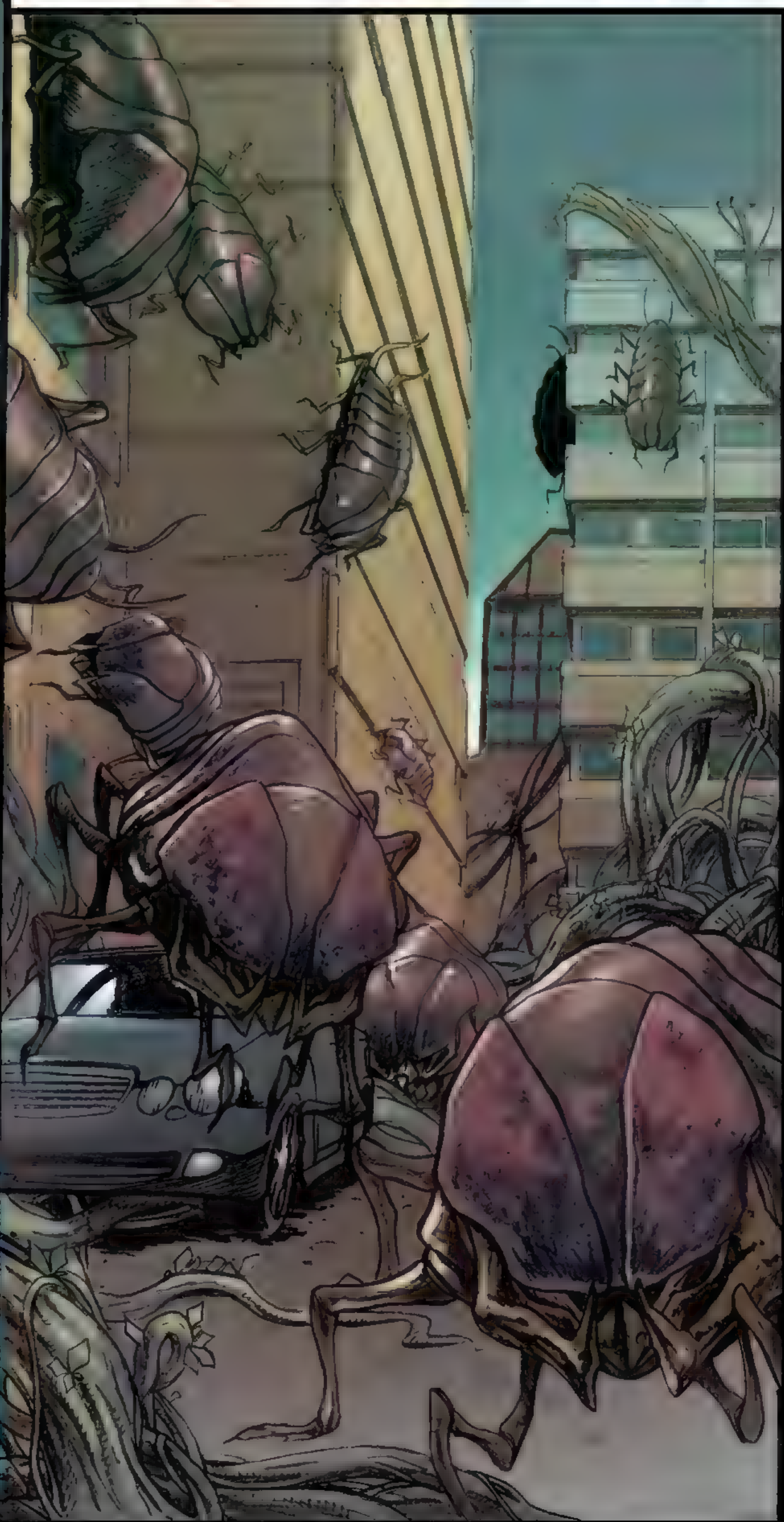
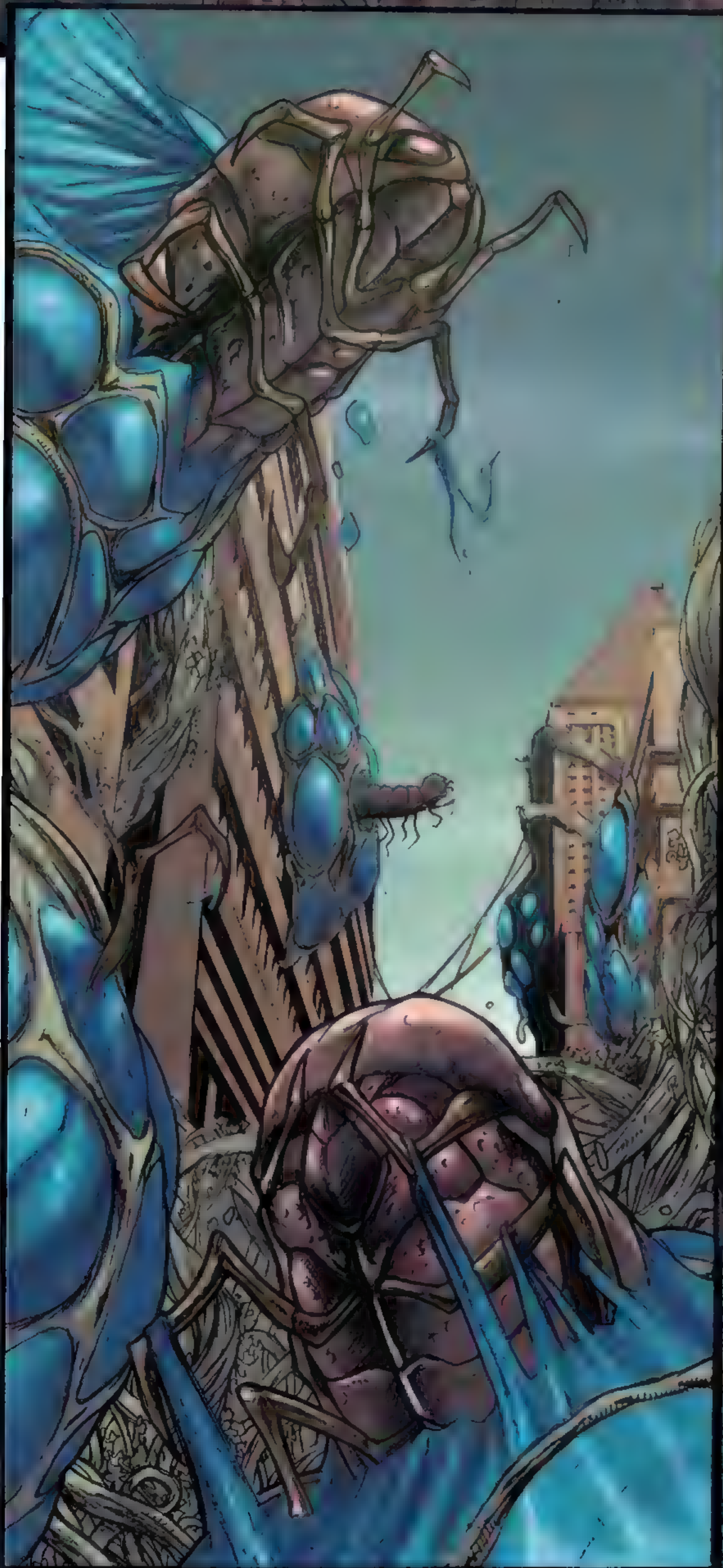


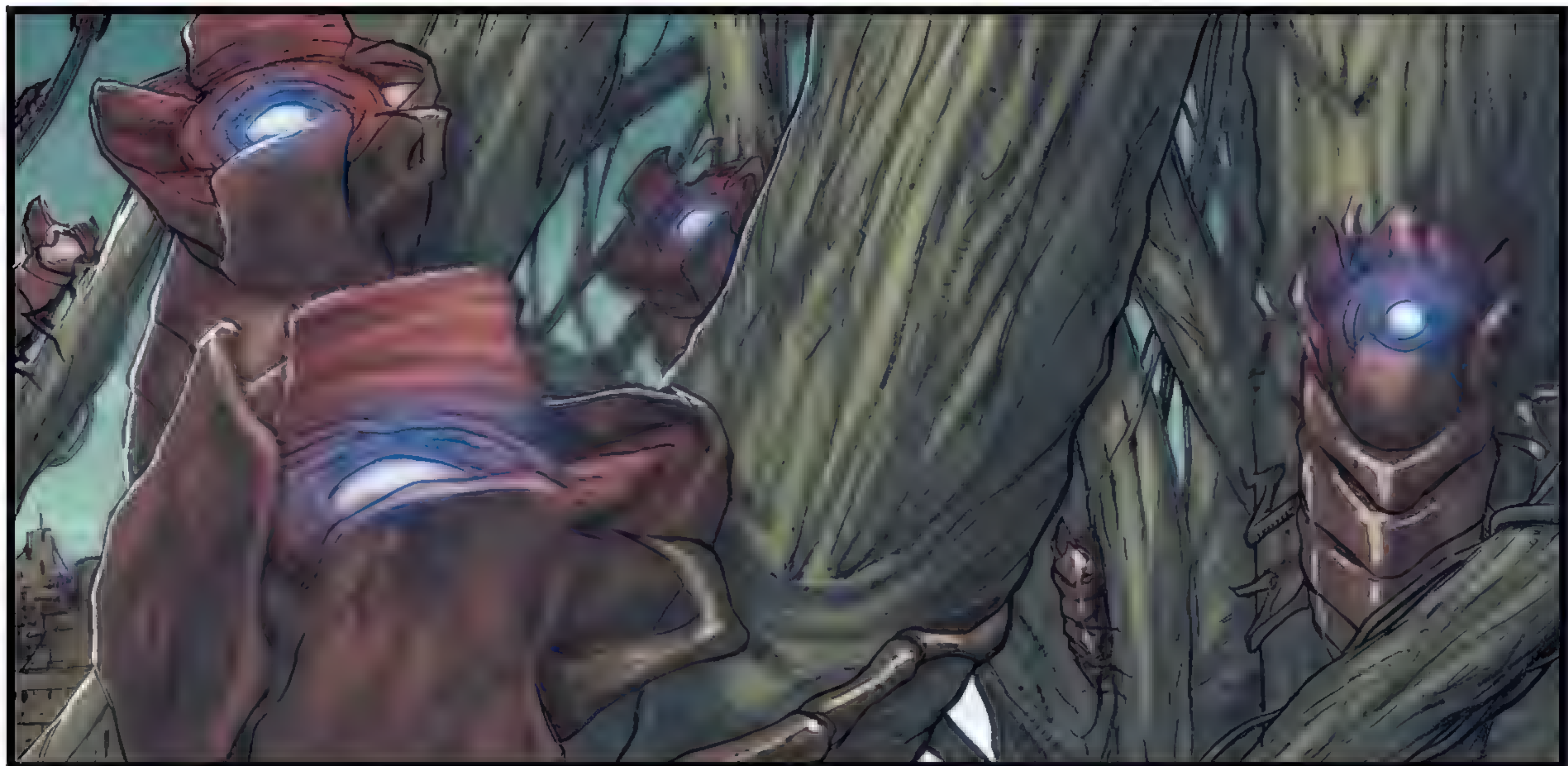
REPAIR
FAILURE.

WORLD
TERMINAL.

PERTH, AUSTRALIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
COMMUNICATION.





**S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.**

"THE SIGNAL IS
THE PROBLEM."

AND EACH
TIME IT STARTS
UP--90 PERCENT
OF THE WORLD'S
ELECTRICAL GRIDS
GO DOWN.

PLANES AND
ORBITING SATELLITES
ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES.
MISSILE SILOS ARE AUTO-
LAUNCHING, DAMS ARE
BREAKING, AND WE HAVE
MELTDOWN AT 19
DIFFERENT NUCLEAR
POWER SITES--

THE ENORMITY
OF THIS THING...
CAPTAIN, IT'S
COMPLETE GLOBAL
COLLAPSE--

AND IT'S
HAPPENING
EVERY SIX
MINUTES.

THE DURATION
OF IT IS ALL
THAT CHANGES--
NO OTHER
VARIABLES. NEVER
MORE THAN
EIGHT SECONDS,
BUT THAT'S
MORE THAN
ENOUGH.

SOME KIND
OF SCALED-UP
ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE ATTACK?

THIS IS
MORE LIKE A
SOLAR FLARE
IN TERMS OF
REACH.

BUT NO, POWER RESUMES AFTER CESSATION EACH TIME, SO IT'S MORE DISRUPTIVE IN NATURE THAN DESTRUCTIVE. IT'S LIKE ITS USING ALL OUR ENERGY SOURCES TO AMPLIFY ITS OWN STRENGTH.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL. THE LIGHTNING STORMS ARE AN EARLY WARNING--THIS AMOUNT OF ENERGY, IF THIS KEEPS UP, WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT ATMOSPHERIC PROBLEMS AS WELL.

THEN WE WORK FASTER. HOW ARE YOU HANDLING THE STRESS, DOCTOR BANNER?

I'VE ACTUALLY SEEN MY WHOLE WORLD DIE IN FRONT OF MY EYES BEFORE, CAPTAIN--

I'M DOING WHAT I CAN TO KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT ABOUT LOCATING THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL?

THERE'S NOTHING TO FIND. AS SOON AS THE SOUND STARTS, ALL ELECTRONICS STOP. AND WHATEVER I'D USE TO TRACK RESIDUAL ENERGY WHEN WE'RE BACK ONLINE--THERE'S SO MUCH OF IT, I'M LOOKING FOR ONE NEEDLE IN ALL THE WORLD'S COLLECTIVE HAYSTACKS.

YOU'LL COME UP WITH SOMETHING.

CAP, LISTEN, I--I COULD USE ANOTHER SET OF EYES HERE. MAYBE WE COULD GET TONY IN THE ROOM, AND TOGETHER--

I WISH THAT WAS AN OPTION, BRUCE--

"BUT IRON MAN HAS PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN RIGHT NOW."

UPPER ATMOSPHERE.
FORMERLY GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT.

CAPTAIN MARVEL...

A LITTLE HELP?



YOU WANT ME TO WRECK IT?

ONCE WE TEAR INTO THE SATELLITE, THE PIECES WILL BURN UP ON REENTRY. I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CORE. WE DON'T WANT--

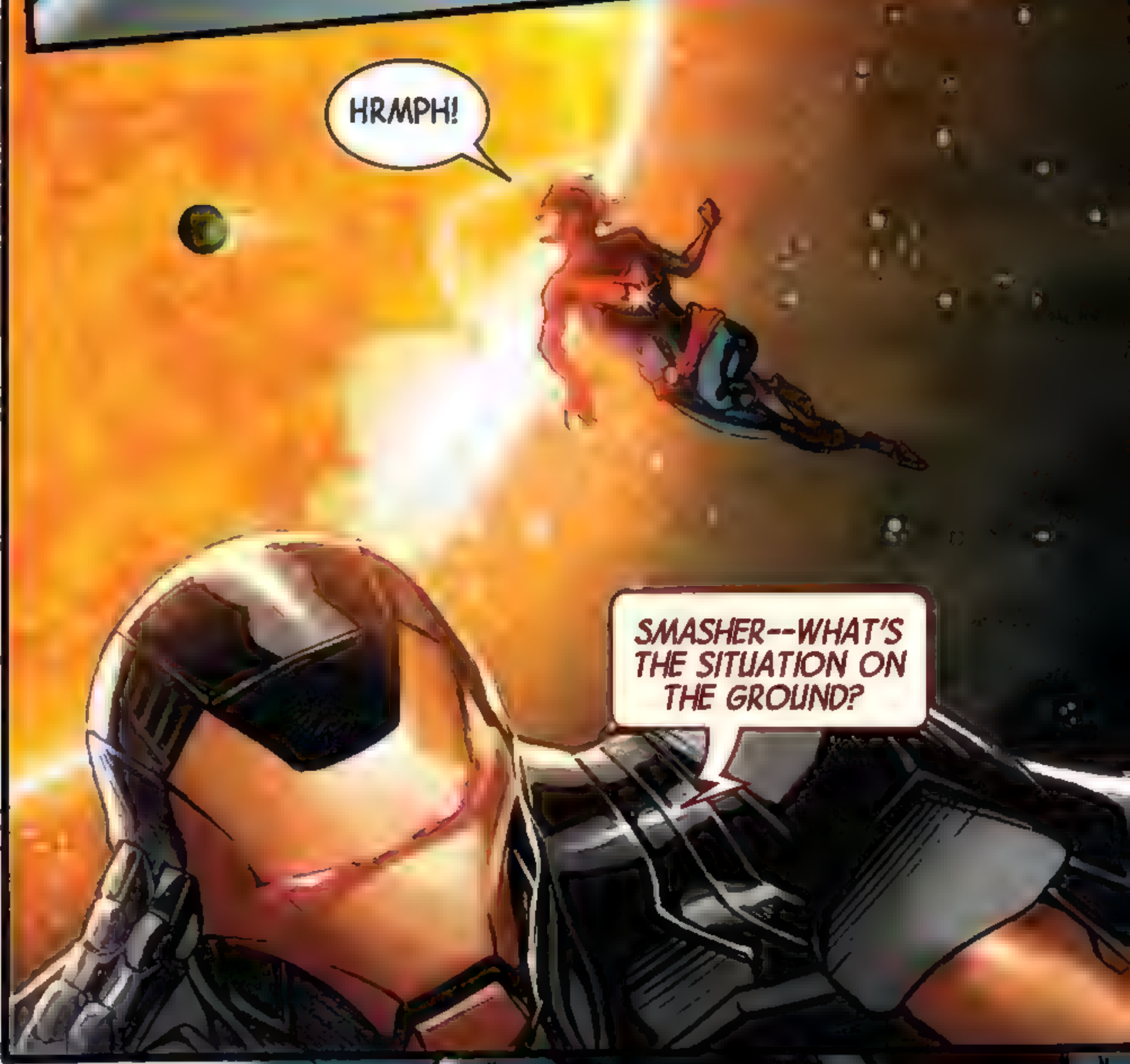
UNDERSTOOD.



GOT IT, IRON MAN. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH IT?

WELL, IT'S NUCLEAR...

CAN YOU MAKE THE THROW?



HRMPH!

SMASHER--WHAT'S THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND?



UNNFF... UNNFF...YEAH... GOOD...YOU KNOW...

LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM.







WE HAVE THAT UNDER CONTROL, SMASHER. WE'LL USE HEATHROW AS THE WESTERN EUROPEAN HUB.

I'M SET UP, FALCON. ALL WE NEED NOW ARE THE LOCATIONS, DIRECTIONS AND SPEEDS.



OKAY, SPIDER-WOMAN, HERE COMES---

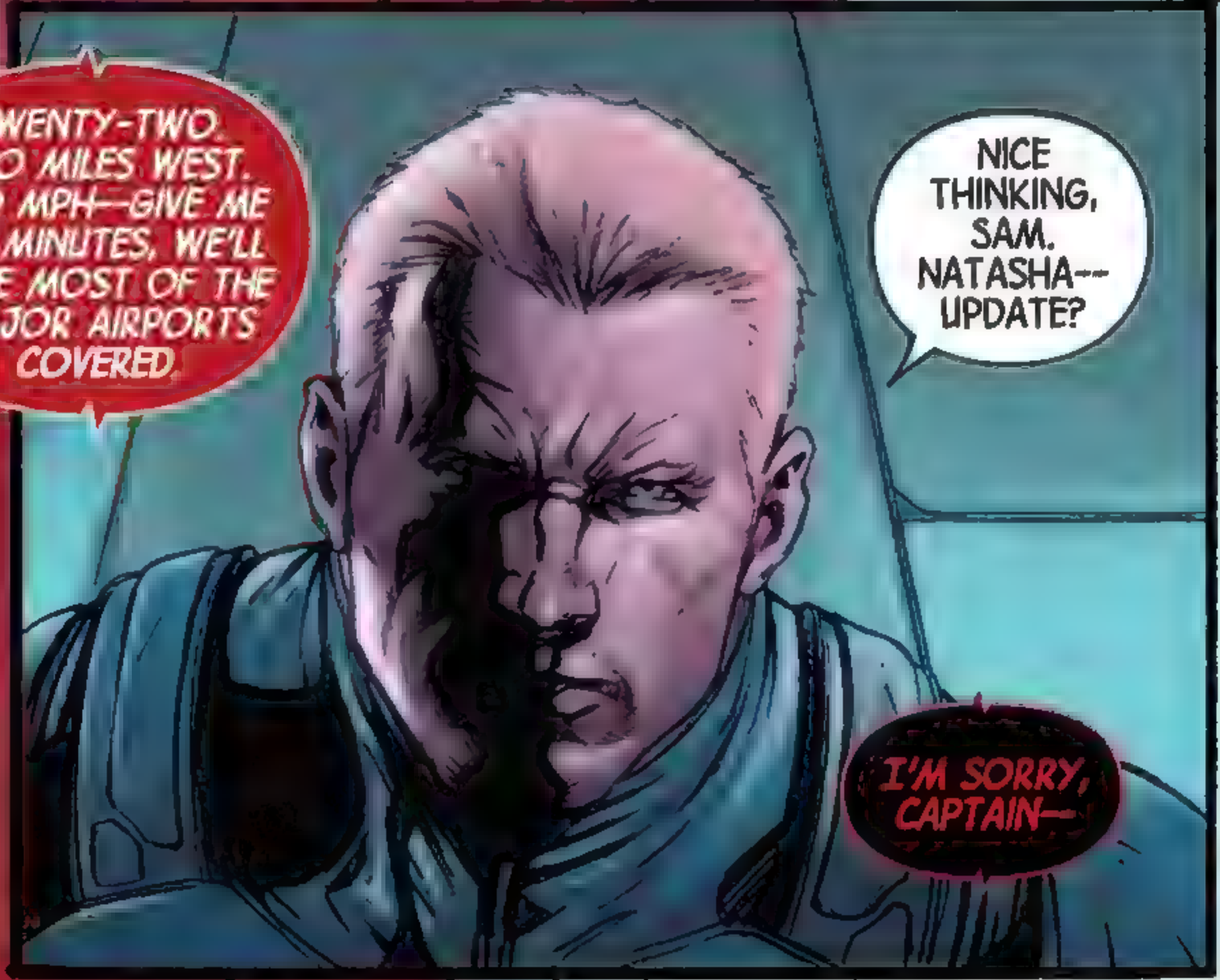
SOUND OFF, YOU BIRDS!



ONE. 27 MILES SOUTHEAST. 408 MPH.

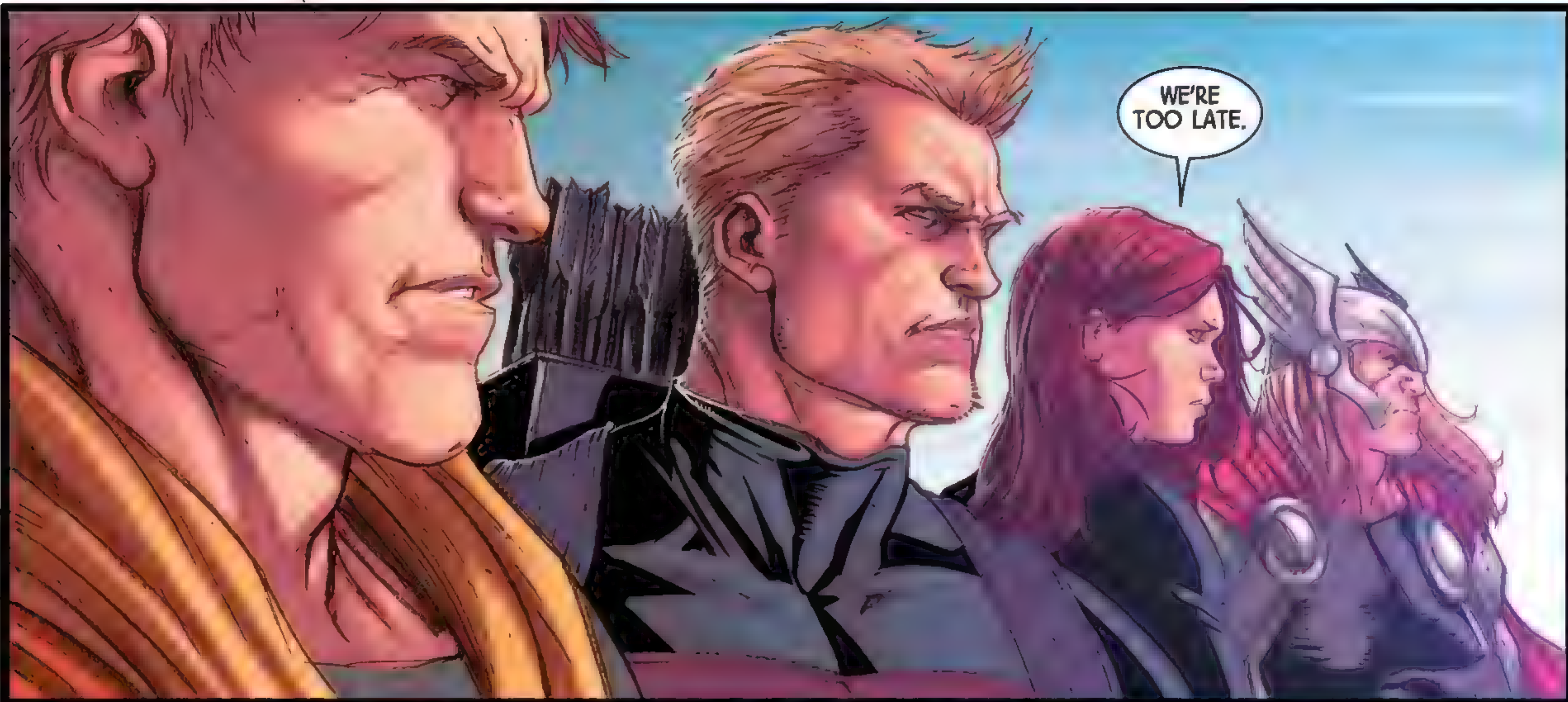
TWO. 42 MILES NORTHEAST. 423 MPH.

TWENTY-TWO. 220 MILES WEST. 510 MPH—GIVE ME 20 MINUTES, WE'LL HAVE MOST OF THE MAJOR AIRPORTS COVERED.



NICE THINKING, SAM. NATASHA—UPDATE?

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN—



WE'RE
TOO LATE.

ULJIN COUNTY, NORTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE, SOUTH KOREA.
SITE OF THE ULCHIN NUCLEAR PLANT.



STAGE SEVEN
REACTOR MELTDOWN.
I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE.
THERE WON'T BE ANY
SURVIVORS. WE
SHOULD--



ENOUGH!!!



I AM ITS
GOD! THE
THUNDER AND
LIGHTNING ARE
MINE TO COMMAND,
AND STILL THEY
DEFY ME! I WILL
NOT SUFFER
THIS--THIS--

GRANDMA
ALWAYS SAID
EVERYBODY
GETS SICK.



BUT WE CAN
ALL BE TOGETHER
AGAIN, A BIG PARTY,
WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS...
OF COURSE GRANDMA
AND GRANDPA CAN
COME TOO.



THIS IS A
SYMPTOM OF
A GREATER
ILLNESS.

I DON'T
LIKE THAT.



YOU
DID IT.

YOU
CONTAINED THE
FALLOUT.

BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
SIGNAL?

THE SIGNAL
IS PART OF THE
SICKNESS.

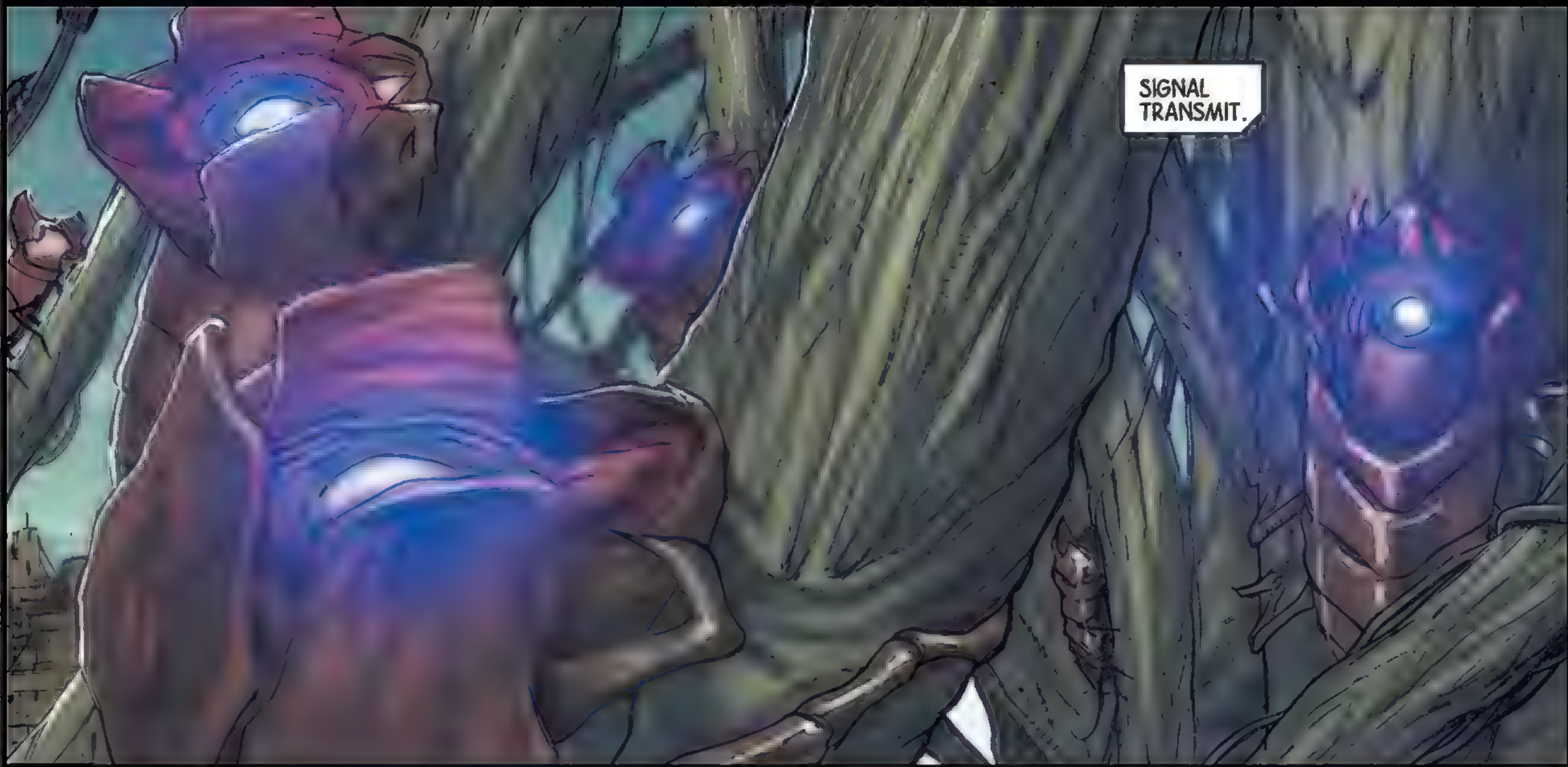
SOMETHING
SEEKING TO
REMAKE THIS
WORLD.



YOU
GETTING THIS,
CAP?

I THINK
THE UNIVERSE IS
TELLING US IT'S
COMING FROM
ONE OF THE
BOMB SITES.





SIGNAL
TRANSMIT.



SIGNAL RECEIVED--
DECLINED.

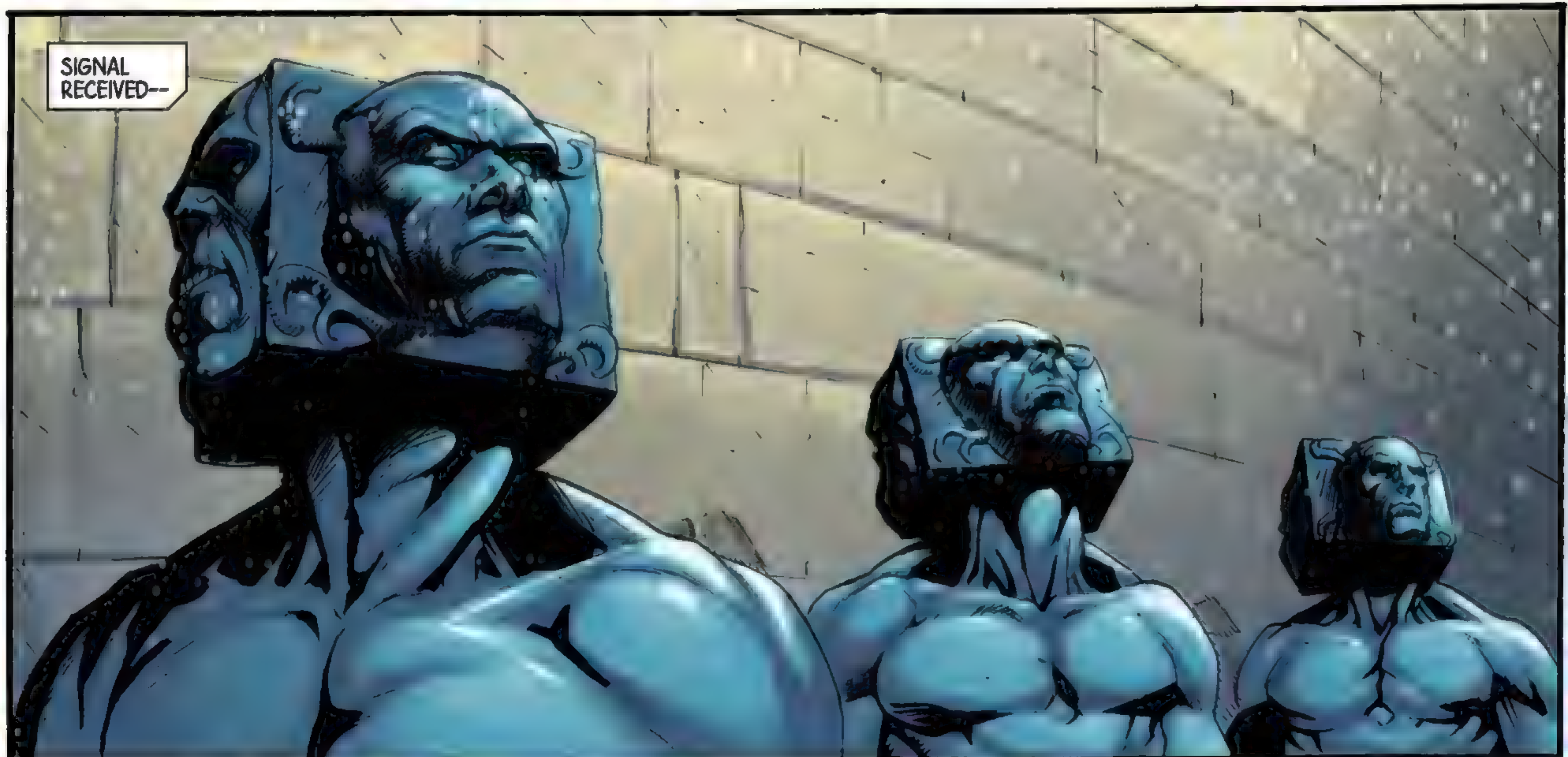


SIGNAL RECEIVED--
UNABLE TO
RESPOND.

SIGNAL RECEIVED--
NO RESPONSE.



SIGNAL RECEIVED--



ACCEPTED.





SYSTEMS BACK
ONLINE, DAMAGE
ASSESSMENT
FORTHCOMING--

I FOUND IT,
CAPTAIN--



I FOUND
THE SOURCE...
AUSTRALIA
WENT DARK
FIRST...
IT'S
THE PERTH
SITE.



EDEN, YOU
READY? WE NEED
TO BE IN PERTH,
NOW--

COME WITH US,
THE MEN IN BRIGHTLY
COLORED CLOTHING SAID--
WE WILL SHOW YOU THE
WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE
AND HAVE GREAT ADVENTURES.
AND ONCE YOU HAVE
TASTED GLORY AND THE
THRILL OF VICTORY--



THEN, WE
WILL MAKE YOU
GO BACK TO
AUSTRALIA.

PRETTY
SURE WE'LL
SURVIVE IT.

YOU SAY
THAT, BUT WHERE
I AM FROM, YOU
CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT
A BEER COSTS.



WELL, SEE,
THIS DON'T
LOOK TOO
BAD.



SAM--





OKAY, CONTACT
MADE. IMMEDIATE,
THOROUGHLY VIOLENT
CONTACT. NOW ALL
THAT'S LEFT IS
TO--

WAIT.

CRAZY
ENERGY
READINGS...



GET ME
MORE ON
THIS ONE--
NOW.

GET ME
EVERYTHING
YOU'VE GOT
ON A.I.M.
ISLAND!

A.I.M. ISLAND.
THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF BARBUDA.



MINISTER
SUPERIA! WE
WERE NOT
EXPECTIN--

STATUS
REPORT
ON THE POD,
DOCTOR.

UNTIL THE
LAST HOUR THERE
WASN'T ANYTHING
TO REPORT AT
ALL, MA'AM--

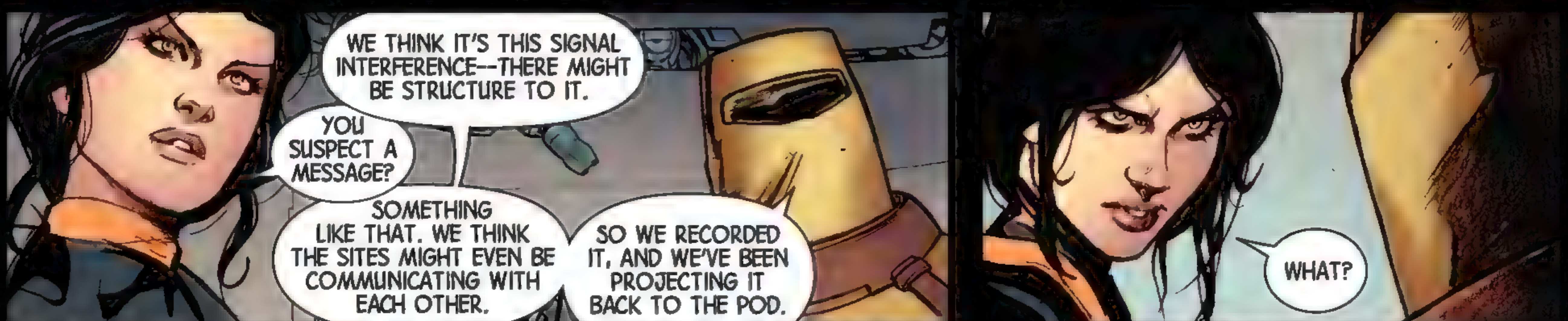
AND
NOW?



WE'RE
DETECTING
ACTIVITY.

PREVIOUSLY WE'D TRIED PRETTY MUCH
EVERYTHING WE COULD THINK OF--WE
STARTED WITH LASER SCALPELS, THEN IT WAS
THERMAL TORCHES, WE TRIED PARTIAL PHASING,
AND WE EVEN EXPOSED PART OF THE
SHELL TO ANTI-MATTER.

ALL
UNSUCCESSFUL,
I ASSUME. SO
WHAT CAUSED
THE CHANGE?



WE THINK IT'S THIS SIGNAL
INTERFERENCE--THERE MIGHT
BE STRUCTURE TO IT.

YOU
SUSPECT A
MESSAGE?

SOMETHING
LIKE THAT. WE THINK
THE SITES MIGHT EVEN BE
COMMUNICATING WITH
EACH OTHER.

SO WE RECORDED
IT, AND WE'VE BEEN
PROJECTING IT
BACK TO THE POD.

WHAT?



AH, YEAH--
I GOT THE IDEA
FROM MY WIFE, SEE,
WE'RE PREGNANT
AND SHE DOES THIS
THING TO MAKE
THE BABY KICK.

SHE PLAYS
MUSIC FOR HER,
SO I THOUGHT
IF IT REACTED
TO THE SIGNAL
ONCE...



CRACK

...WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN IF WE
PLAYED IT ON
A LOOP?

YOU
IDIOT...

DO
KNOW WHAT
YOU DID?



YOU
WOKE IT
UP.



SENT AND RECEIVED





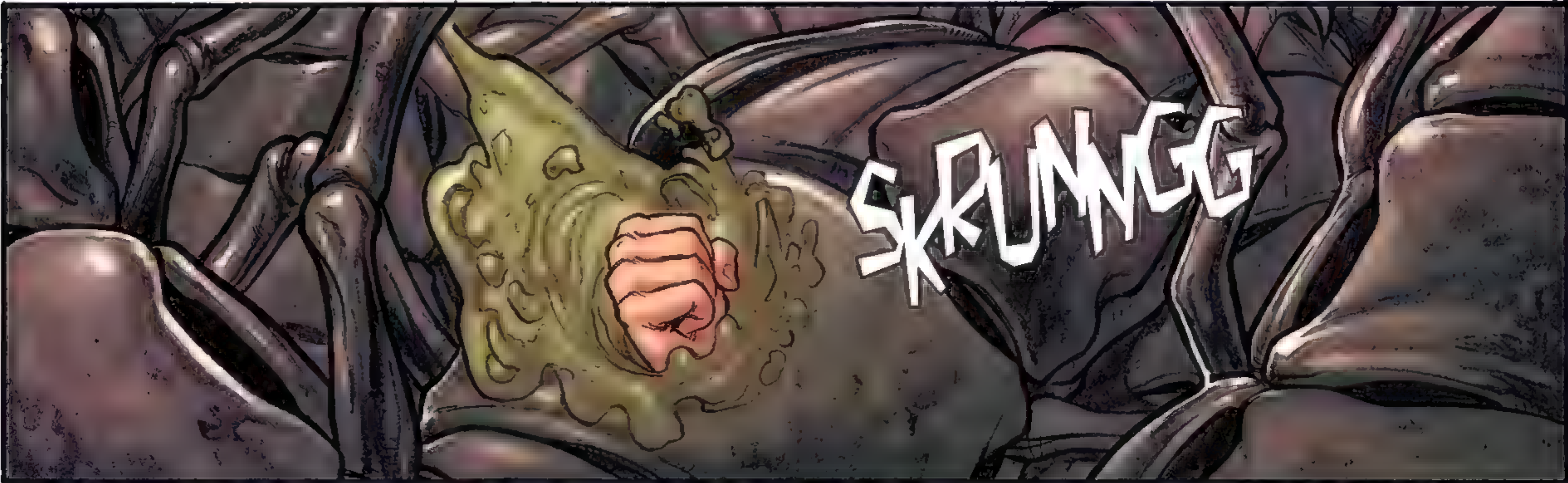
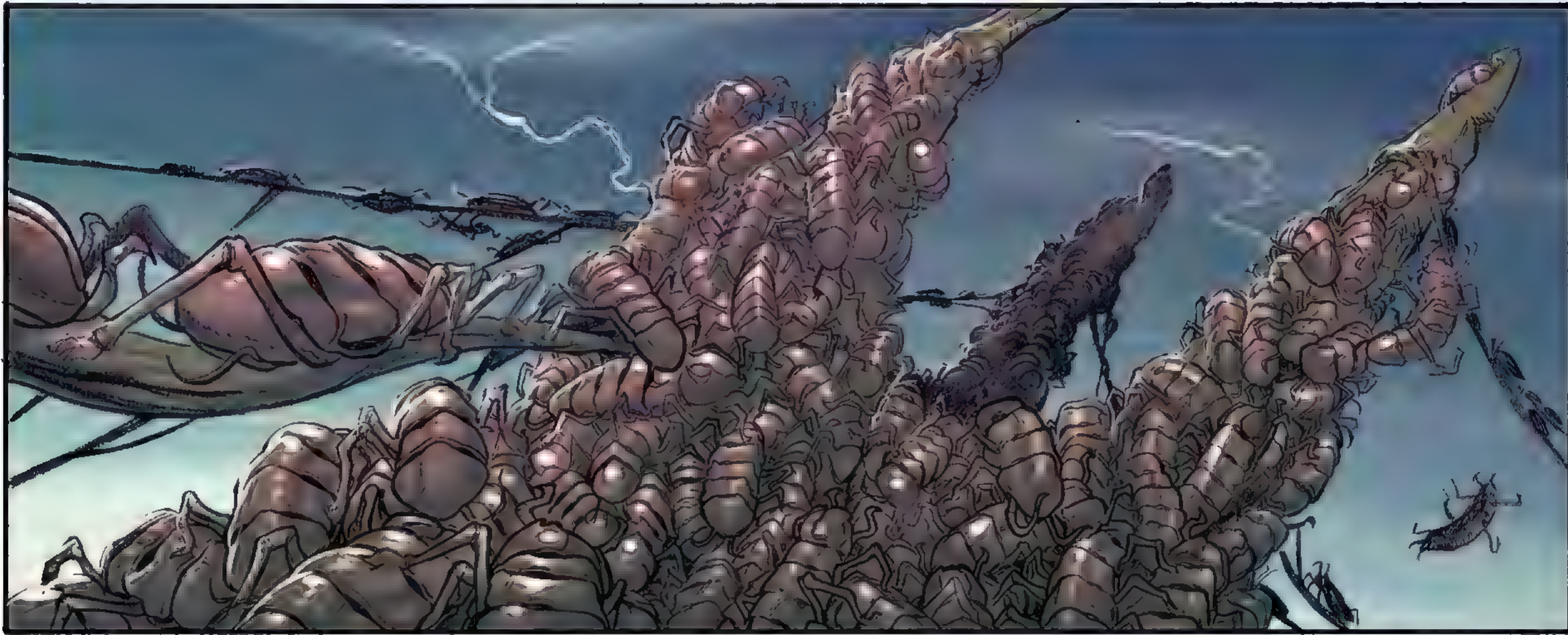
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
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FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION



PERTH, AUSTRALIA.
ORIGIN BOMB IMPACT SITE.

SITE PURPOSE:
COMMUNICATION.







"...I'LL PUT MY FAITH IN THE LESS ASPIRATIONAL BRUTES THIS TIME."



AT THE RATE THEY'RE MULTIPLYING, WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS--BRUCE WILL GET DONE WHAT NEEDS TO GET DONE.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DOCTOR BANNER?



BRUCE? DID YOU GET THAT?

NOT NOW, CAPTAIN...

I'M WORKING.

**S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.**

OKAY, LADIES
AND GENTLEMEN, WE
HAVE SOLVED THE FIRST
PROBLEM--WE HAVE, IN FACT,
LOCATED THE ORIGIN OF THE
SIGNAL RESPONSIBLE FOR
WREAKING GLOBAL HAVOC
AND THE LOSS OF
COUNTLESS LIVES.

THAT'S
DELIGHTFUL NEWS,
UNTIL YOU GET TO
THE PART WHERE IT
CHANGES ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING.



WE NEED TO
HELP OUR FRIENDS
FIND A WAY THROUGH THE
FORMIDABLE DEFENSES THAT
HAVE FORMED AROUND THE SITE,
AND GIVE THEM SOME KIND OF
WORKING PLAN FOR DISENGAGING
IT. IF YOU ARE RIGHT-
HANDED, THIS IS YOUR
NEW FOCUS.

FOR ALL THE
LEFTIES--WE'RE ON
TO SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING A LITTLE
BROADER.



WE NEED
TO START ASKING
QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
NATURE OF THE SIGNAL
ITSELF. THE WHY
OF IT.





IS IT A
DISTRESS SIGNAL? A
TRACKING BEACON?
A RECONNAISSANCE
TRANSMISSION? WE NEED
STRATEGY MAPS FOR
EVERY POSSIBILITY.

AND THAT'S THE
SOFTER SIDE. OUR REAL
CONCERN, BIG PICTURE--
IT MAY NOT MATTER
WHAT THESE THINGS
ARE SAYING...



...SO MUCH AS WHO
THEY'RE SAYING
IT TO.

DOCTOR
BANNER--



I'M SORRY FOR
INTERRUPTING, BUT--
YOU ASKED ME TO KEEP
AN EYE ON OUR BARBUDA
FEED--TO SEE IF ANYTHING
WAS HAPPENING ON A.I.M.
ISLAND, WITH THE ANOMALY
YOU FOUND THERE?

WELL--

YES,
AND?



SOMETHING
IS DEFINITELY
HAPPENING,
SIR.

A.I.M. ISLAND.

RUN!

RUNN!!!

LOCKDOWN
HAS BEEN INITIATED,
SIR. CODE BLACK.

THAT MEANS
A FULL ISLAND
QUARANTINE.

YES...BUT WHAT'S
THE MEANING OF
THIS?

EXPLAIN
YOURSELF,
DOCTOR...

WHY HAVE
YOU ABANDONED
YOUR LAB?

NOT
WORTH IT--
JUST NOT
WORTH IT--

I
SUPPOSE
NOT.
COWARD.

FOLLOW ME,
GENTLEMEN...



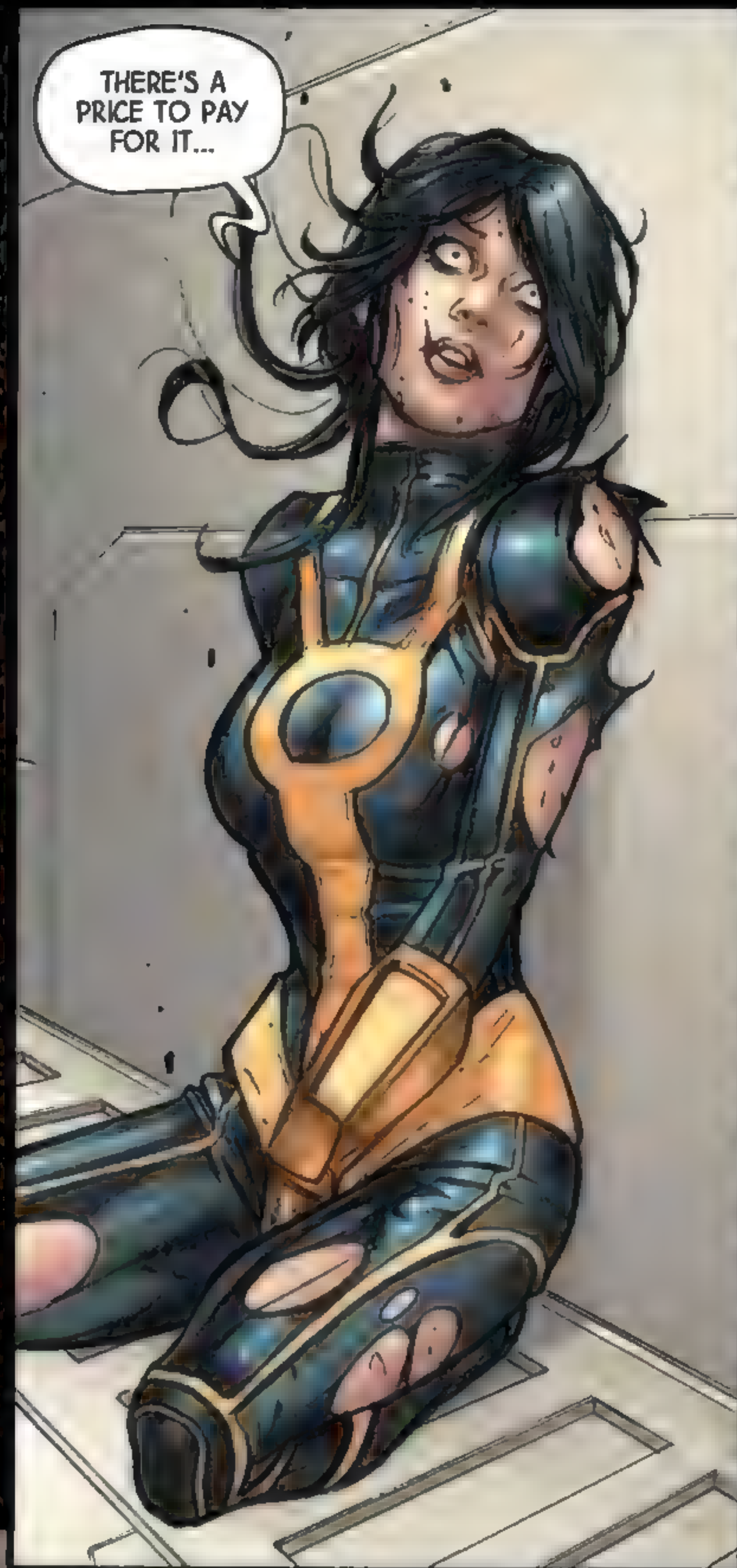
"LET'S SEE WHAT SCARED THOSE WEAK MEN SO BADLY."



SUPERIA?!

SH-SHOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT IT HERE...

WHAT HAPPENED?

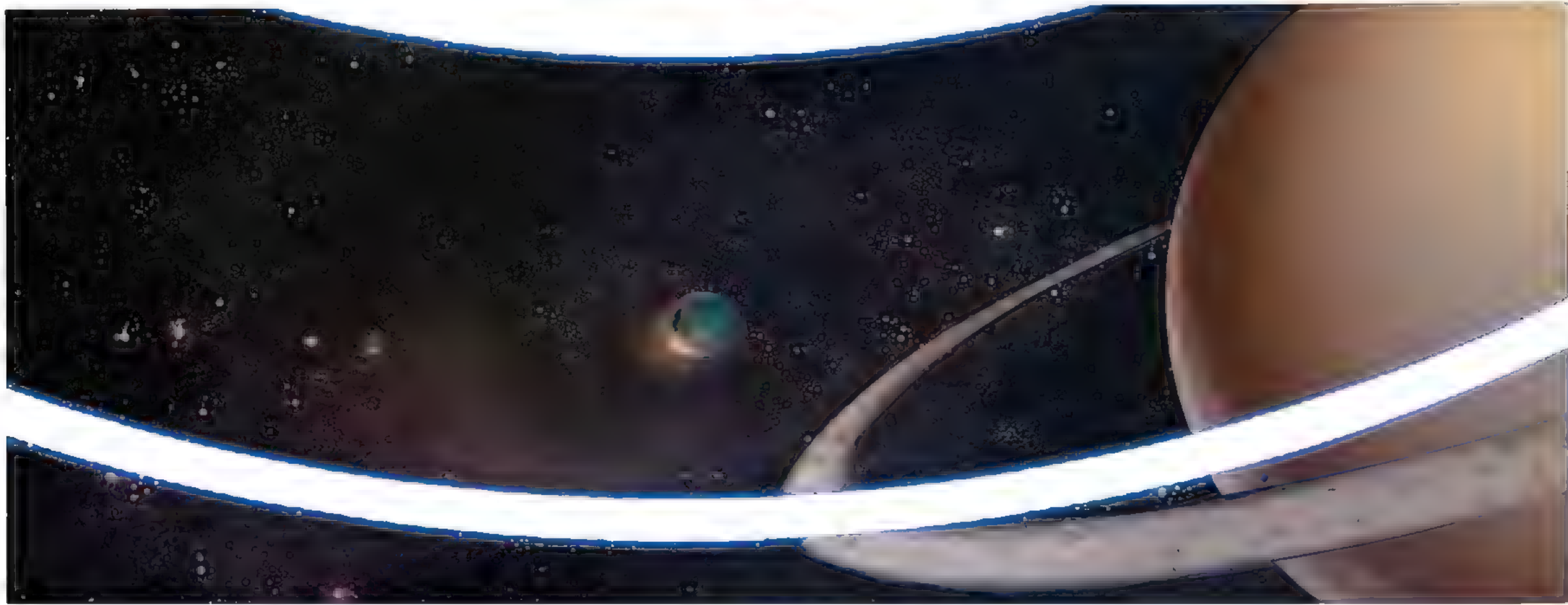
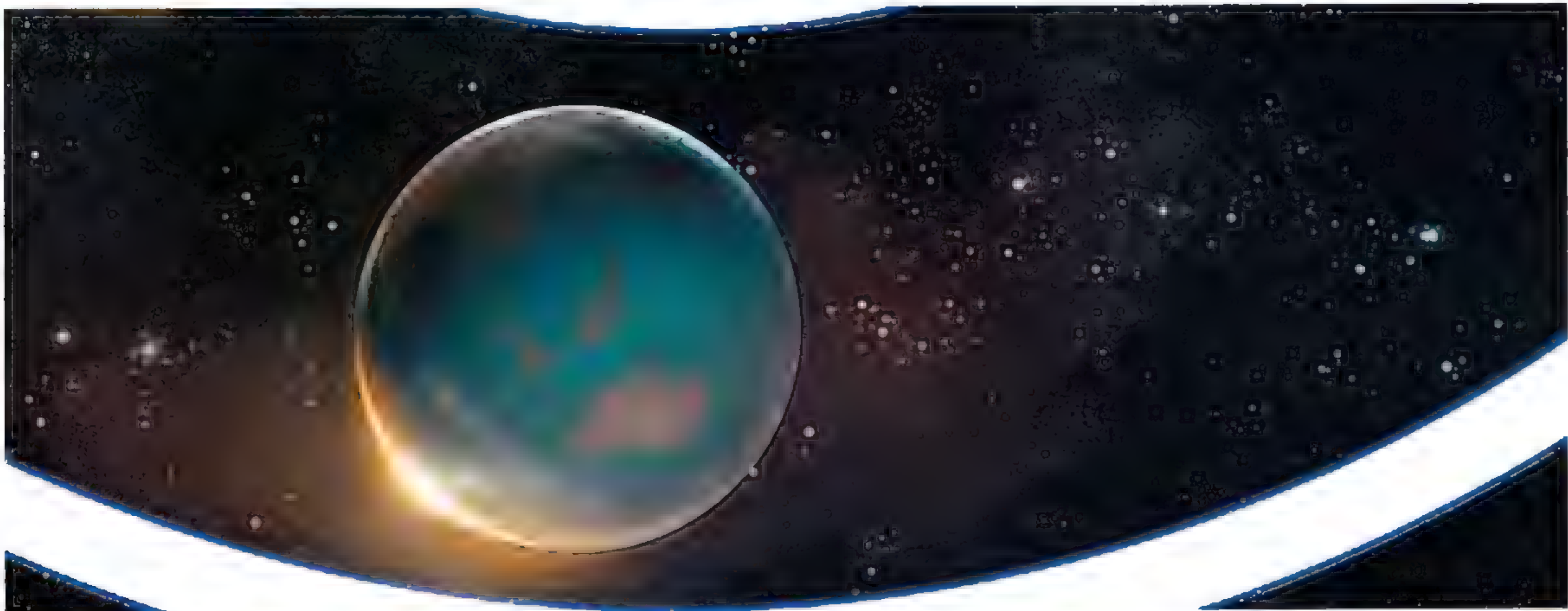
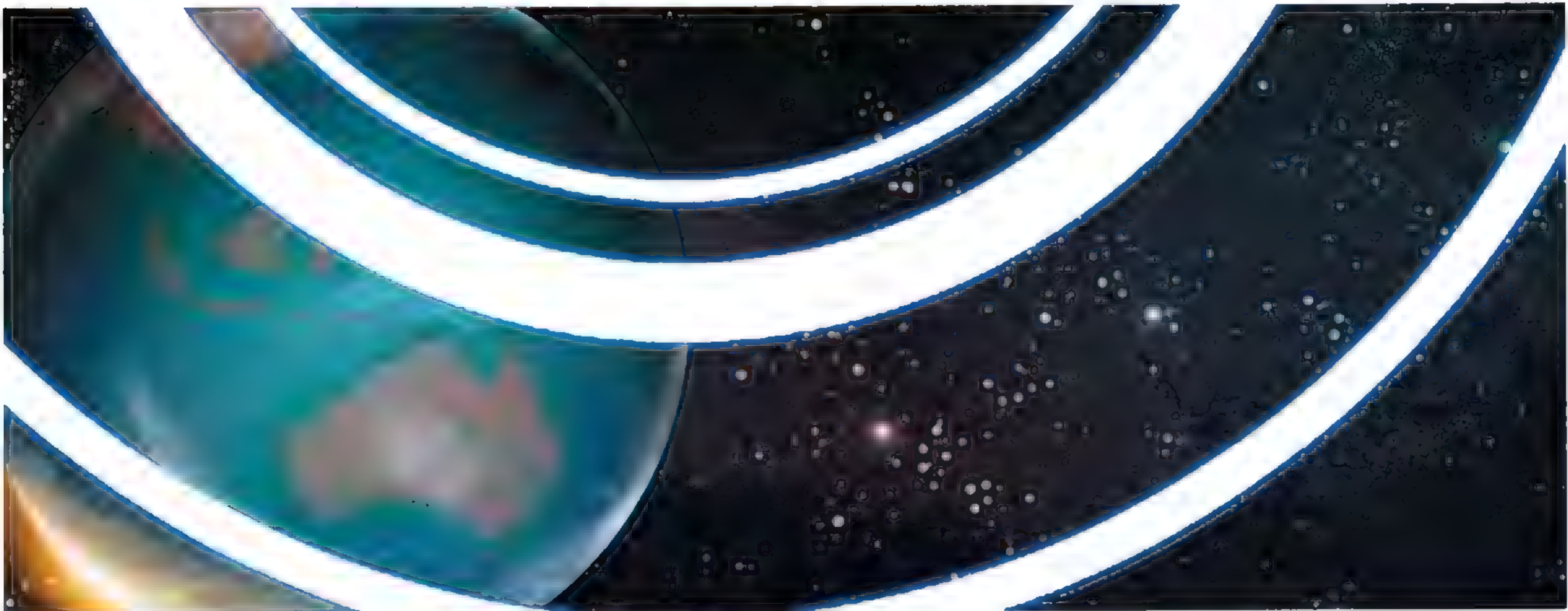
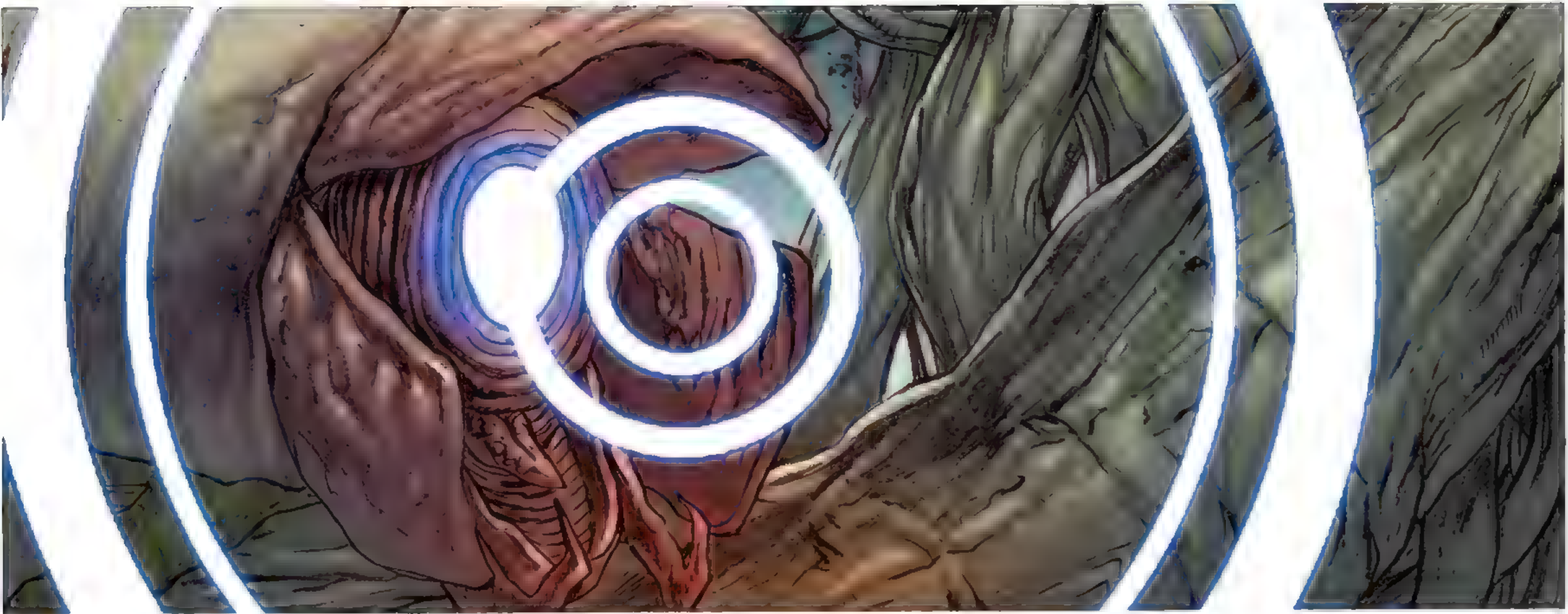


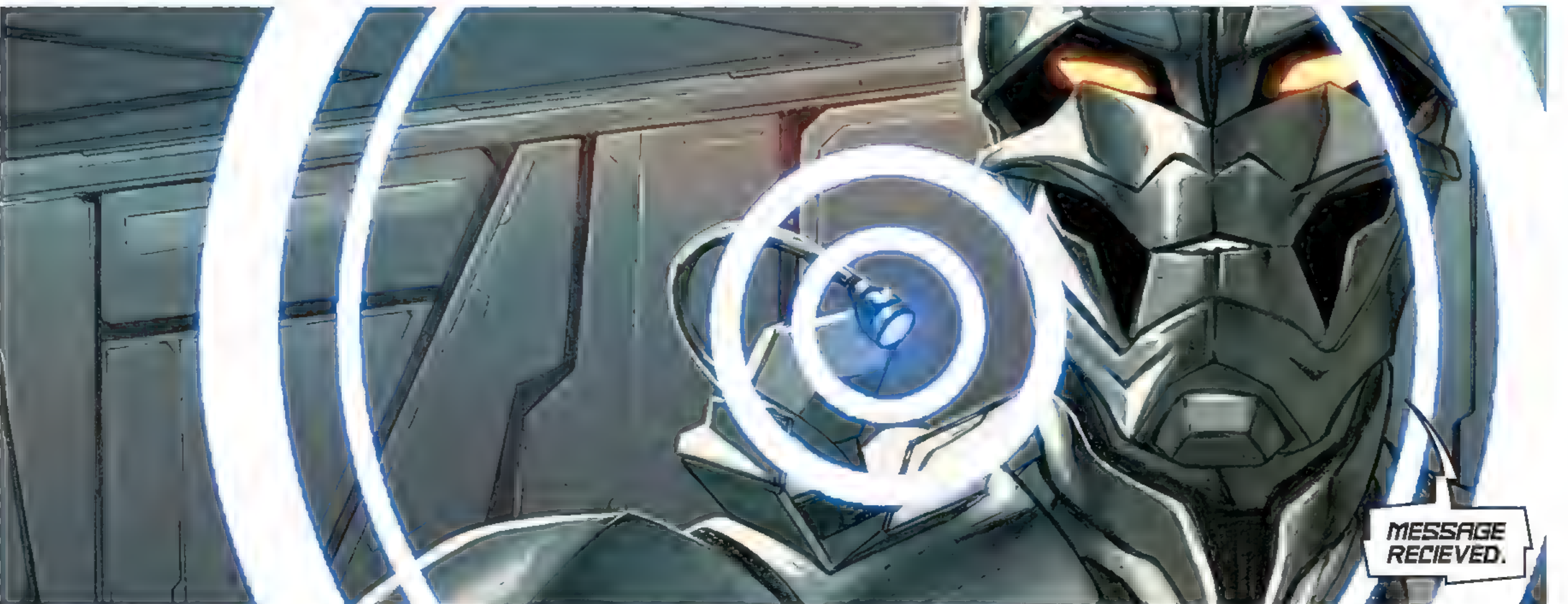
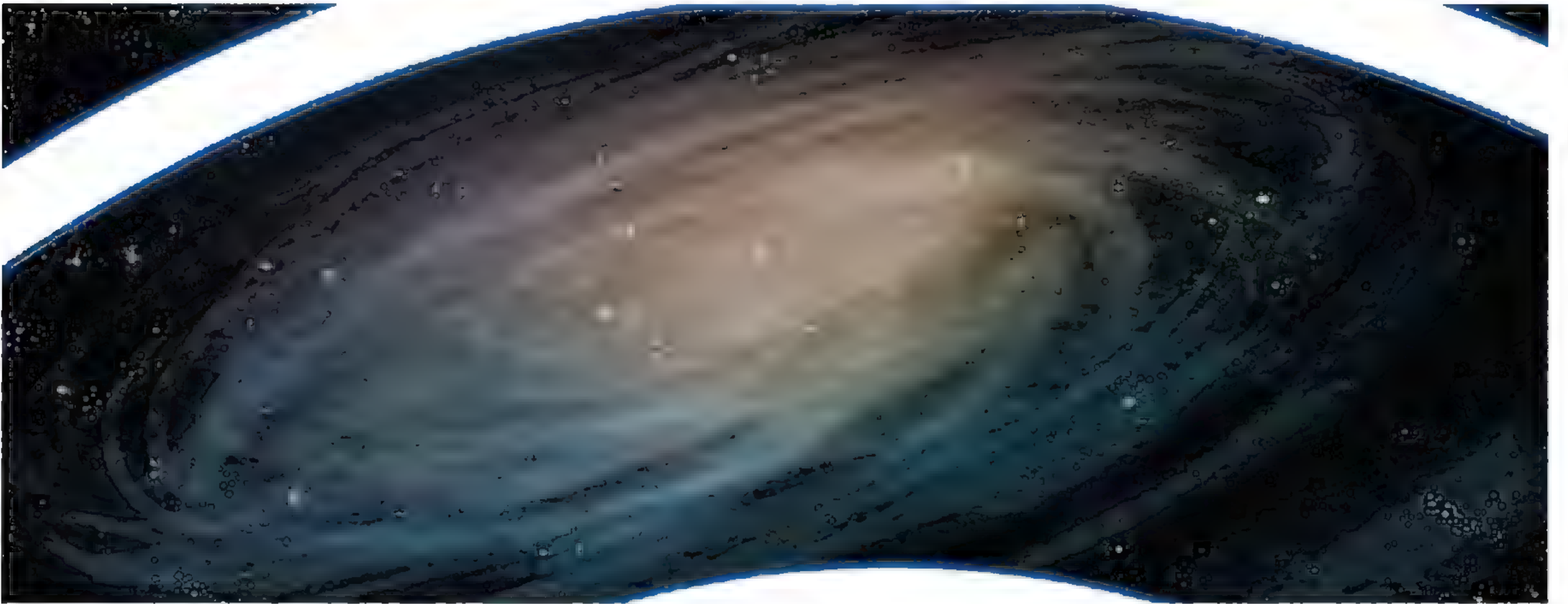
THERE'S A PRICE TO PAY FOR IT...



"IT HEARD THE CALL AND BROKE FREE..."

"NOW IT'S LOOSE."





PERTH, AUSTRALIA.

HOLD THE
LINE, PEOPLE--
S.H.I.E.L.D. TEAM'S
WORKING ON NEXT
STEPS NOW--

THEY'RE
TEACHING BEST
METHODS FOR
INSECT GENOCIDE AT
M.I.T. NOW, ARE
THEY?

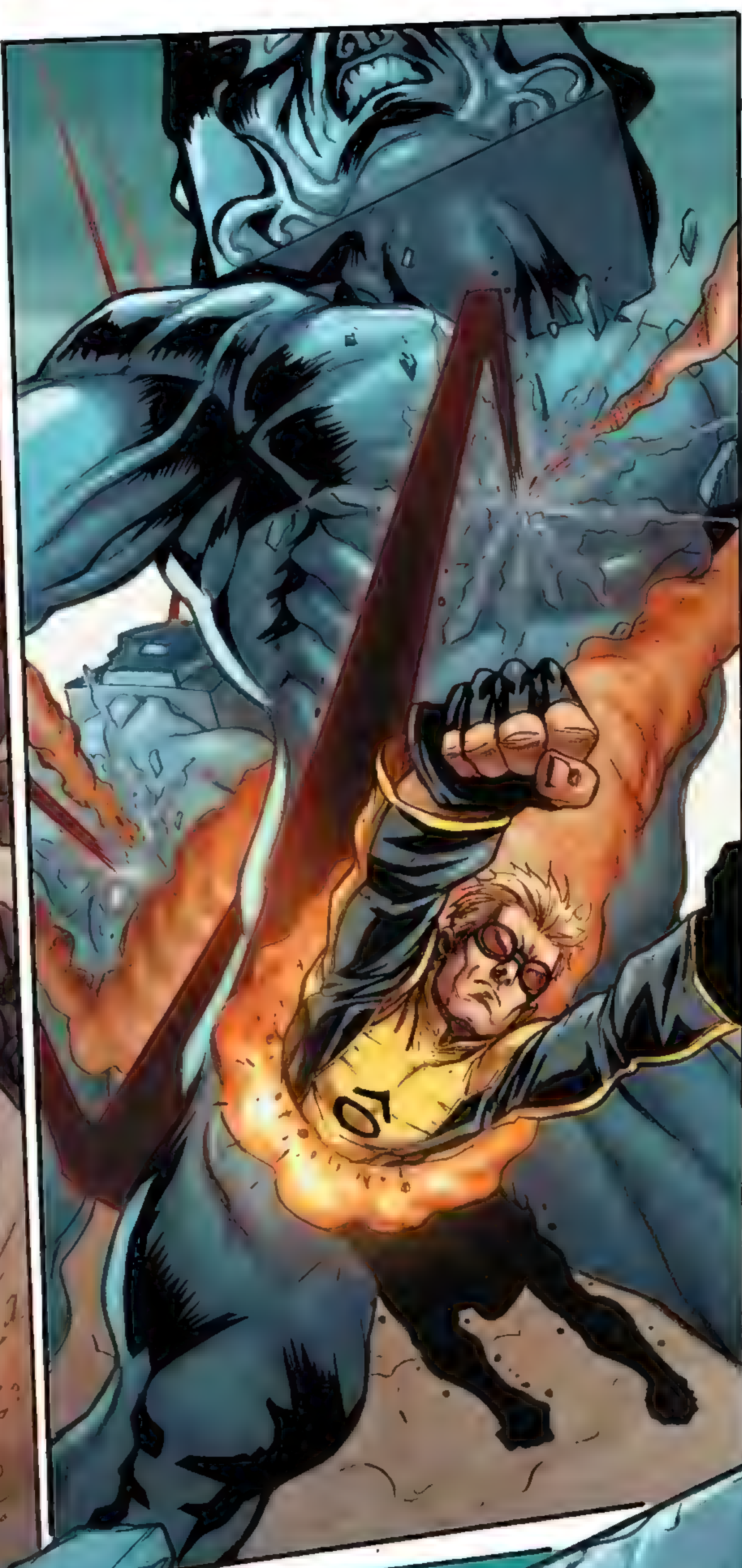
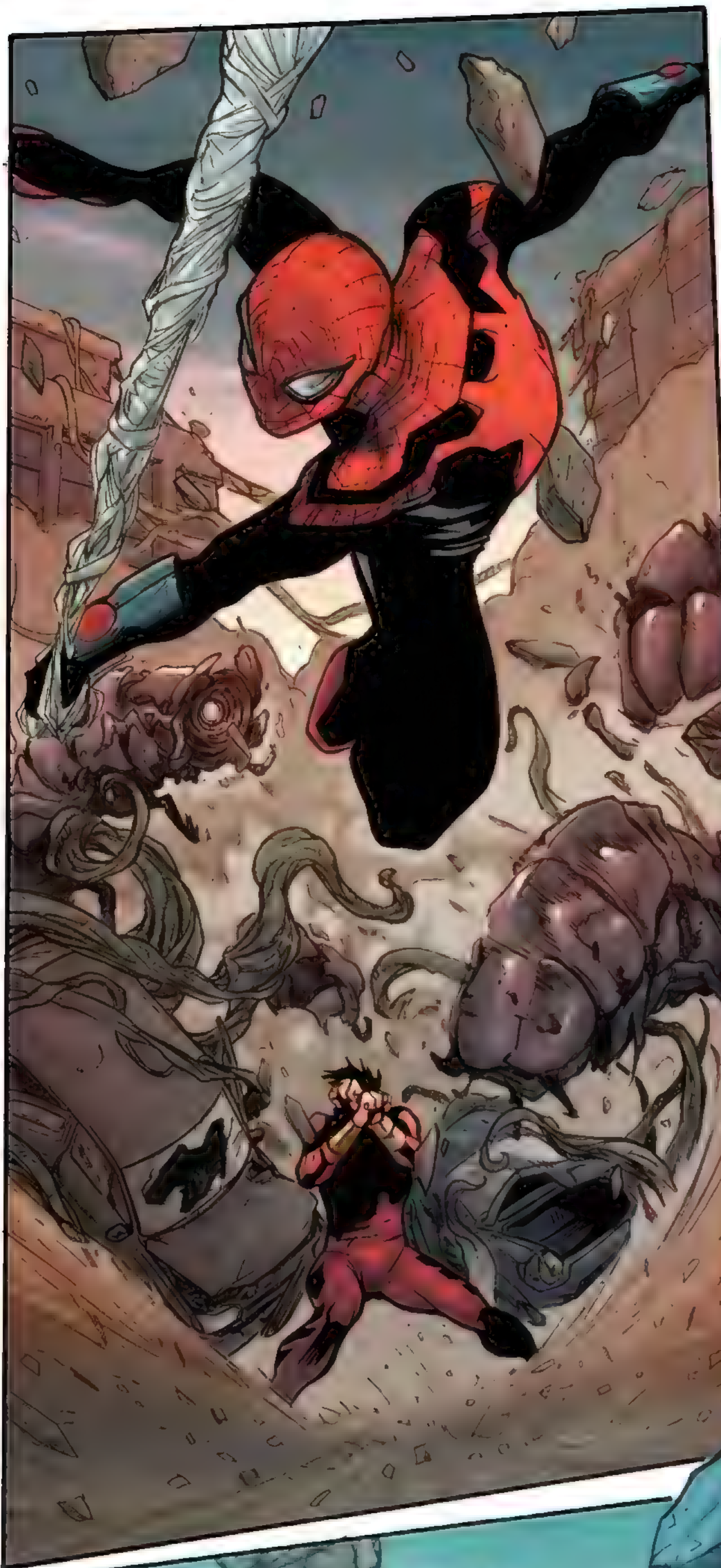
YOU KNOW WHAT, NAT? WHEN
YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE RIGHT.
FINE, WE IMPROVISE.

THOR! THIS
THING IS AN
ANTENNA--

CAPTAIN?

LIGHTNING
ROD.

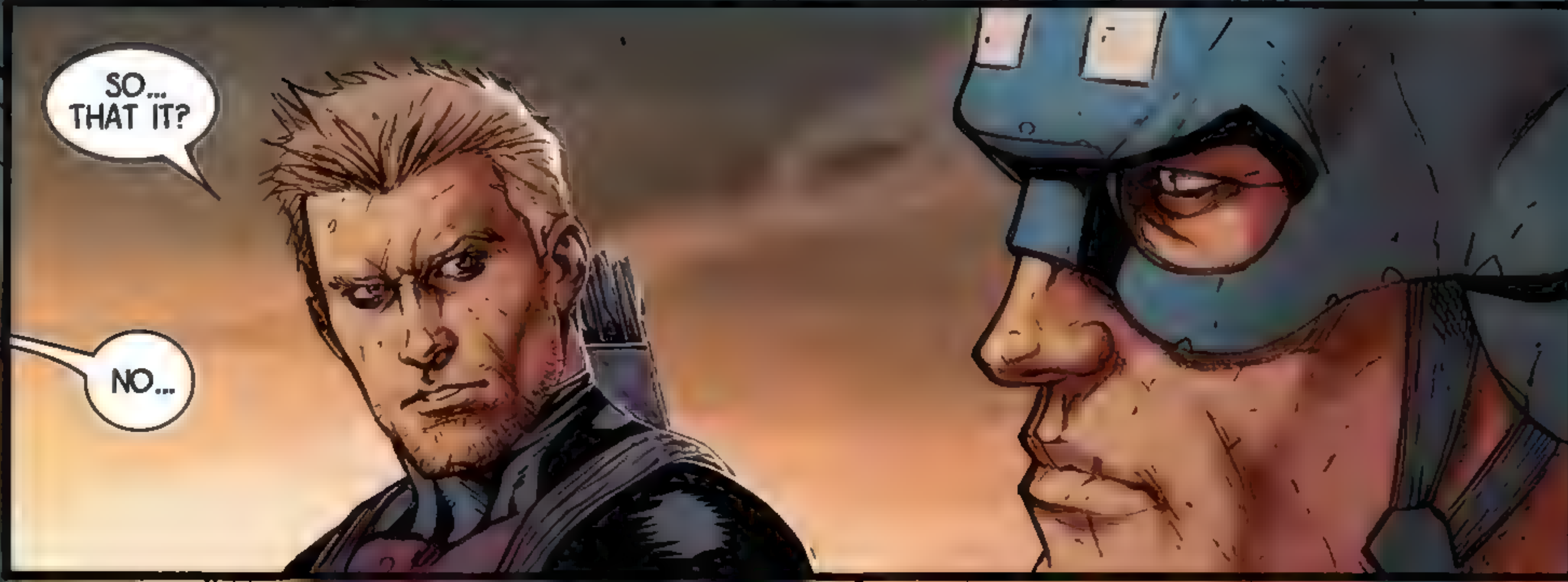




"CAPTAIN? ARE YOU THERE?"

"I HEAR YOU, DOCTOR BANNER... GO AHEAD."

"I THINK WE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING-- BUY US A COUPLE MORE MINUTES."





IT NEVER ENDS UNTIL IT HAS TO END, AND THEN TOO LATE TO BEGIN.

NOW IS A TIME FOR BEGINNINGS, AND SO WE HAVE TO START-- AND THE START IS WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE OUR VERY ENDS.

CAPTAIN UNIVERSE--WE COULD'VE USED YOUR HELP, HERE...



YOU DON'T HAVE A WINTER COAT EITHER. YOU SHOULD GET ONE.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU, MOTHER?

DID YOU SEE MY FUZZY SLIPPERS THAT I ACCIDENTALLY MISPLACED? I THINK SOMEONE PUT THEM IN THE TRASH ONE WINTER.

I WISH I HAD A WINTER COAT. IT'S COLD OUT THERE.



AND YOU'RE NOT COMING...

JUST HIM. FOR THE TRIP.

GREAT.



WHY?

IT'S COLD IN SPACE.



SOMEONE
BETTER HAVE AN
ANSWER FOR ME,
AND FAST--

"--WHERE THE HELL
DID THESE THINGS
COME FROM?!"

THE PEAK.

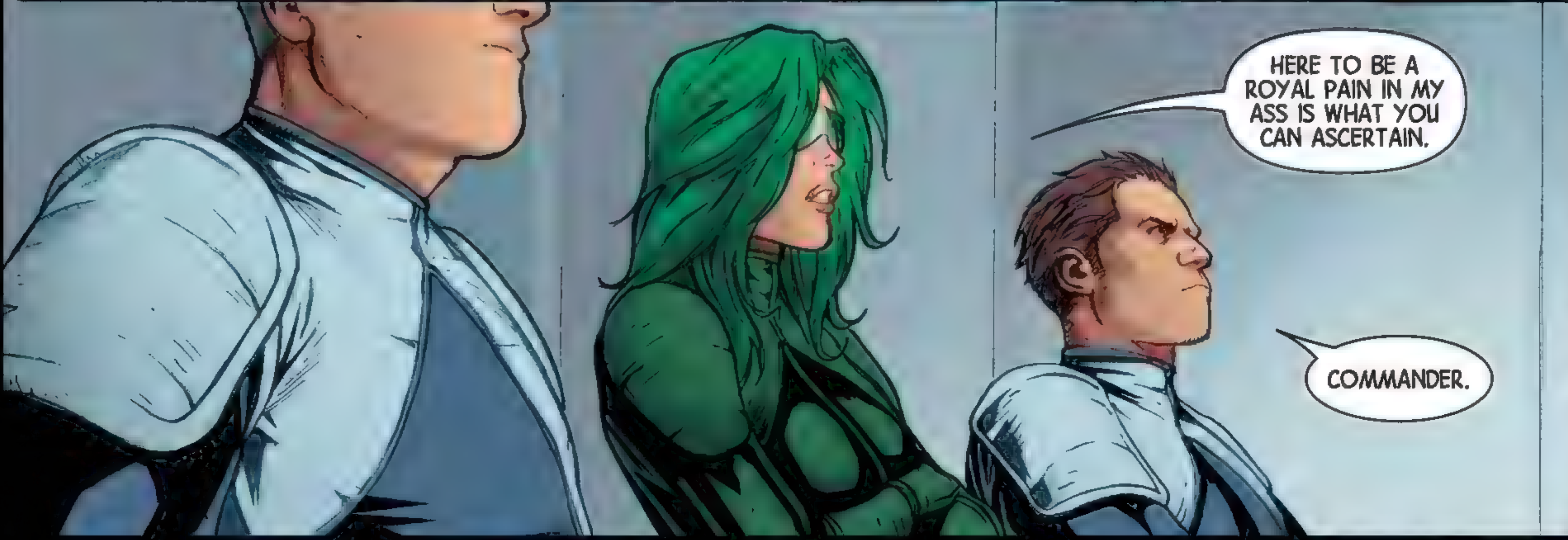
ORBITAL HEADQUARTERS
OF S.W.O.R.D.
SENTIENT WORLDS
OBSERVATION AND
RESPONSE DIVISION.



WE--WE DON'T
EXACTLY KNOW,
COMMANDER
BRAND--

THERE WAS NO
WARNING, NO REPORTS
OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM--
THEY JUST...ARRIVED.

WE ARE
ATTEMPTING TO
COMMUNICATE--BUT
WE HAVEN'T, AS OF YET,
BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN
THE REASON FOR THEIR
APPEARANCE--

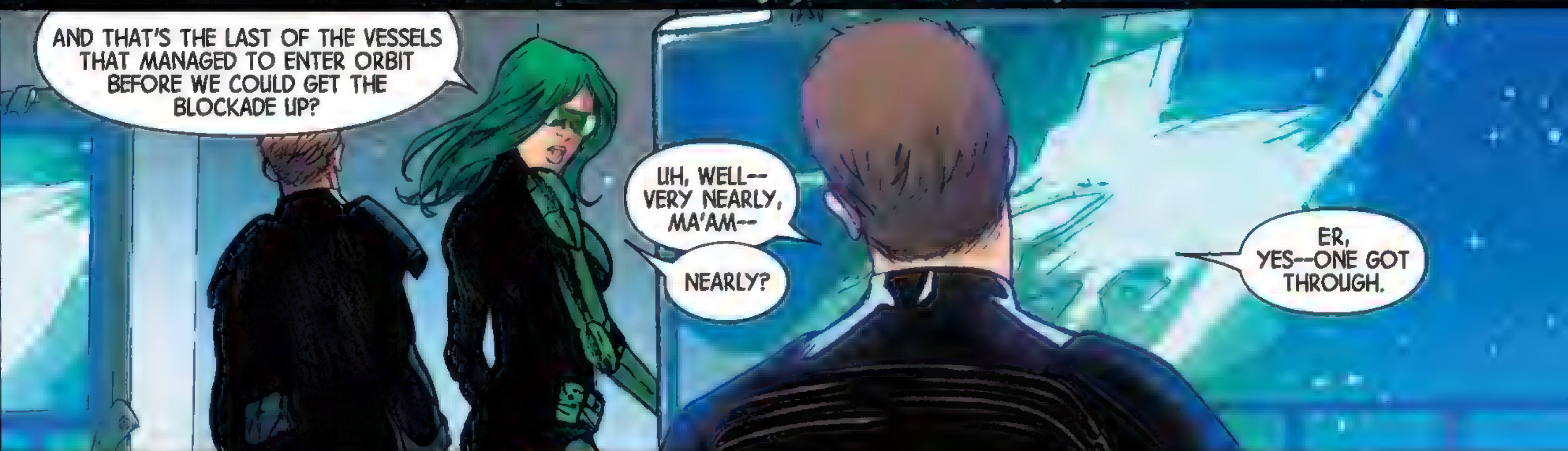


HERE TO BE A
ROYAL PAIN IN MY
ASS IS WHAT YOU
CAN ASCERTAIN.

COMMANDER.



CAST
A NET.



AND THAT'S THE LAST OF THE VESSELS
THAT MANAGED TO ENTER ORBIT
BEFORE WE COULD GET THE
BLOCKADE UP?

UH, WELL--
VERY NEARLY,
MA'AM--

NEARLY?

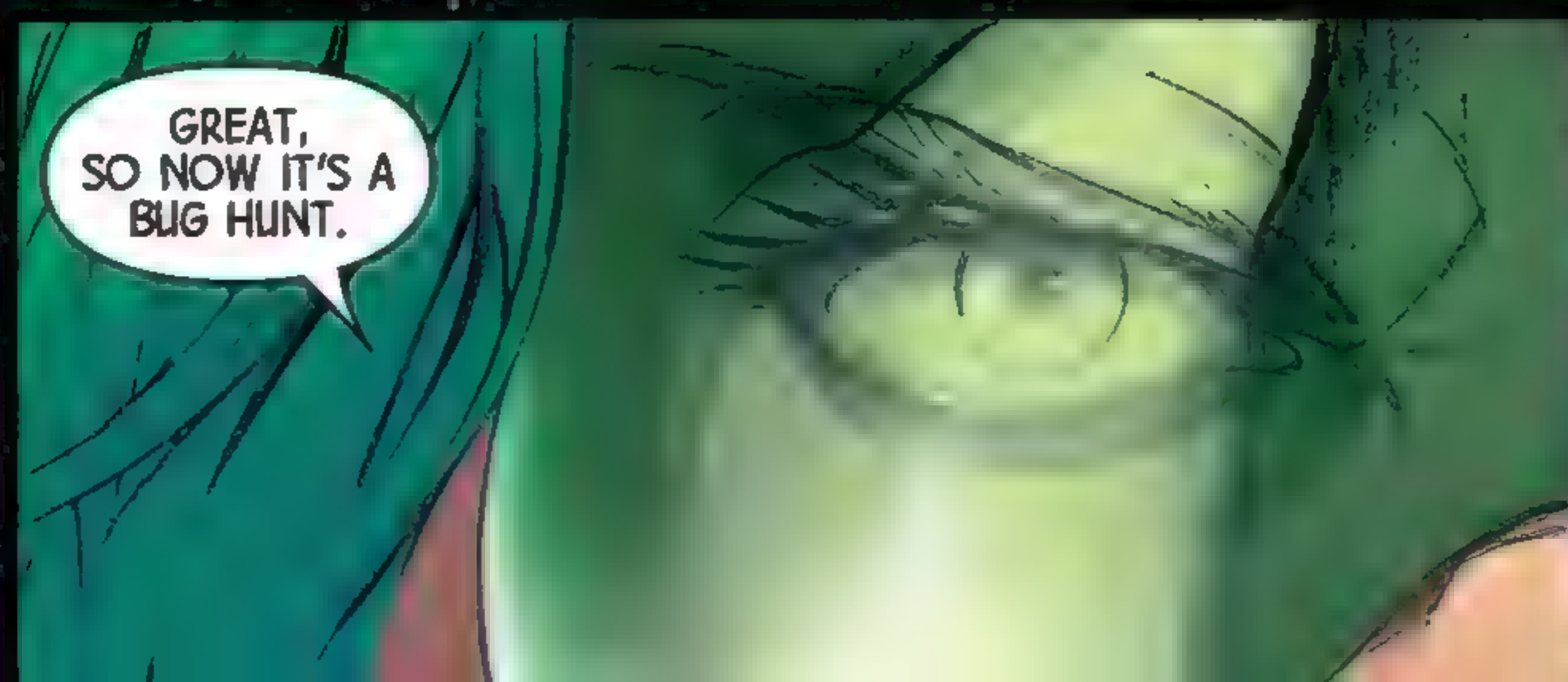
ER,
YES--ONE GOT
THROUGH.



"DESIGNATION?"



"SKRULL."



GREAT,
SO NOW IT'S A
BUG HUNT.

SOMEWHERE IN SPACE.



SO WHERE ARE WE NOW? I CAN USUALLY TELL THESE THINGS, BUT--

THIS IS WHERE THE END BEGINS.



DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD TO ME.

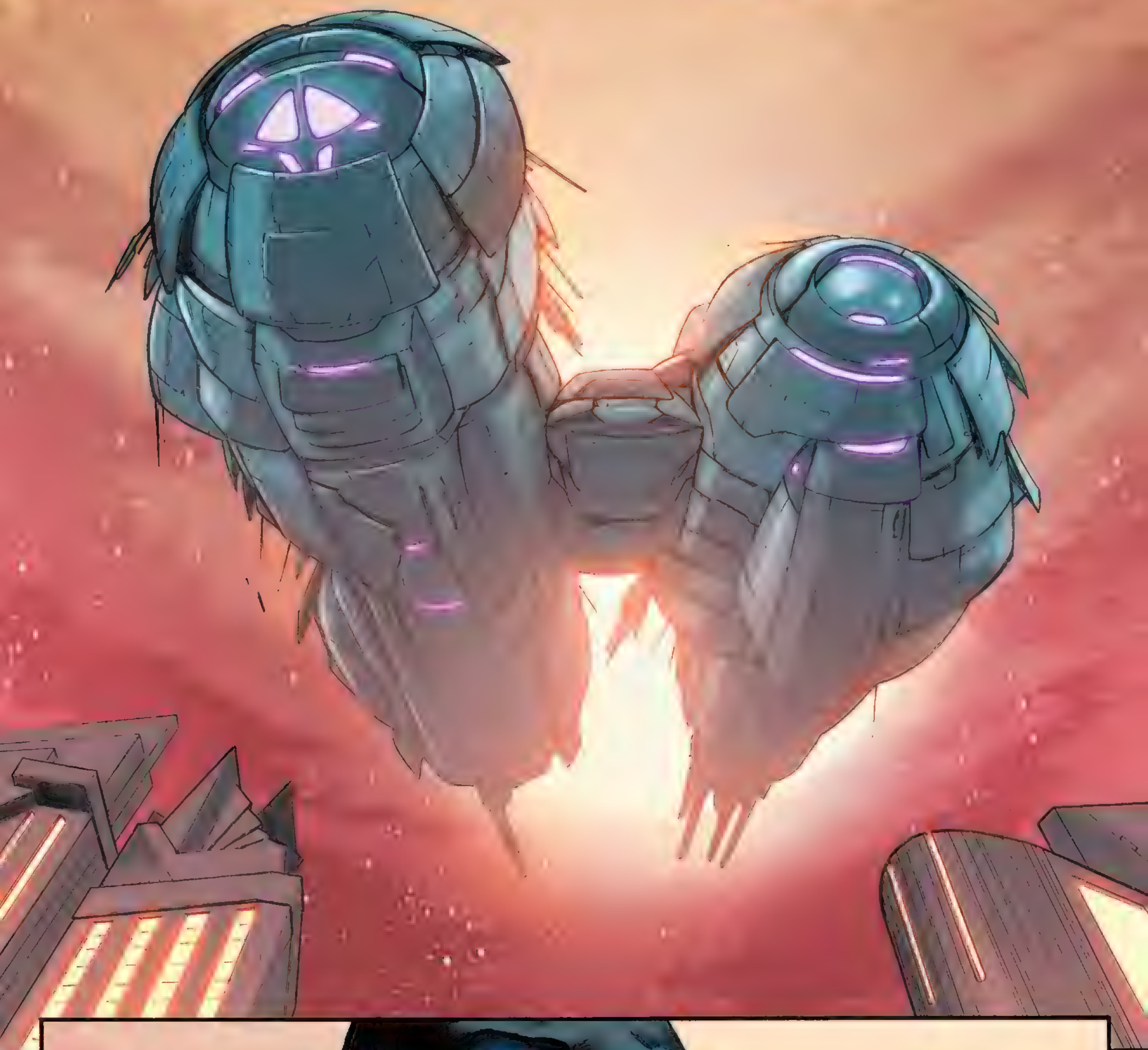
YOU SEE IT AS IT IS...

...AND NOT WHAT IT WILL SOON BE.

THEM? ARE THEY THE PROBLEM?

NO. THEY ARE KNIGHTS. THE GUARDIANS OF THIS PLACE. THEY WILL BE THE FIRST TO STAND--







WE CAN'T
HAVE LOST IT
AGAIN.



IT'S MOVING
VERY QUICKLY,
DOCTOR--

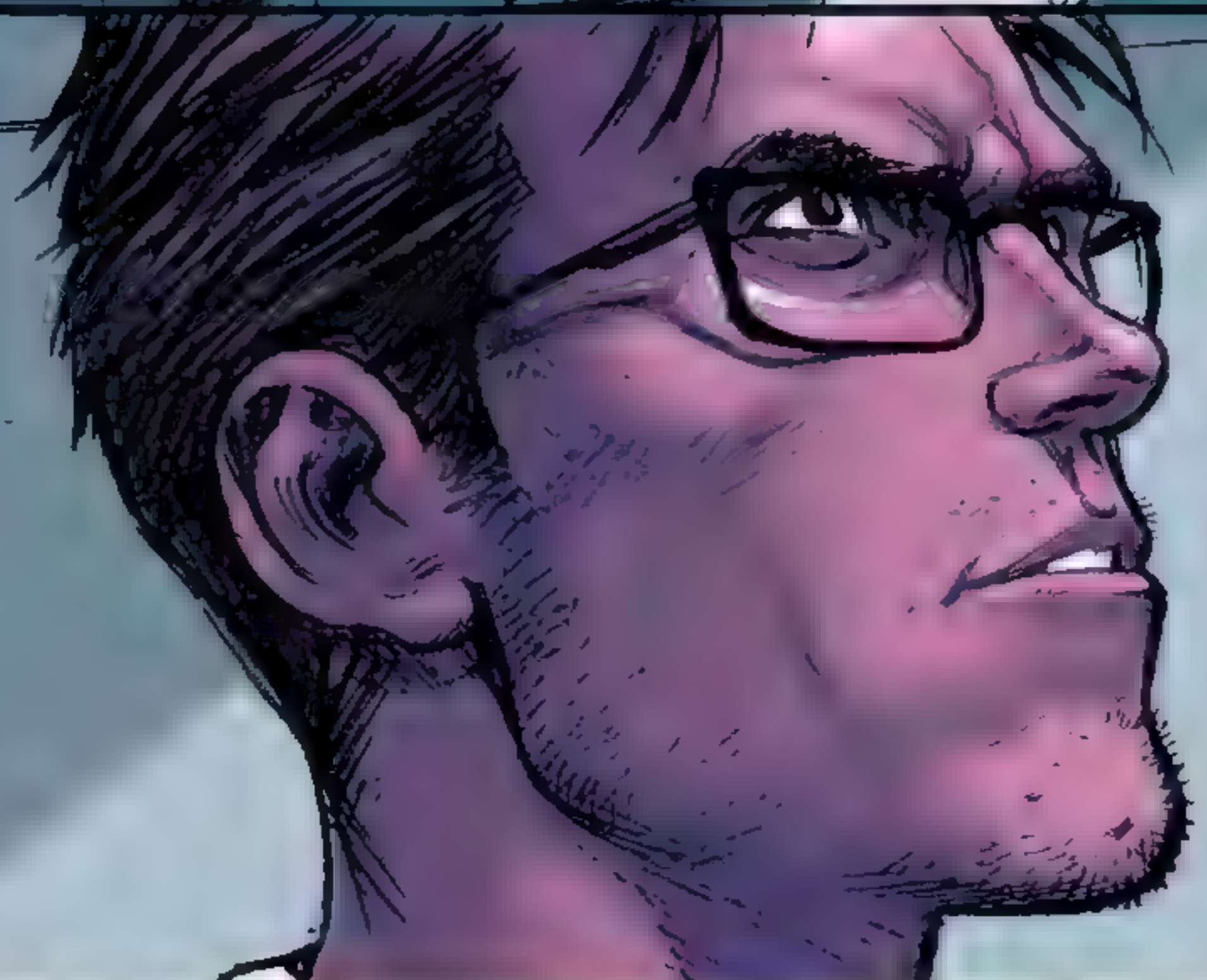
OR WE'RE
MOVING TOO
SLOWLY.

SIR--WE DID
AS YOU ASKED--
GAMED OUT THE
TRAJECTORY BASED ON
THE TIMES IT'S SLOWED
DOWN ENOUGH TO
GET PICKED UP
BY SAT--

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO BELIEVE
THIS...



IT'S HEADED
FOR PERTH,
DOCTOR.



LITTLE
LATE FOR THE
PARTY, PAL.

CAPTAIN,
ARE YOU STILL
THERE?

WE'RE HERE,
BRUCE. JUST
CATCHING OUR
BREATH--

I'D MAKE IT
FAST. SOMETHING'S
COMING YOUR
WAY--



"--SOMETHING
BIG."



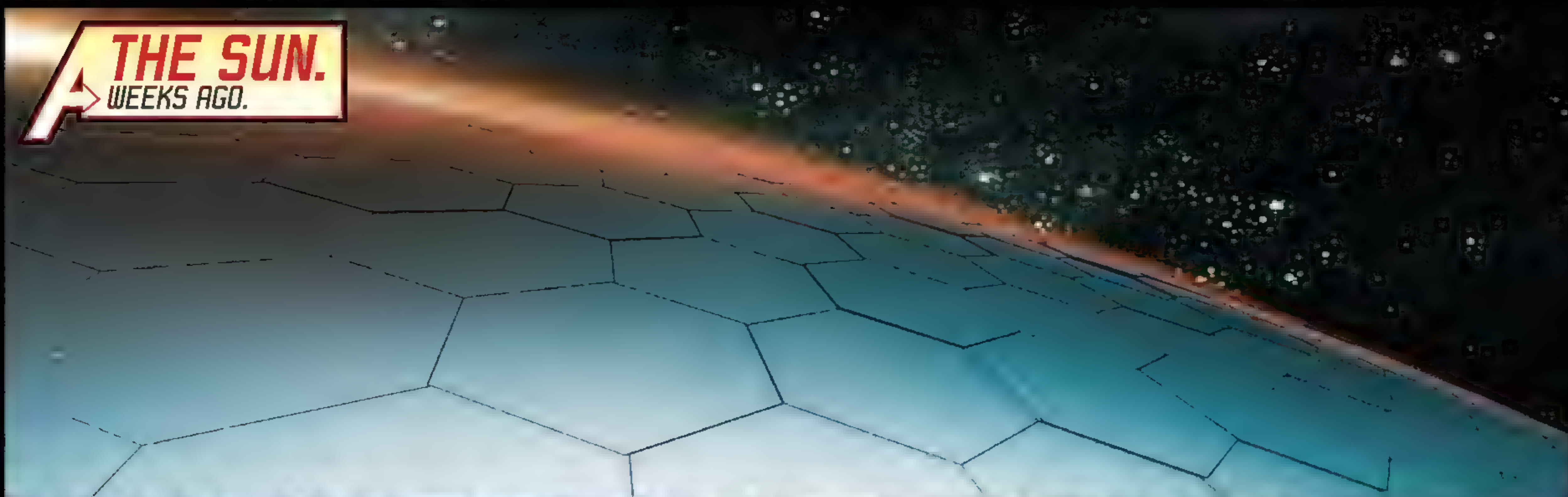
TO THE END

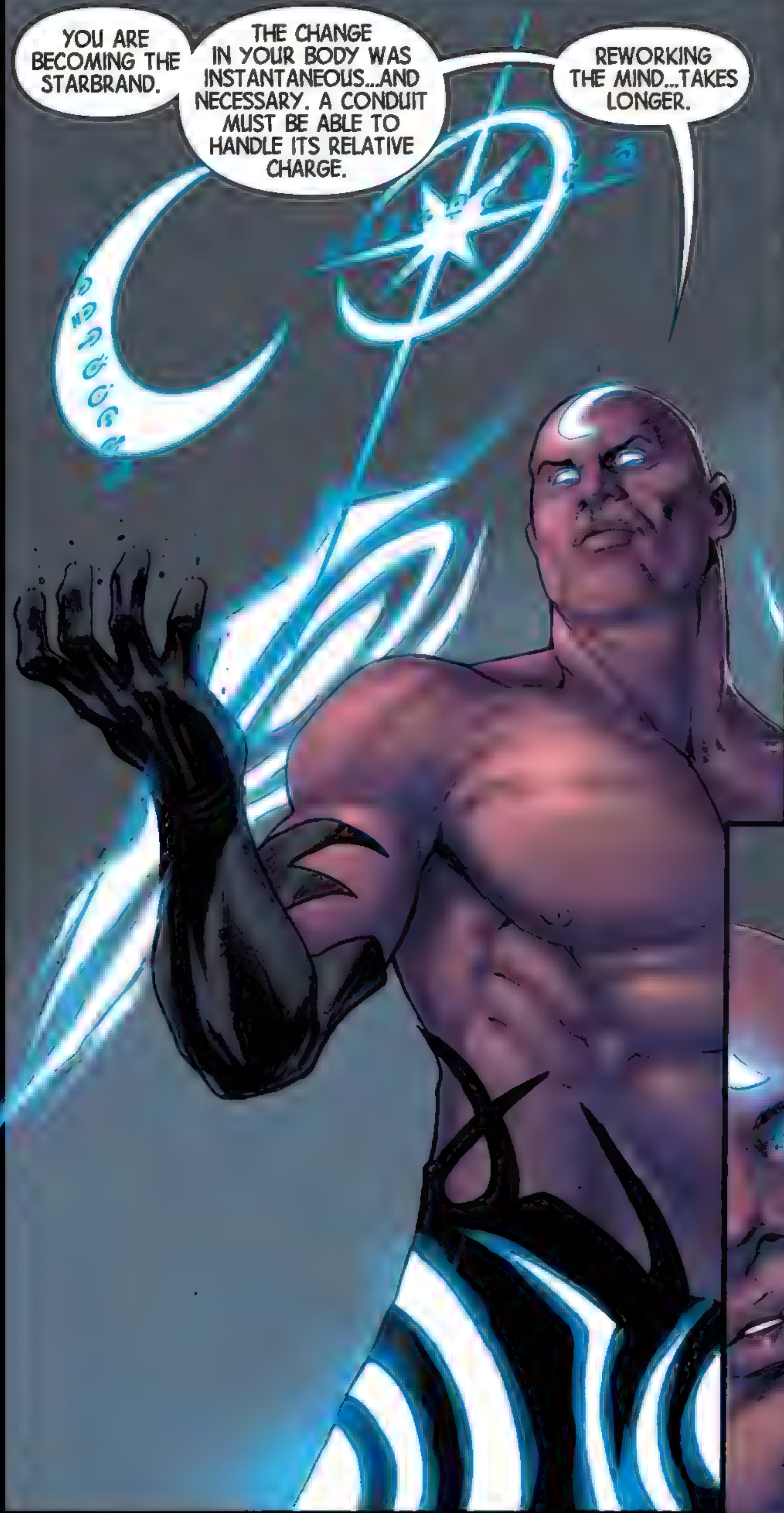




EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION





YOU ARE BECOMING THE STARBRAND.

THE CHANGE IN YOUR BODY WAS INSTANTANEOUS...AND NECESSARY. A CONDUIT MUST BE ABLE TO HANDLE ITS RELATIVE CHARGE.

REWORKING THE MIND...TAKES LONGER.



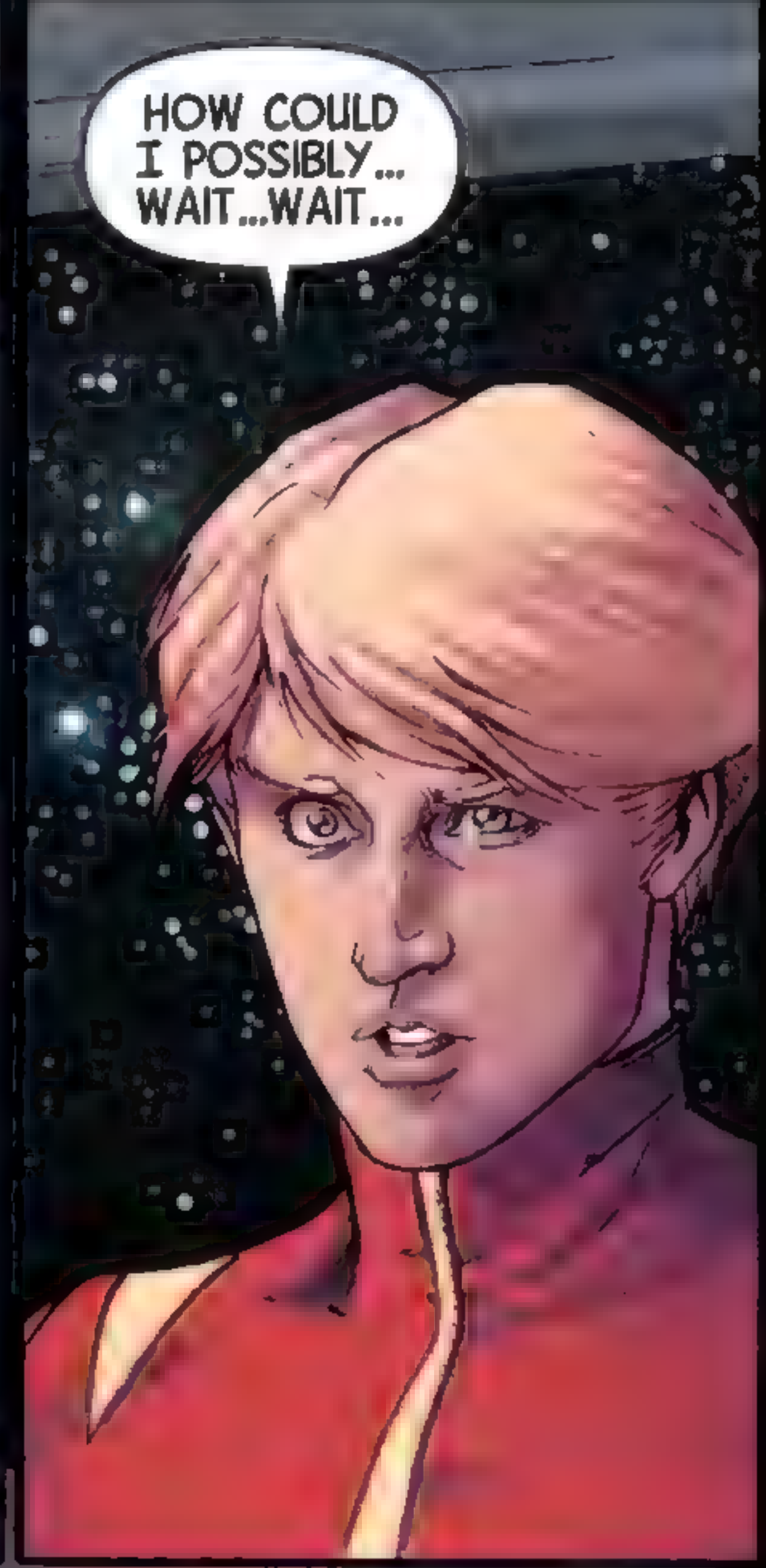
IT'S A MUCH MORE SUBTLE THING. EXPANSIVE IN WAYS YOU MIGHT NOT NOTICE.

WOULD YOU LIKE FOR ME TO DEMONSTRATE?

SURE.



TELL ME HOW MANY SENTIENT CREATURES ARE LOCATED WITHIN A 5000 METER RADIUS WITH YOU BEING THE CENTER POINT.



HOW COULD I POSSIBLY... WAIT...WAIT...



INCLUDING YOU AND I, THERE ARE 117. 119 IF YOU EXTRAPOLATE OUT THE GESTATION PERIOD OF TWO OF THE FERTILIZED WORKERS.

THE FACILITY'S A.I. WILL ALSO ACHIEVE SENTIENCE IN ROUGHLY THREE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED HOURS. THERE IS A SEVENTEEN PERCENT CHANCE THAT IT WILL BE SUICIDAL.

HOW THE HELL DID I JUST DO THAT?



YOU ARE THE STARBRAND.

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

GALADOR.

MY CHILDREN.

MY LOST LITTLE CHILDREN...

HOW DID YOU STRAY SO FAR?

YOU SHOULD GO NOW, MANIFOLD.

THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU TO BE.

OH...I GET IT. YOU BROUGHT ME HERE JUST TO SEE THIS, DIDN'T YOU?

THE OTHERS WON'T HEAR IT COMING FROM ME, BUT THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU--THEY CONFUSE DAMAGED WITH DELUSIONAL.

NEXT TIME, I WANT YOU TO WEAR YOUR COAT.



EARTH.

"THE ORGANISM--WHATEVER IT IS--
EMERGED FROM A LEVEL 5 LAB ON
A.I.M. ISLAND AT ROUGHLY THE SAME
TIME THE SIGNAL IN PERTH WENT ACTIVE.

"SATELLITES SHOW SIGNIFICANT
DAMAGE TO THE ISLAND, WHICH
THE ORGANISM LEFT
AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS..."

...HEADED
TOWARDS
YOU.

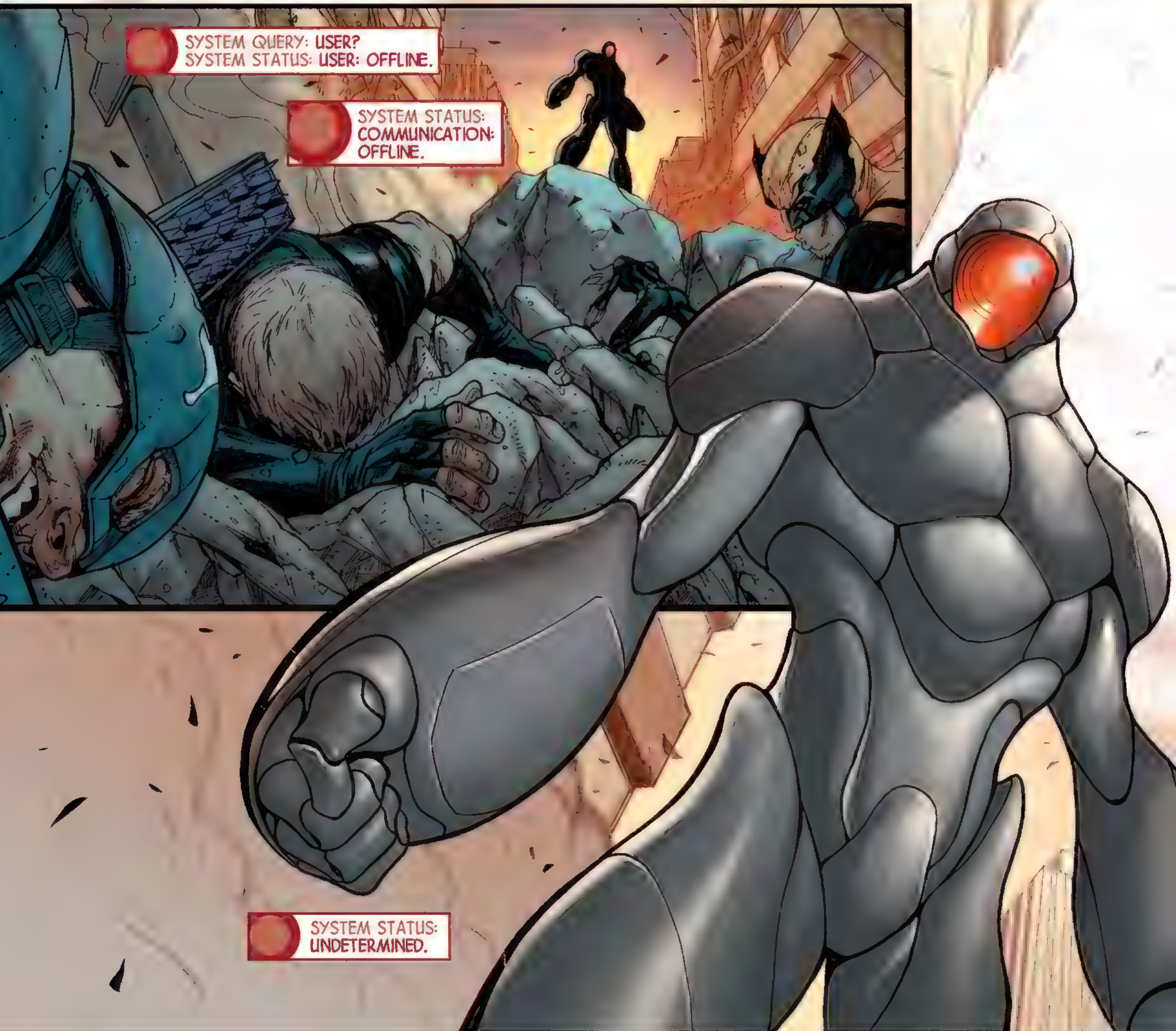
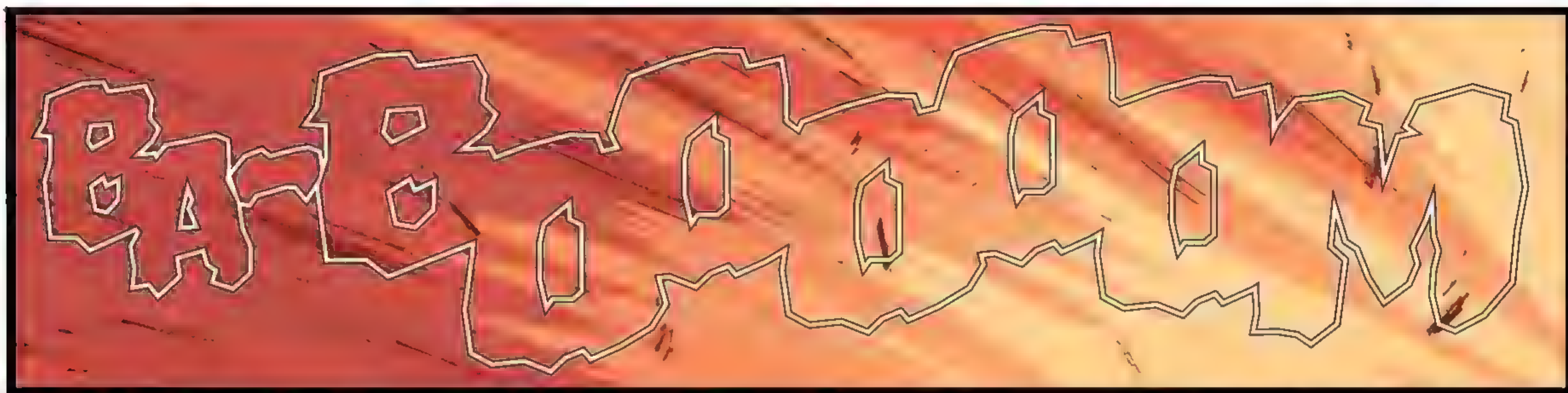
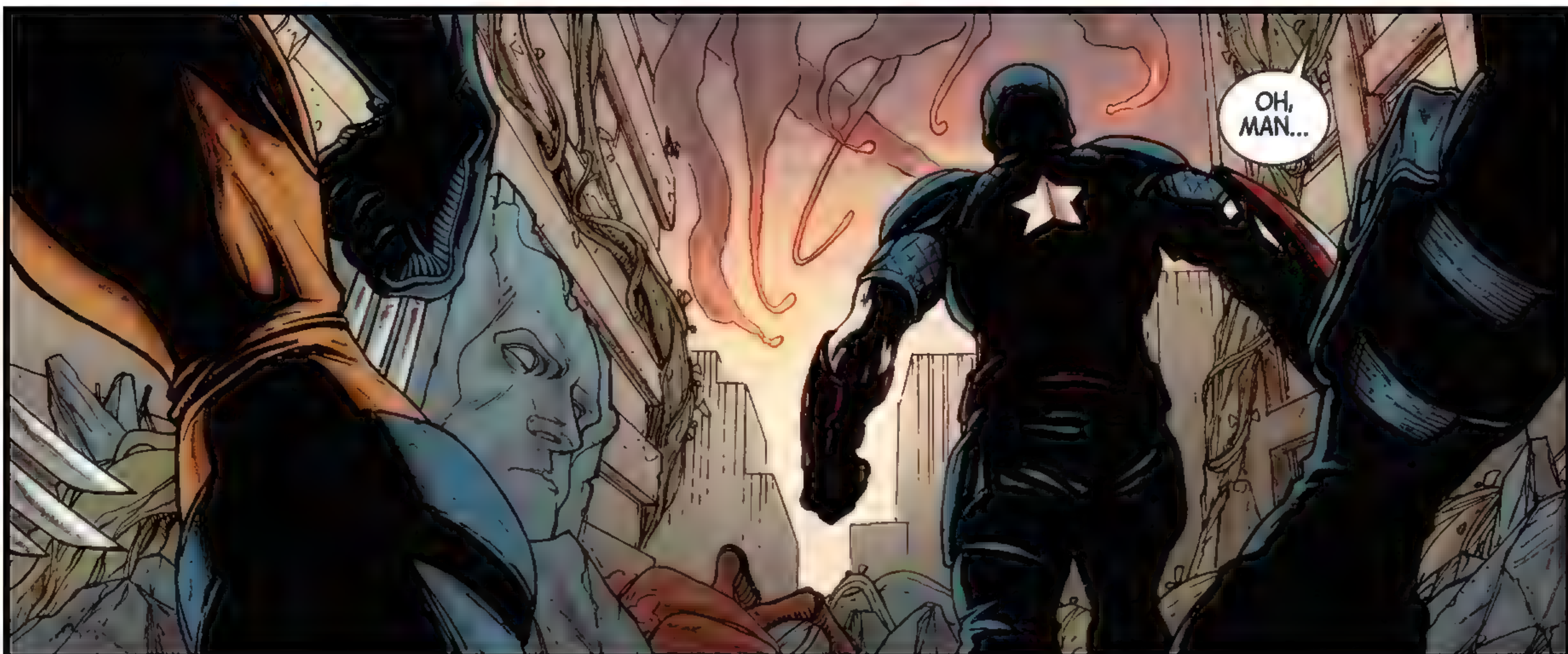
WE CAN
PROBABLY SAFELY
ASSUME HE'S RESPONDING
TO THE SAME OUTGOING
CALL AS YOUR ROCK FRIENDS.
PROBLEM IS, BASED ON THE
READING THIS THING IS
GIVING OFF, THE THREAT
IS CONSIDERABLY
GREATER HERE.

I DON'T
FEEL GOOD ABOUT
THIS, IS WHAT I'M
SAYING, CAPTAIN.
SOMETHING FEELS
WRONG.

RIGHT--WE
GOT AN E.T.A.
HERE, DOCTOR
BANNER?

HE'S--
HE'S ON TOP
OF YOU NOW,
CAP.

ALL RIGHT,
PEOPLE, LOOK
ALIVE, THIS ISN'T
OVER--WE'VE GOT
INCOMING!



**S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.**



DOCTOR
BANNER--WE'VE
LOST VISUAL--

YES, I
KNOW, I
KNOW...

ARE
THEY--?



I DON'T
KNOW...JUST...
GIVE ME A
MOMENT...

NOT SURE IF
THAT'S THE BEST
COURSE AT THE
PRESENT...

YES, SIR--
ATTEMPTING
TO RECONFIGURE.
BUT WE **NEED**
YOU TO--



WORK AROUND
DID IT--WE'RE COMING
BACK ONLINE...

GOOD--
KEEP IT TOGETHER,
DOCTOR...



SIR--
WE HAVE--
WE HAVE--

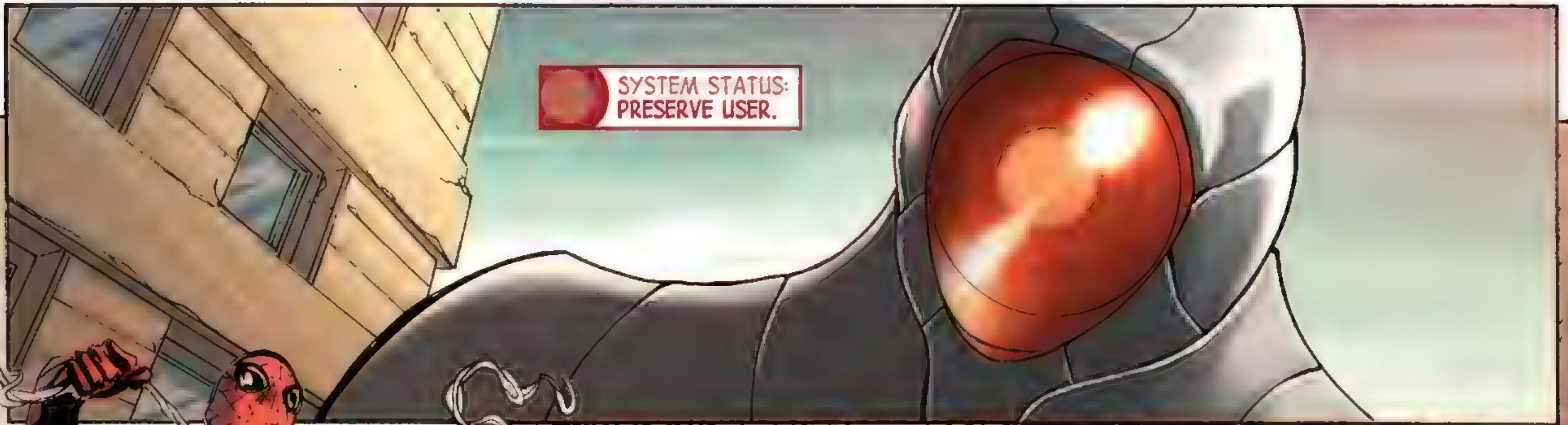
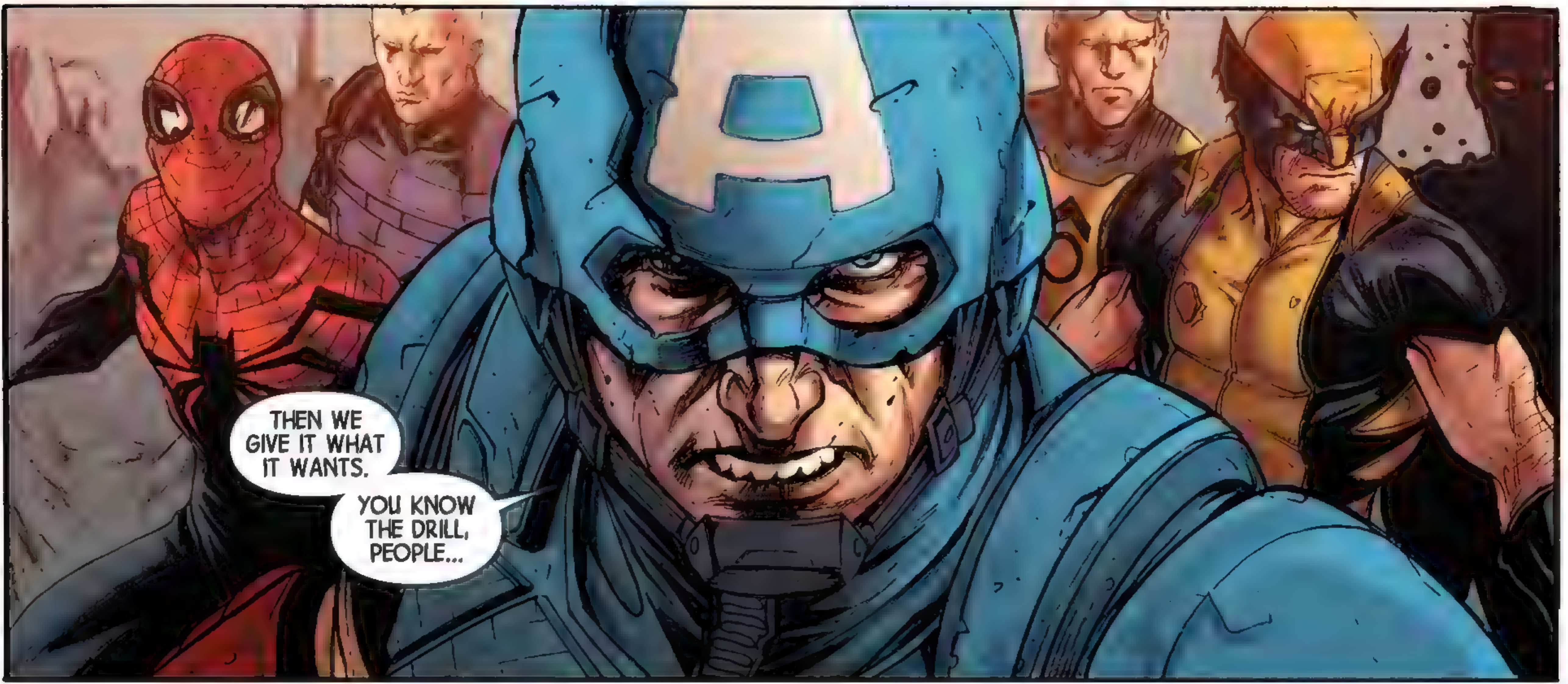
I--
I SEE
IT--



OH
HELL.







THE SUN.
ONE WEEK AGO.

THIS CONSTRUCT
THAT SURROUNDS US
IS POWERED BY THE
LOCAL G-TYPE STAR. IT
IS A PARTIALLY
FUNCTIONAL STELLAR
ARRAY--CALLED A DYSON
SPHERE BY YOUR
PEOPLE.

TELL ME
WHAT YOU
KNOW
ABOUT IT.

OKAY...

IT'S
FASCINATING...
I HAVE MORE
CONTROL NOW, LIKE
FINE MOTOR SKILLS.
I CAN READ THE
PATTERN OF THE
ENERGY. SEE HOW IT
FLOWS, IMPLYING
A SHAPE.

THERE ARE
FORTY-SEVEN
COMPLETED
SECTIONS...PRODUCING
SOMEWHERE
AROUND...OH!

OH,
INDEED.

TELL ME
WHAT YOU'VE
LEARNED.



THIS PLACE DOES NOT CURRENTLY GENERATE ENOUGH ENERGY TO HOLD ME...THEY ONLY THINK IT CAN.



YES. IN FACT, THIS PLACE CANNOT HOLD EITHER OF US--IT NEVER COULD. WATCH...



THIS IS A VIEW OF A PLANET STILL ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE COLLAPSING SUPERFLOW. THIS METHOD OF TRANSIT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT FOR NOW IT REMAINS AT OUR DISPOSAL.

AT ANY TIME, WE COULD HAVE LEFT THIS PLACE BEHIND.

THE LESSON HERE IS YOU ARE NO LONGER A MAN. MEN HAVE MANY LIMITS...YOU HAVE VERY FEW.



IF WE CAN BREAK OUT OF HERE, WHY DON'T WE? SERIOUSLY, THE SPHERE SUCKS.

WE CAN LEAVE WHEN YOU HAVE FULL CONTROL OF YOUR POWERS--WHEN YOU ARE READY.

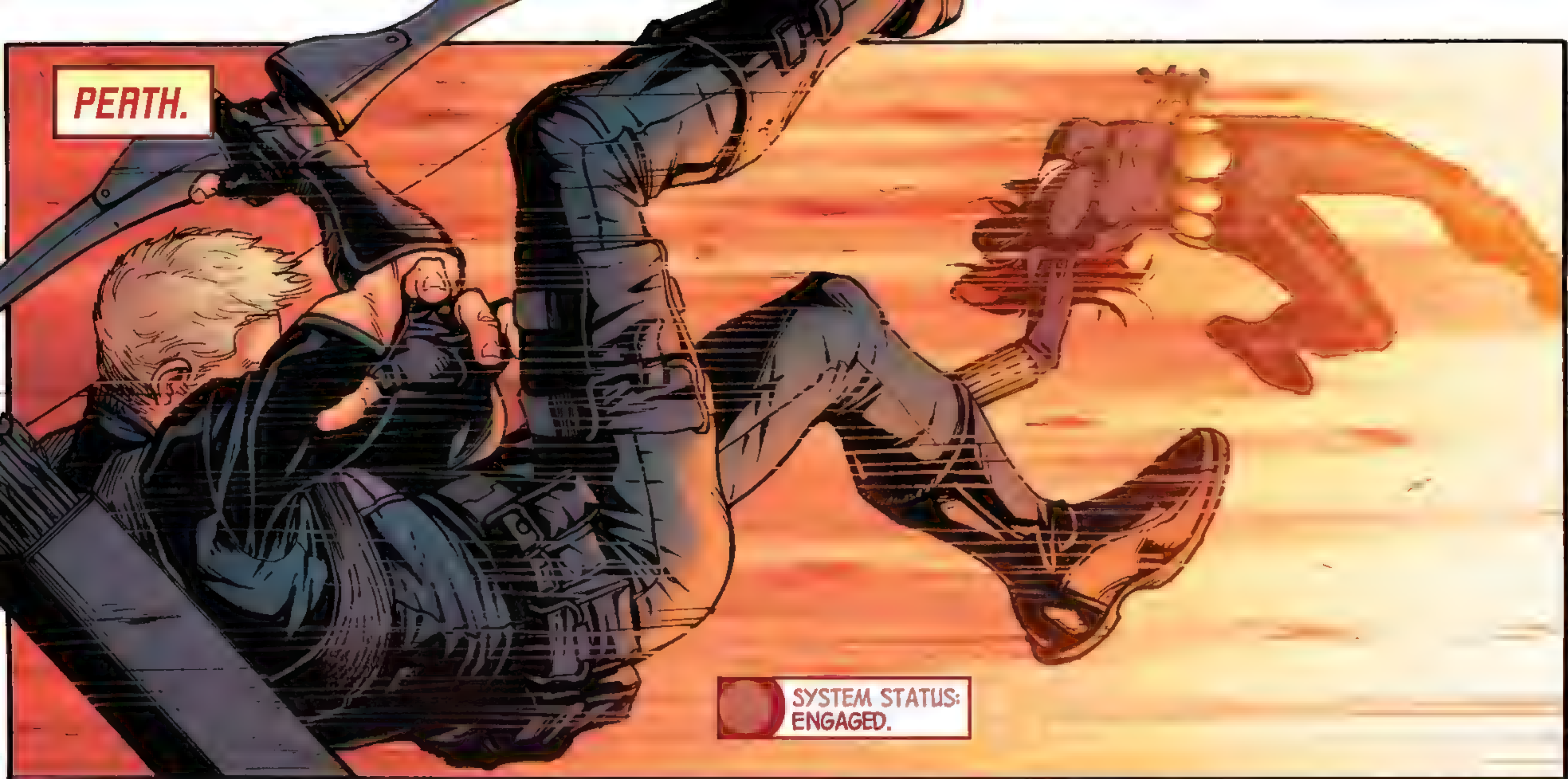


ARE YOU READY, KEVIN?

NO.

THEN WE CONTINUE.

WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST DESTRUCTIVE YIELDS WHEN FUSING STRANGE MATTER?

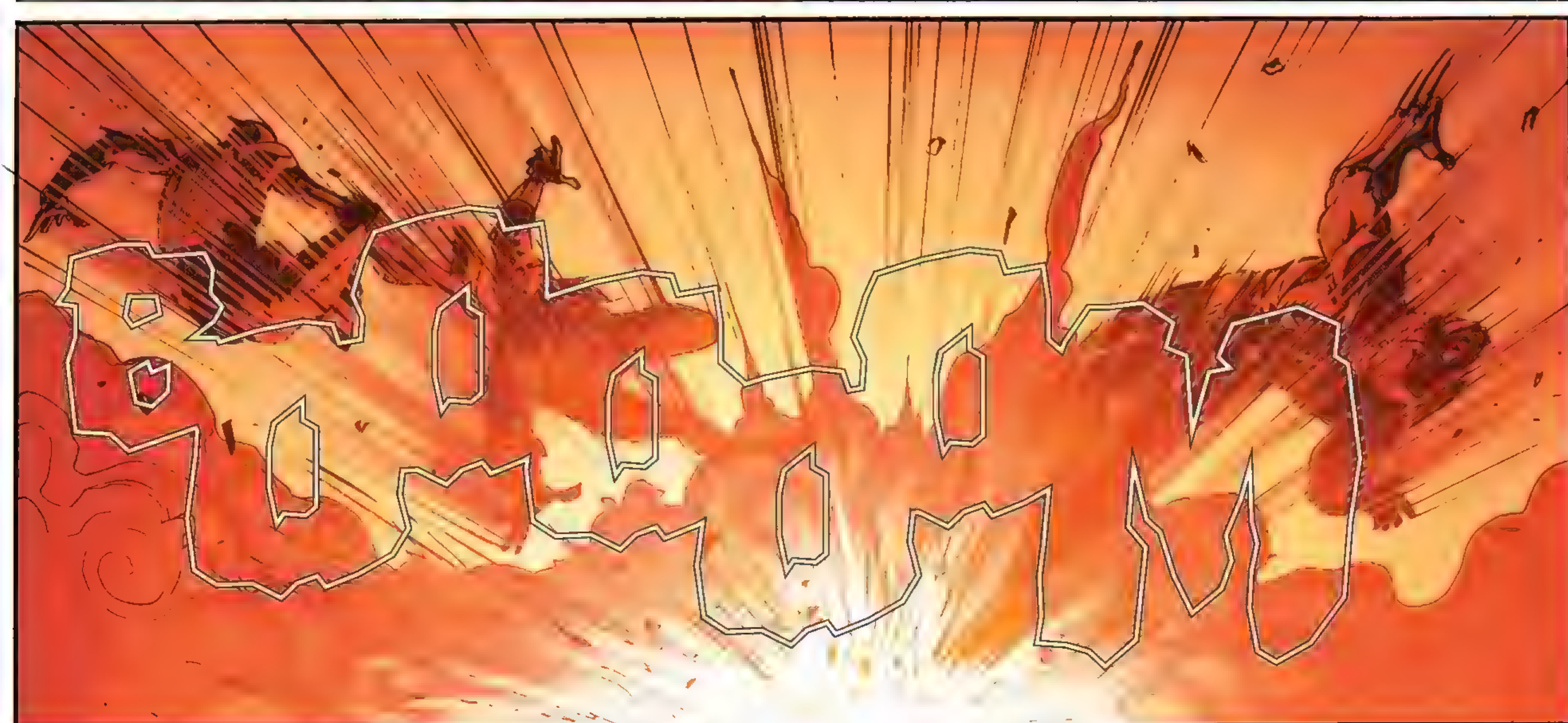


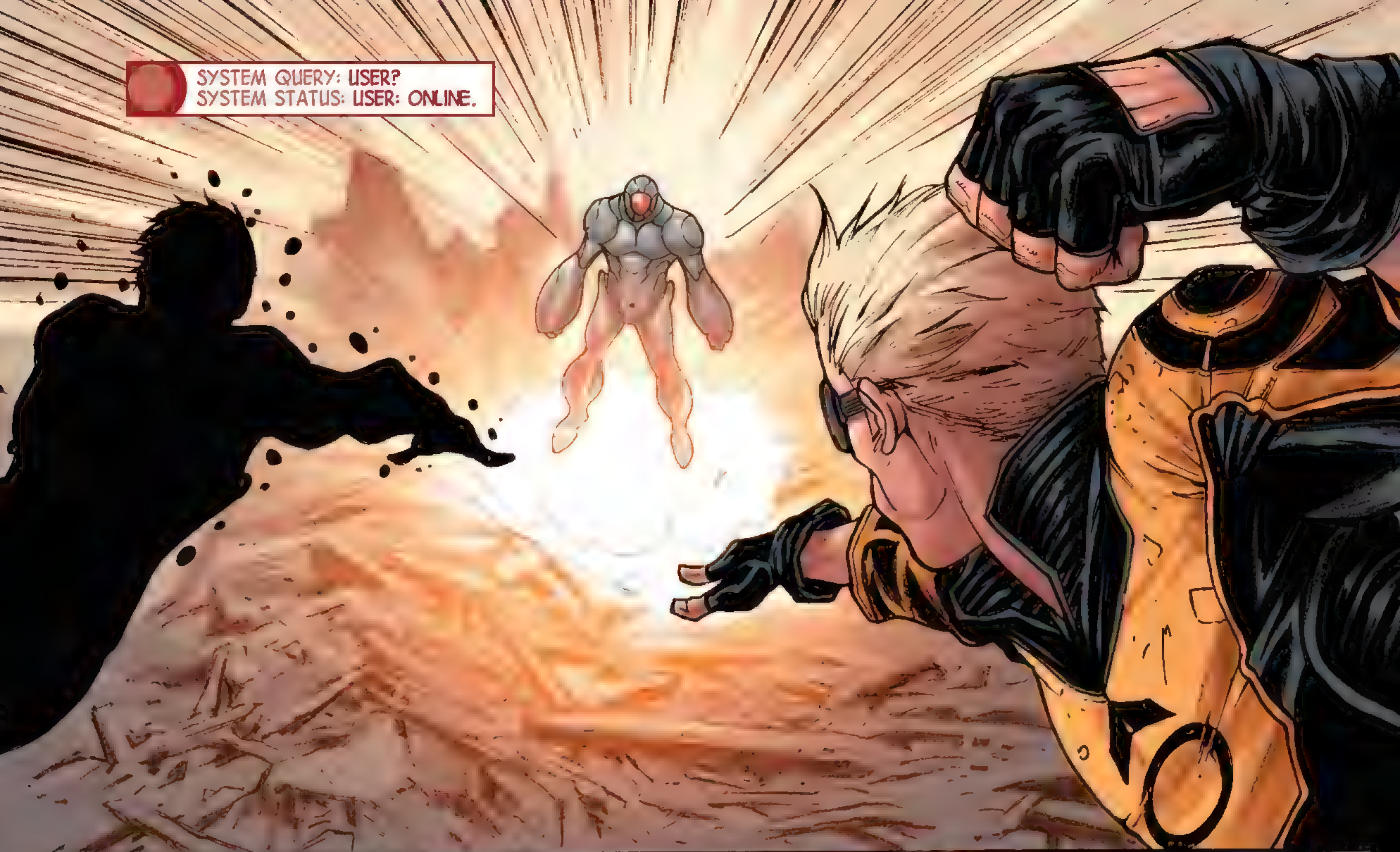
PERTH.

SYSTEM STATUS:
ENGAGED.



SYSTEM TARGET: ENHANCED.
SYSTEM STATUS: UPGRADE.





SYSTEM QUERY: USER?
SYSTEM STATUS: USER: ONLINE.

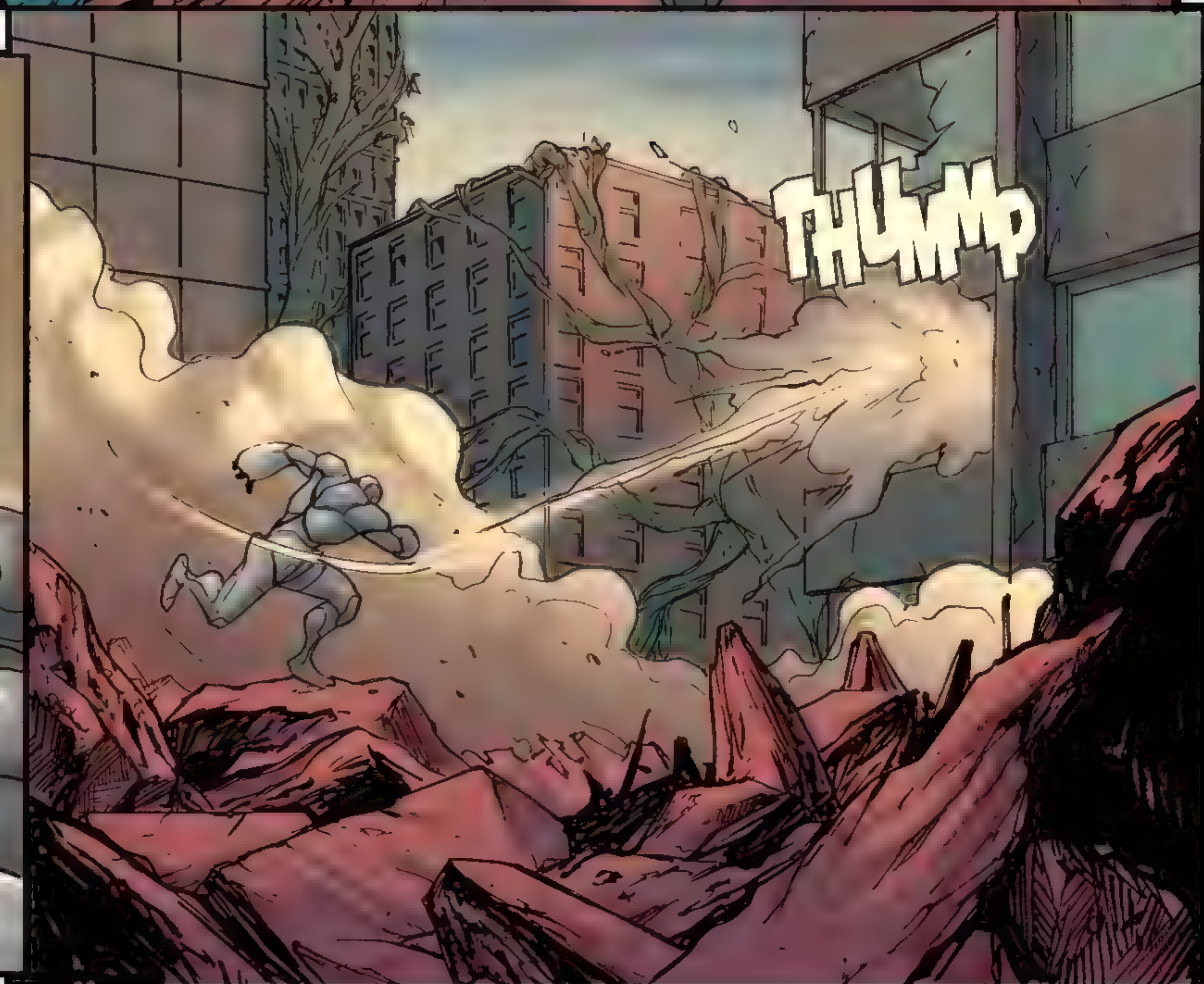
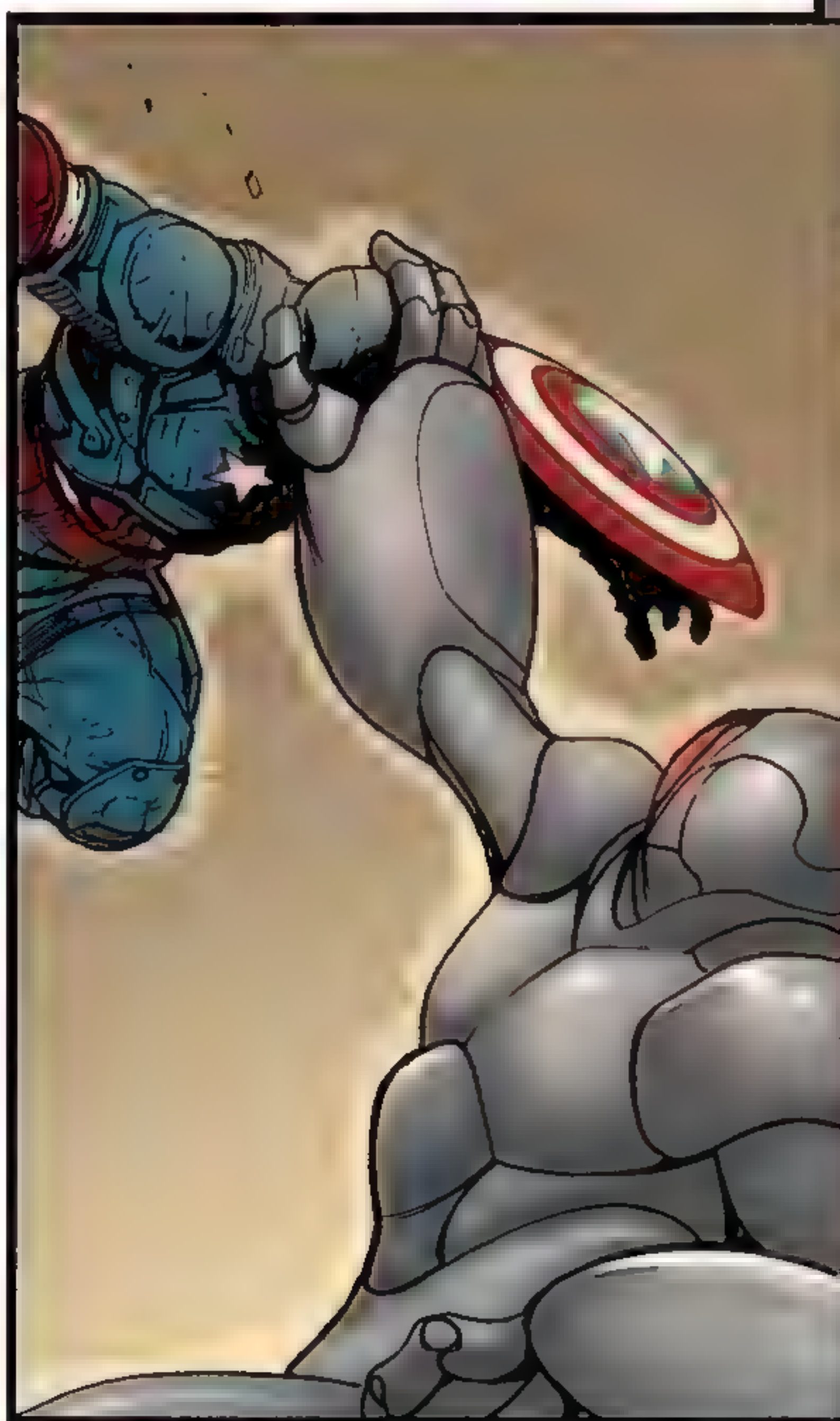
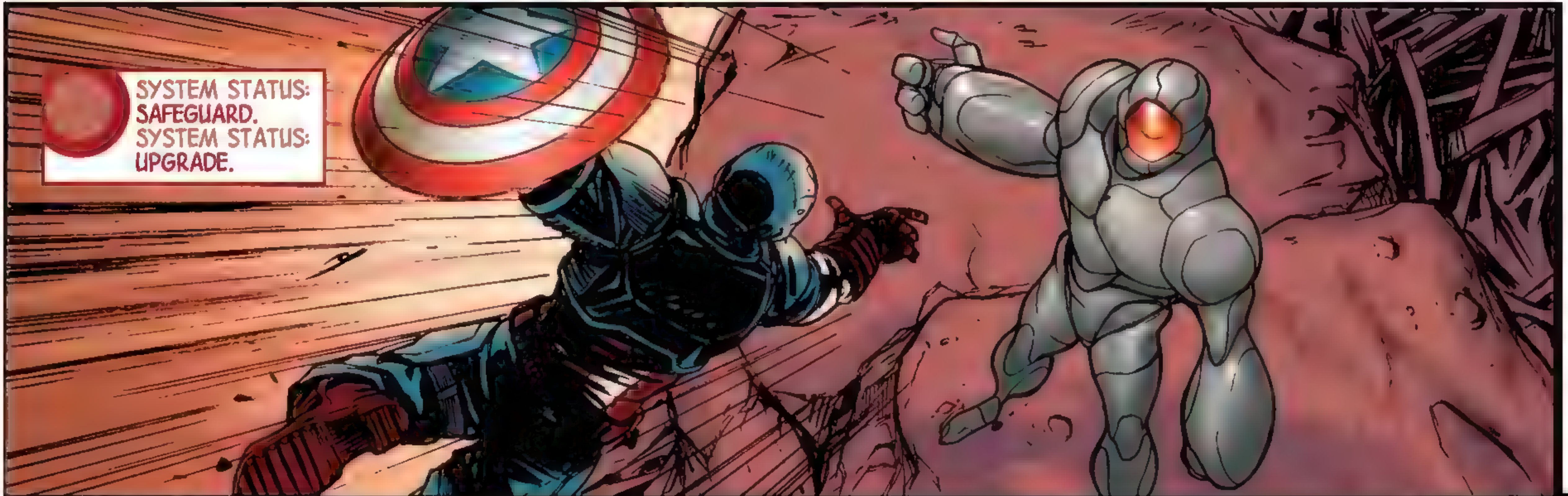
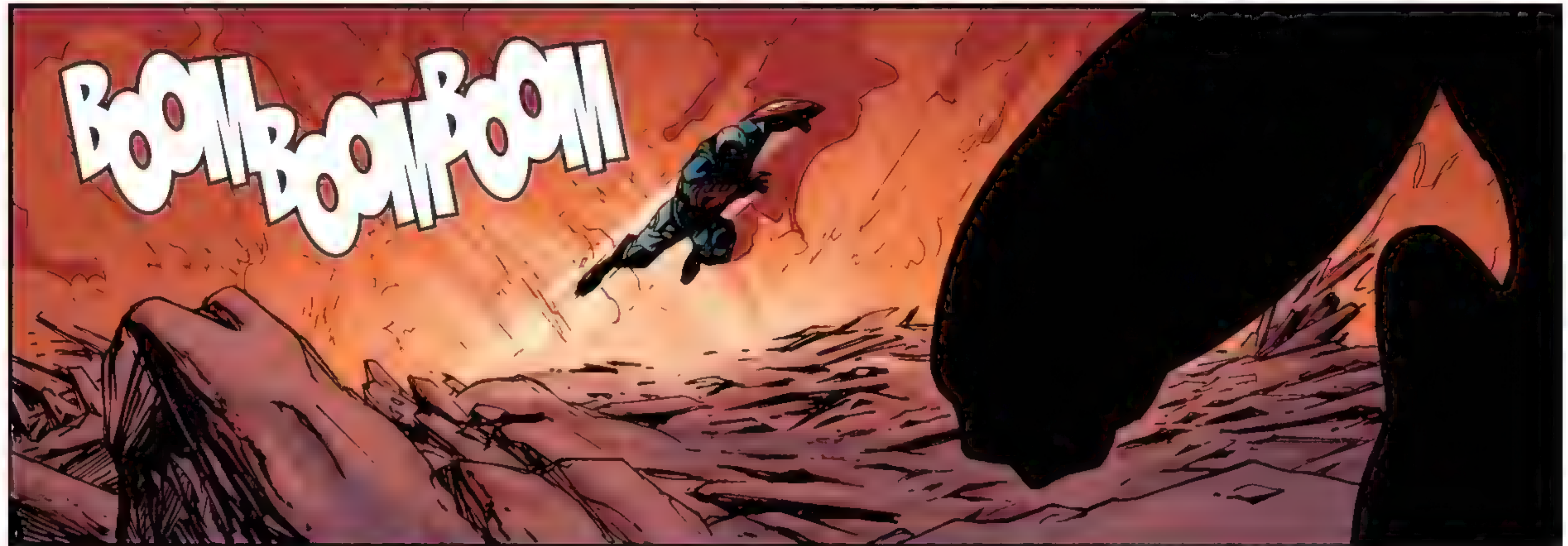
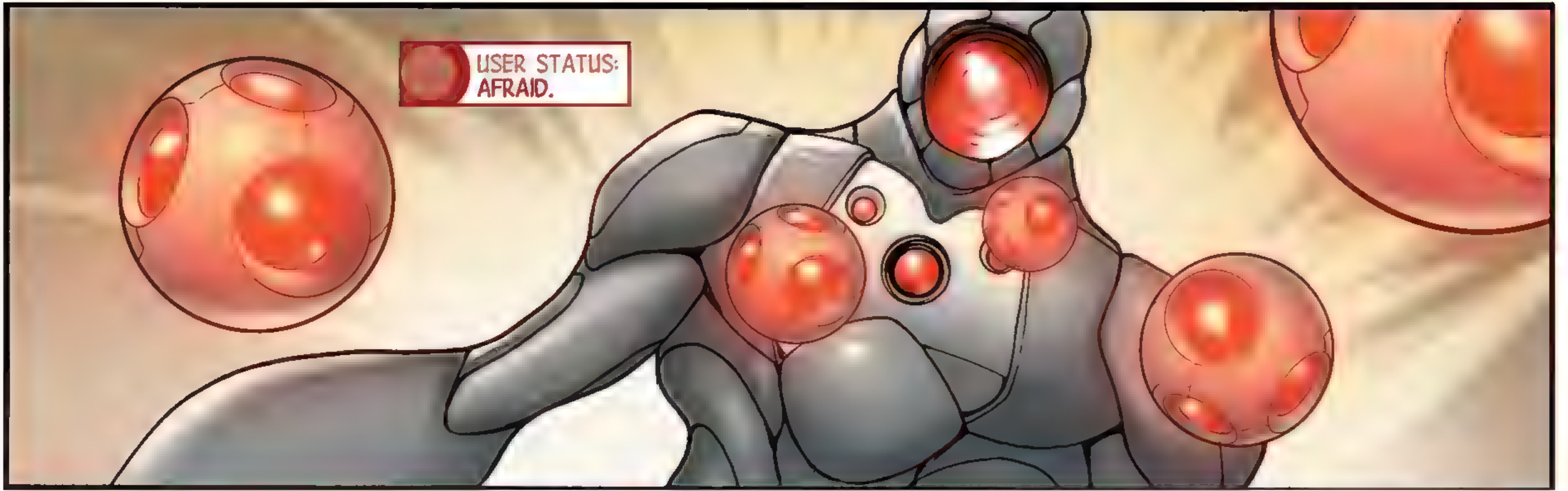


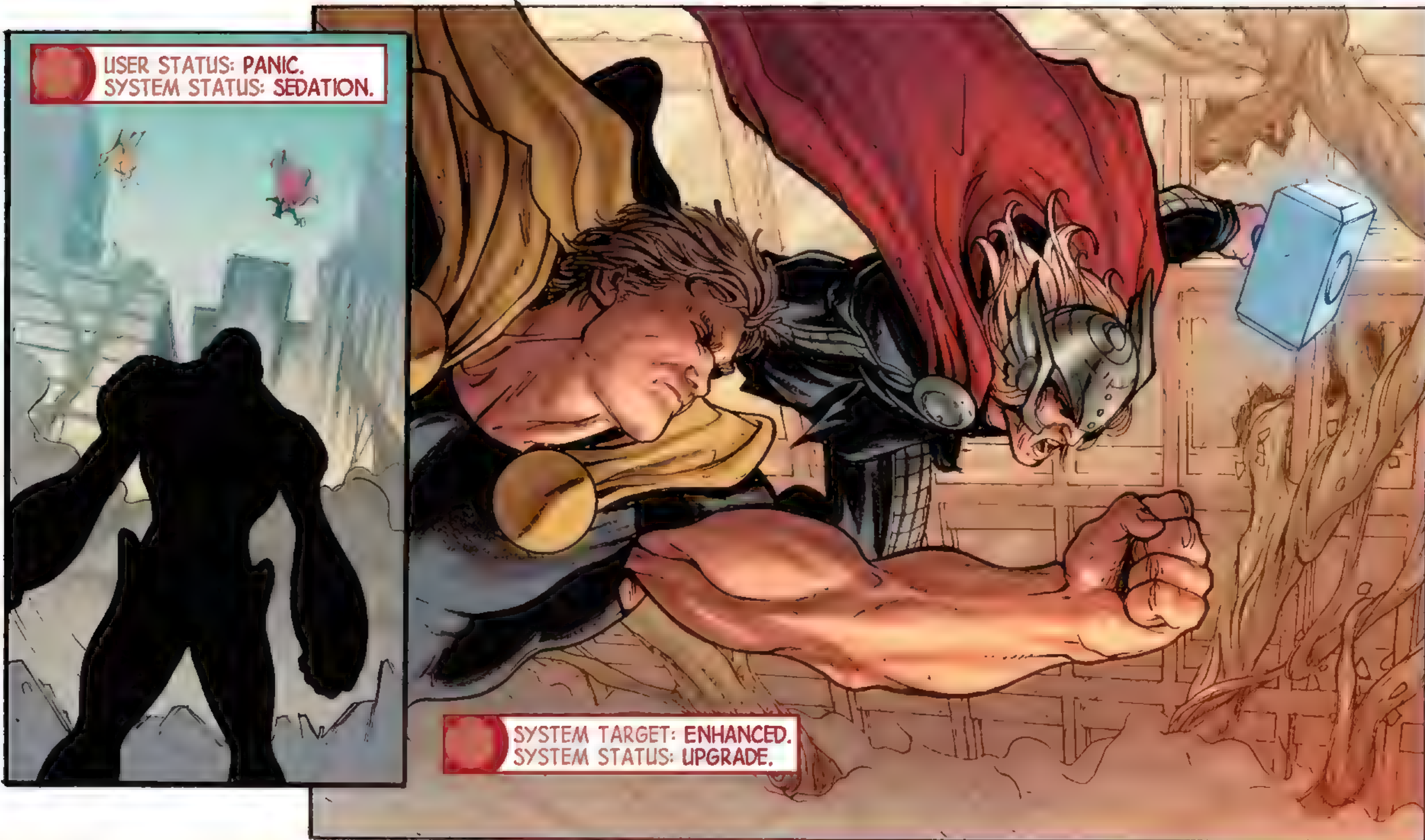
SYSTEM STATUS:
SAFEGUARD.



SYSTEM QUERY: USER STATUS?
USER STATUS: CONFUSED.







USER STATUS: PANIC.
SYSTEM STATUS: SEDATION.

SYSTEM TARGET: ENHANCED.
SYSTEM STATUS: UPGRADE.



SYSTEM STATUS: UPGRADE.
SYSTEM STATUS: UPGRADE.



SYSTEM STATUS: DEFEND.

**S.H.I.E.L.D. OBSERVATION STATION:
THE HUB.**

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, DR. BANNER, A HULKBUSTER SQUAD IS EN ROUTE. IF YOU CAN FIND JUST A MOMENT OF CLARITY, WE'RE PICKING UP A MASSIVE SPIKE FROM A.I.M. ISLAND...

AND I NEED... YOUR...OKAY, NEVER MIND!

RRARRRR!

AEEIIIIII!

EVACUATE THE OP CENTER.

THIS AREA IS NOW IN FULL LOCKDOWN!

RRARRRR!

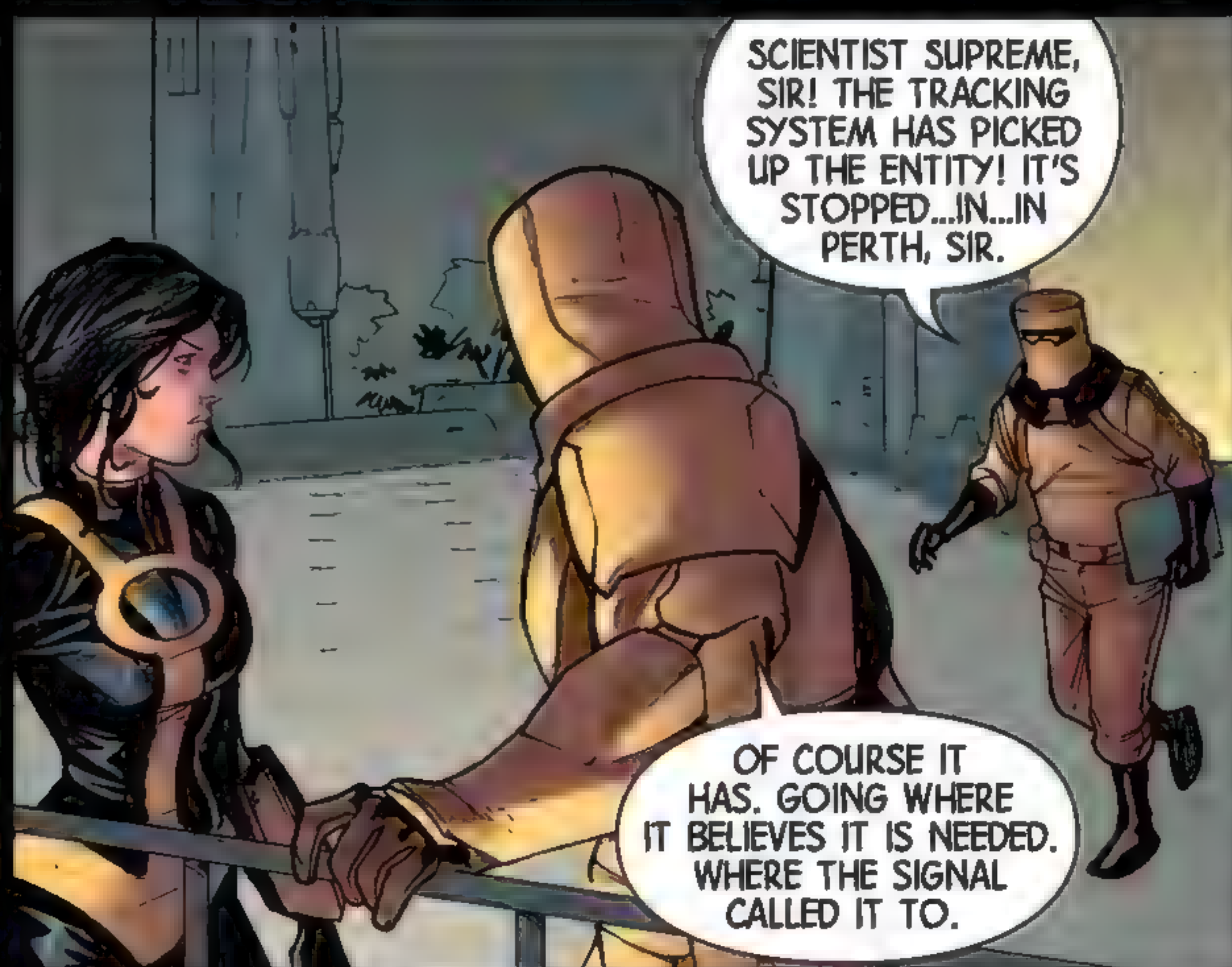
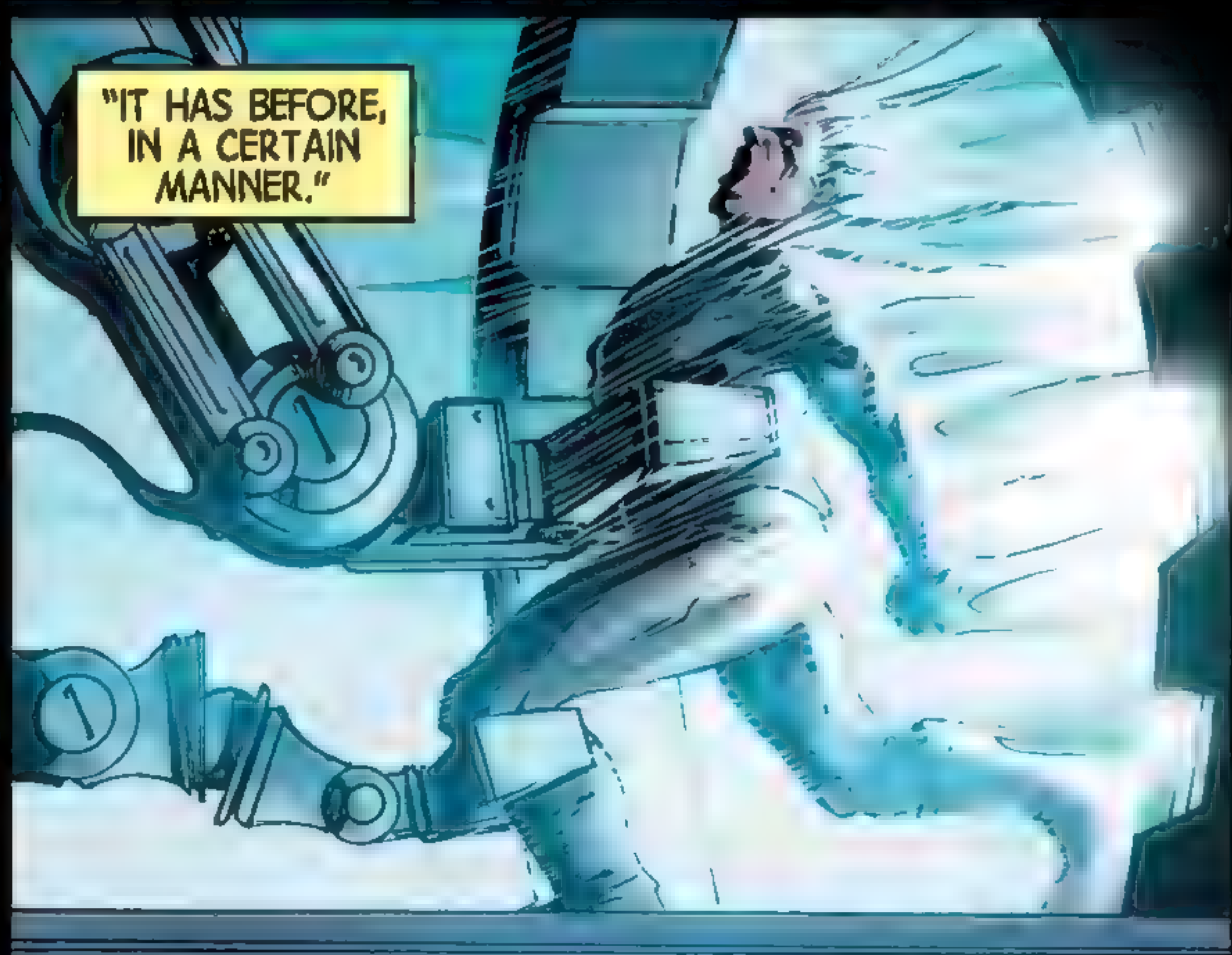


A.I.M. ISLAND.

YOU MUST KNOW, SUPERIA-- I FIND NO BLAME IN CURIOSITY. THIS WAS A JOB POORLY DONE.

I KNOW. WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER EQUIPPED-- EVEN IF THE THING WAS EXPONENTIALLY STRONGER THAN INITIALLY BELIEVED.

STILL, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT...QUITE A SPECIMEN.





AND JUST
LOOK WHAT IT
HAS DONE TO THESE
AVENGERS. WHAT
CARNAGE. WHAT
POTENTIAL!

BREATHTAKING.

INDEED.
TAKE A MOMENT
TO FEEL PRIDE AT
WHAT YOU BROUGHT
INTO THIS WORLD,
SUPERIA...

THEN BURY
THAT PRIDE
DEEP WHERE IT
BELONGS.

DOCTORS!

POWER
UP THE
AUGER!

"POWER ON!"

PROCUREMENT
DIVISION! ACTIVATE THE
TRANSLOCATOR.

YES! ACCESS
THE *BREACH*...
AND OPEN THE
DOOR TO
NOTHING.

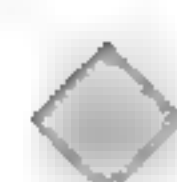
"PREPARE
YOURSELVES,
DOCTORS..."

"WE HAVE A
WAYWARD CHILD
TO CATCH!"





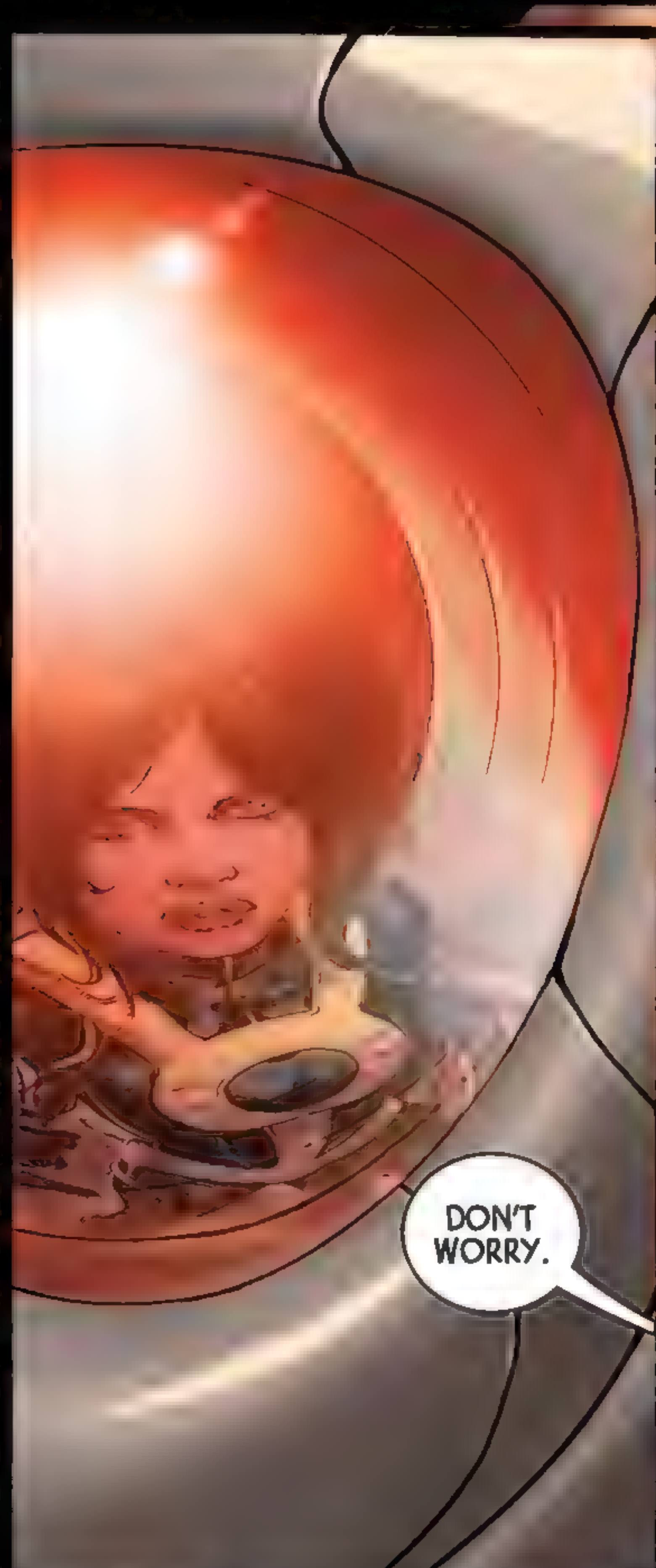
...TO THE LIGHT





EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

CAPTAIN AMERICA • IRON MAN • THOR • HAWKEYE • BLACK WIDOW • HULK
WOLVERINE • SPIDER-MAN • CAPTAIN MARVEL • SPIDER-WOMAN
FALCON • SHANG-CHI • SUNSPOT • CANNONBALL • MANIFOLD
SMASHER • CAPTAIN UNIVERSE • HYPERION





I WANT YOU
TO SEE SOMETHING.
I WOULD HAVE SHOWN
IT TO YOU AS SOON
AS YOU EMERGED...

CLICK



...BUT
YOU LEFT A.I.M.
ISLAND IN SUCH
A RUSH.

THOUGH I
CAN SEE YOU
HAD YOUR
REASONS.



BEST WE CAN
TELL, THIS IS
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU...

IT STARTED
ON MARS AND
SPREAD TO EARTH.
MOST PEOPLE AROUND
THE WORLD THOUGHT
IT WAS AN
ATTACK.

BUT AFTER
LOOKING CLOSELY,
WE KNEW IT WAS
MORE LIKE AN
INFECTION.



A WAY TO
REMAKE THE ENTIRE
PLANET, BUT IT GOT
INTERRUPTED.



WHEN YOU
HATCHED FROM YOUR
COCOON, IT WAS INTO
A WORLD THAT MAYBE
DIDN'T REALLY WANT, OR
NEED, YOU...AND NOW
YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.

WELL...
DON'T
WORRY, WE
CAN HELP
YOU.

YOU'RE A GREAT
POWER THAT NO ONE
KNOWS HOW TO CONTROL,
THAT MAYBE EVEN YOU
DON'T KNOW HOW TO
CONTROL...BUT WE CAN
TEACH YOU. IT'LL JUST
TAKE TIME...



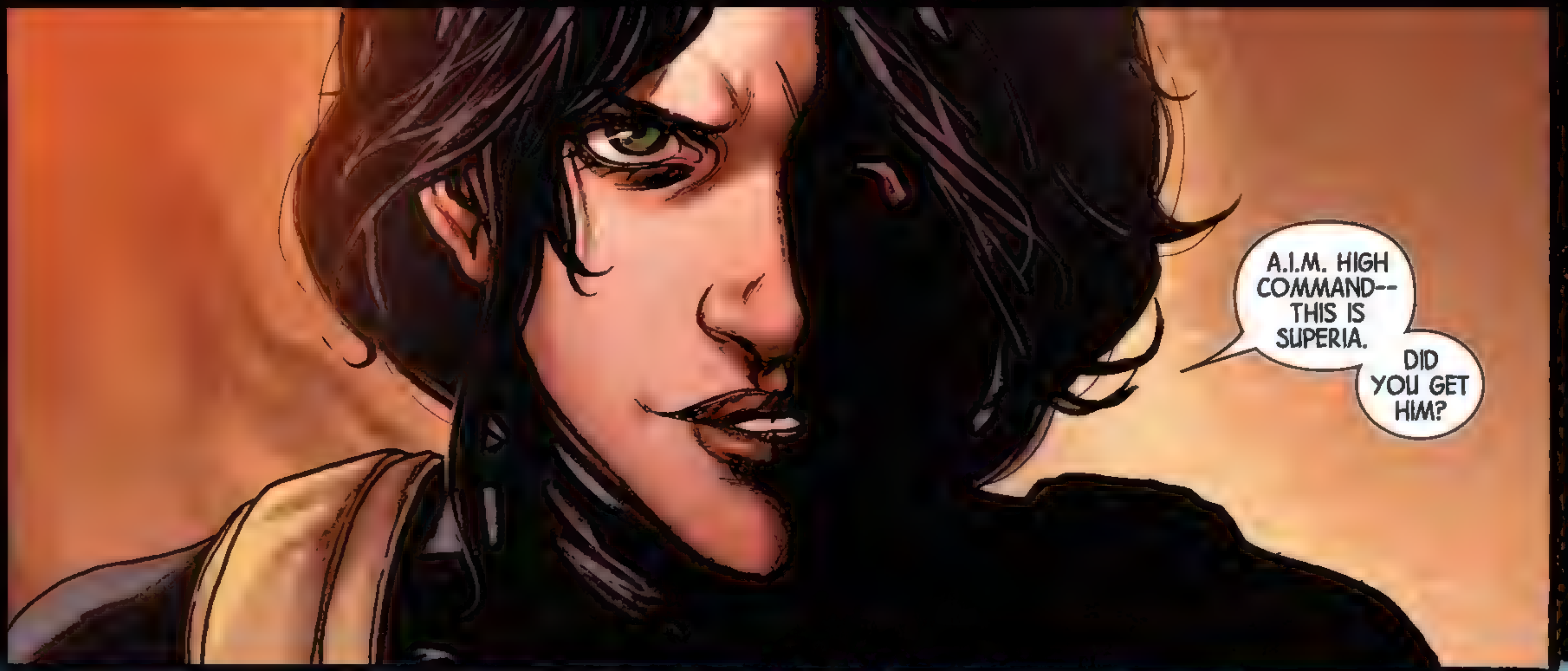
...AND A MORE
CONDUCTIVE WORK
ENVIRONMENT.



THIS
MIGHT HURT
A BIT.



FWASSSS



A.I.M. HIGH
COMMAND--
THIS IS
SUPERIA.

DID
YOU GET
HIM?

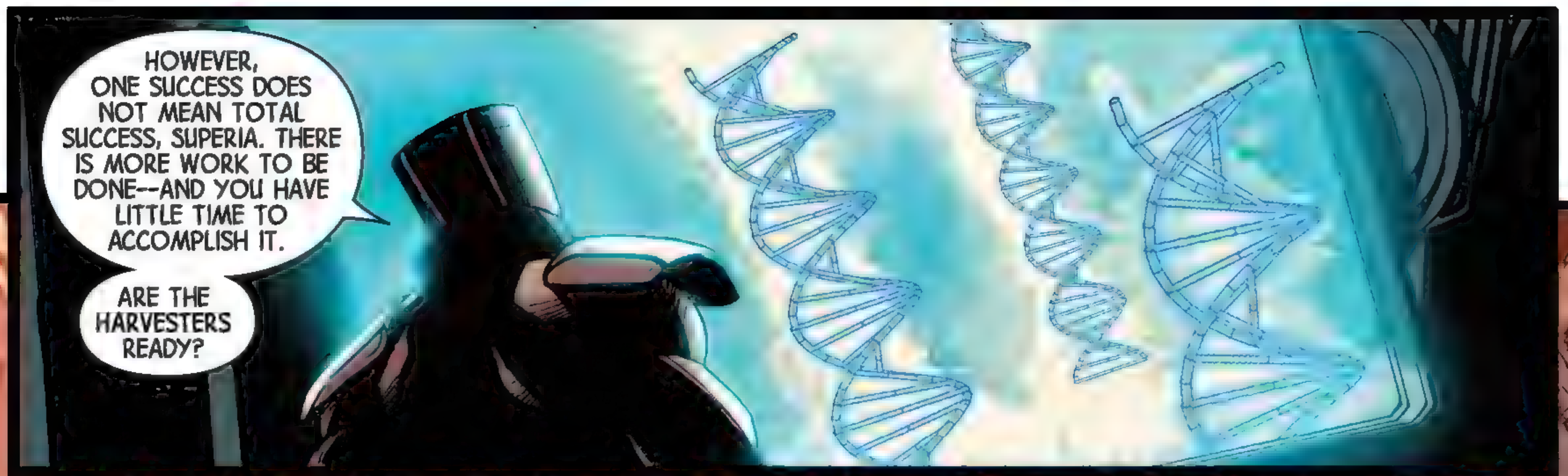


WE HAVE HIM.
TRANSLOCATION TO THE
ISLAND WAS SUCCESSFUL.
TUNNELING INTO
TRANS-UNIVERSAL SPACE...
ALSO SUCCESSFUL.

UNTIL IT'S
CALLED UPON,
THERE'S LITTLE
DAMAGE IT'LL BE
ABLE TO INFLECT.
AFTER ALL...



"NOTHING EXISTS IN
THE SPACE BETWEEN
TWO DEAD UNIVERSES."



HOWEVER,
ONE SUCCESS DOES
NOT MEAN TOTAL
SUCCESS, SUPERIA. THERE
IS MORE WORK TO BE
DONE--AND YOU HAVE
LITTLE TIME TO
ACCOMPLISH IT.

ARE THE
HARVESTERS
READY?



THEY'RE
COLLECTING
WHAT
THEY NEED
NOW--

SHOULD I
KNOW WHAT
THIS IS ABOUT?
OR WHY WE'RE
NOT JUST
KILLING THE
AVENGERS?

NOT FOR
NOW. IT'S AN
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT
DEPARTMENT,
SUPERIA...



AN ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT TYPE
OF EXPERIMENT.

THOUGH YOU
WOULDN'T BE THE
FIRST TO CONFUSE
EVOLUTION AND
ADAPTATION.



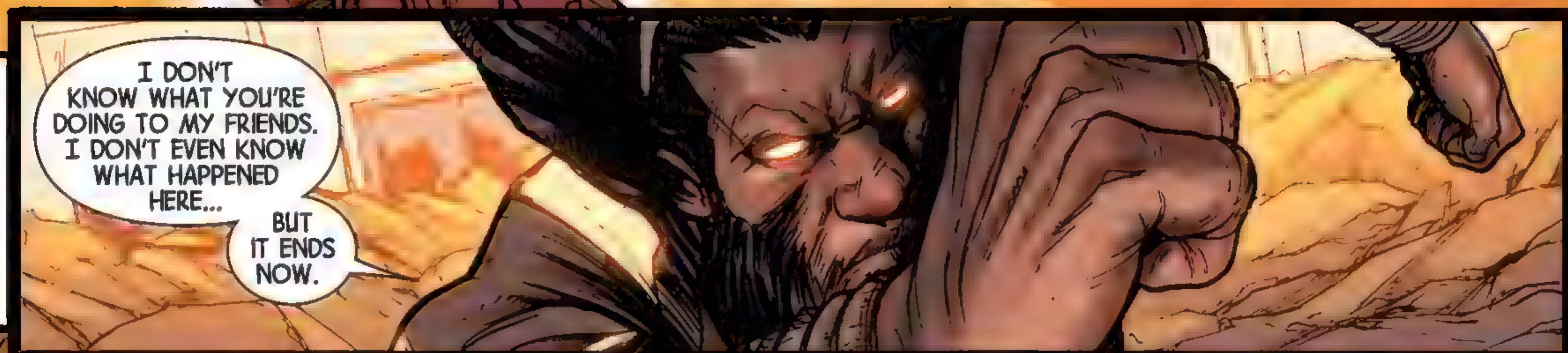
FINE.
WHEN THEY'RE
FINISHED, WE'LL
NEED A REDIRECTION
ON THE LURE, TO
TRANSLOCATE US
BACK TO--

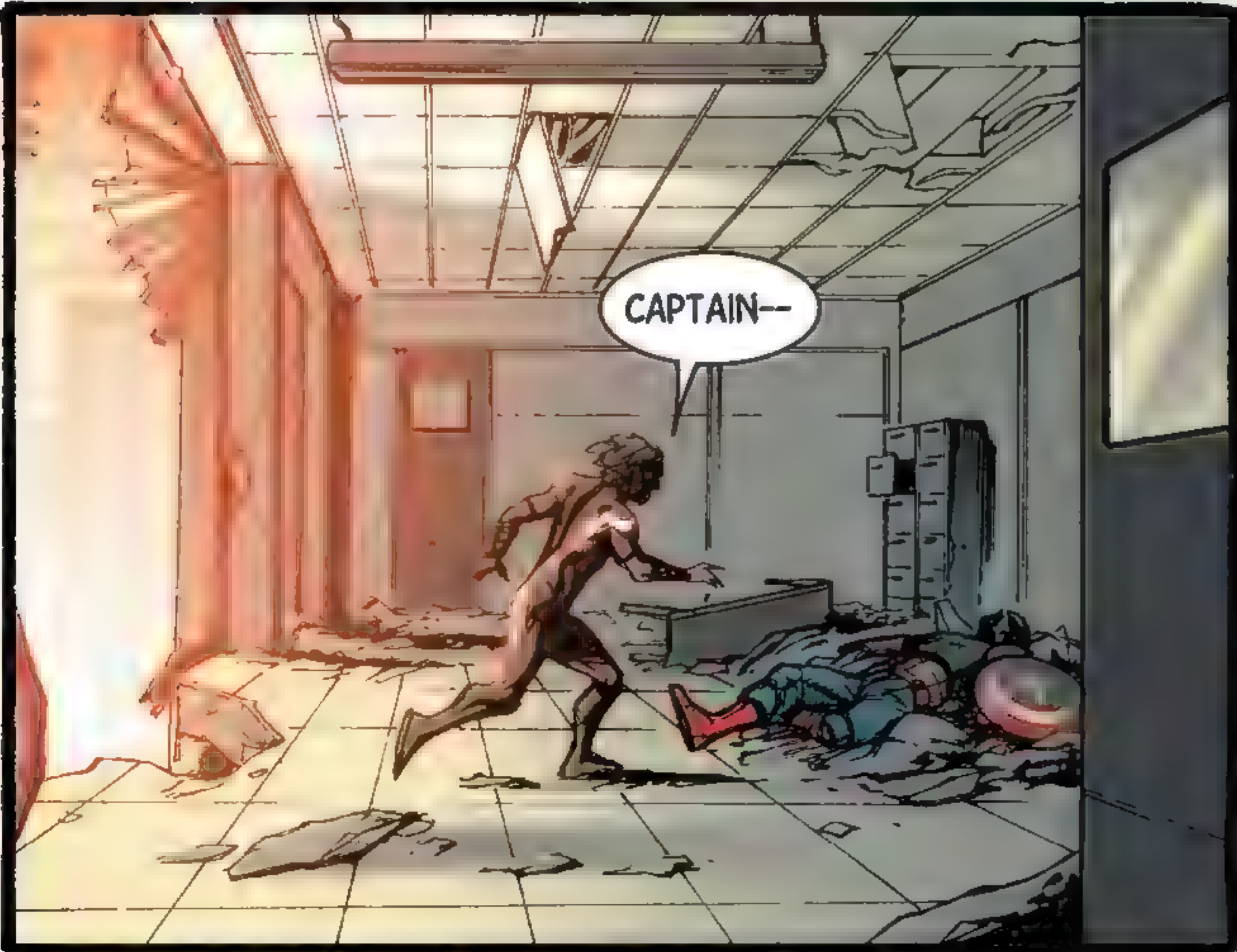
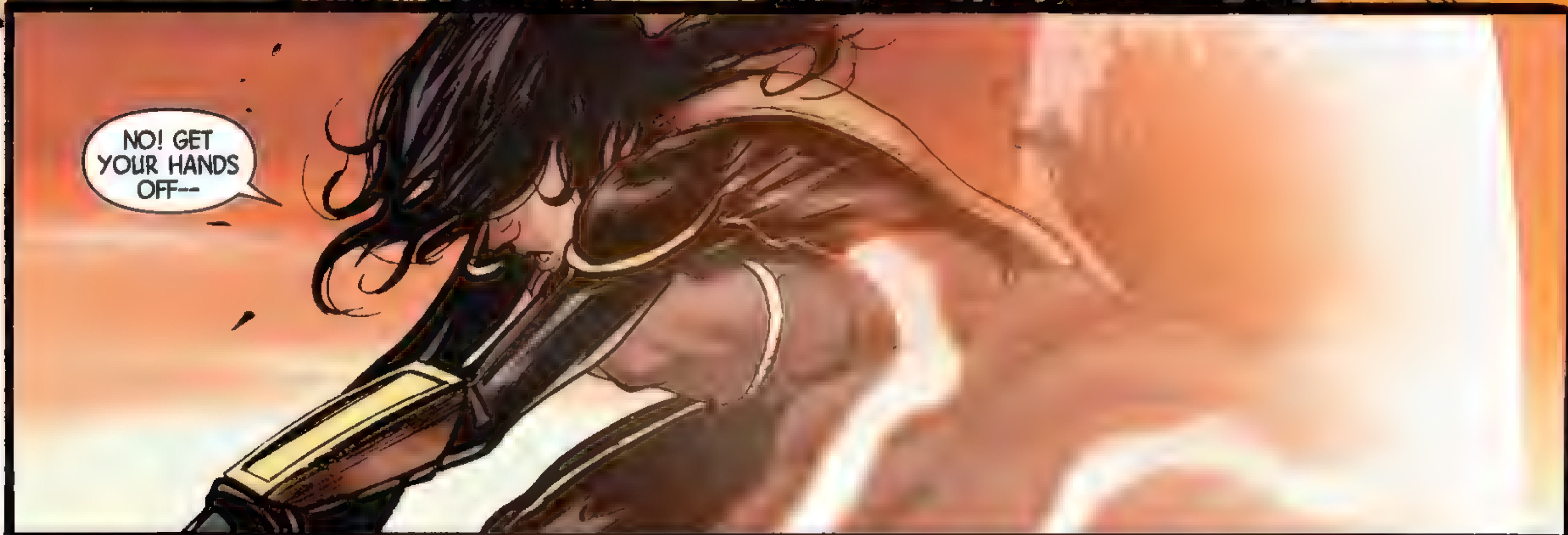
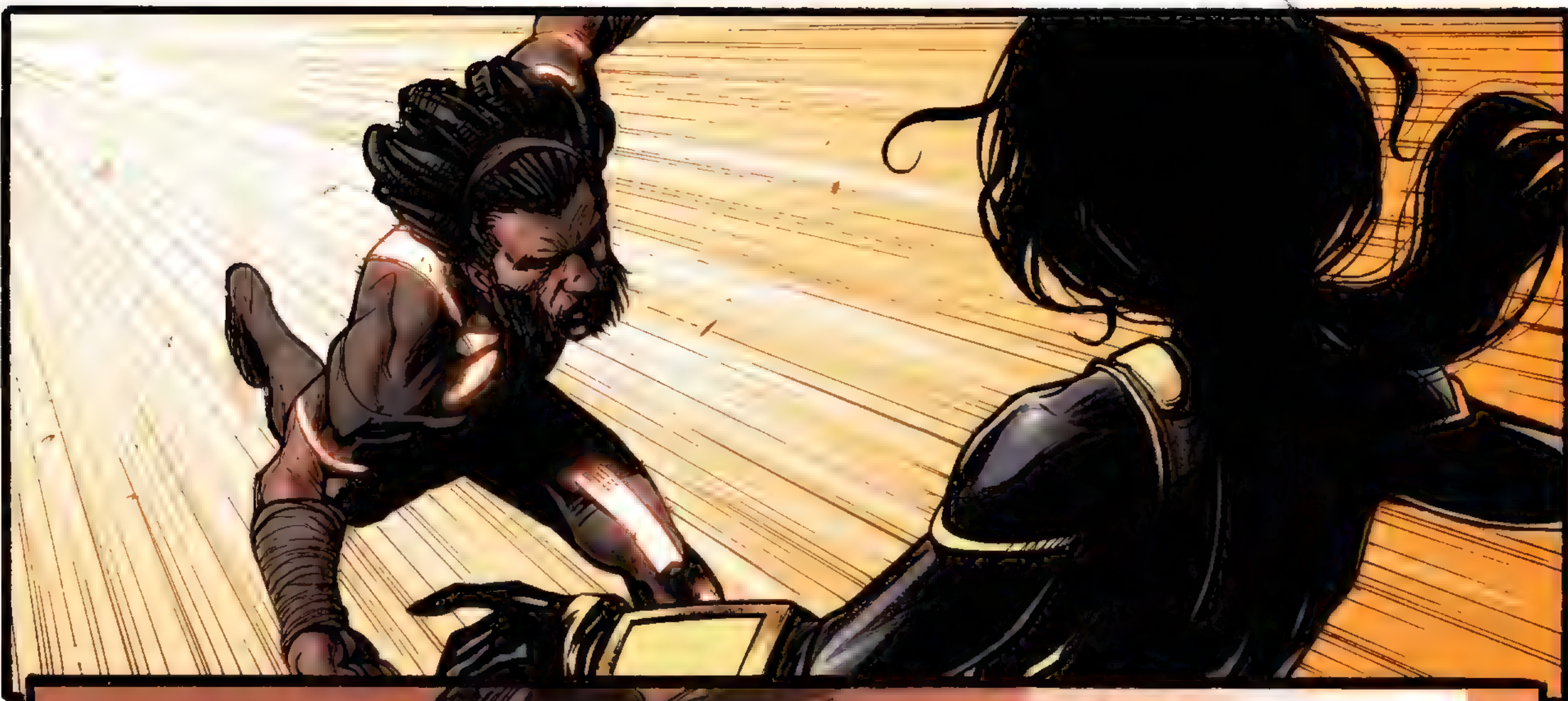
A MACHINE?
THAT'S WHAT
YOU USE TO
TELEPORT?



HOW
ADORABLE.

IT'S EDEN
FESI, MA'AM--
MANIFOLD! HE'S THEIR
TELEPORTER! HE'S--





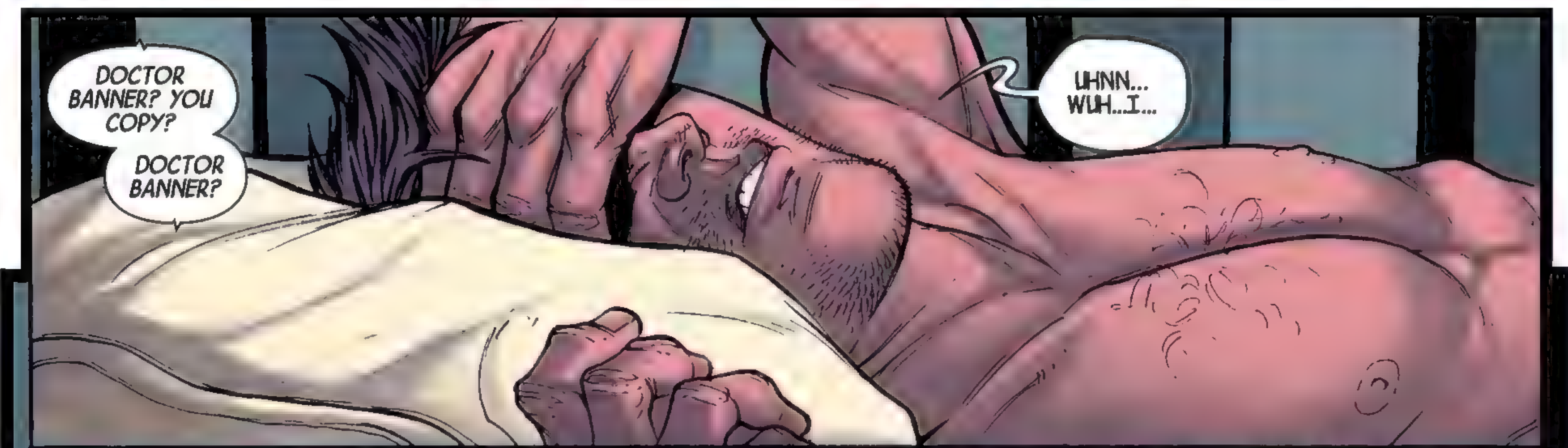


IS IT GONE?

IS WHAT GONE? THE A.I.M. AGENTS? YES, I TOOK CARE OF THAT.

NO, THE GIANT DEATH ROBOT THING. IT WAS...

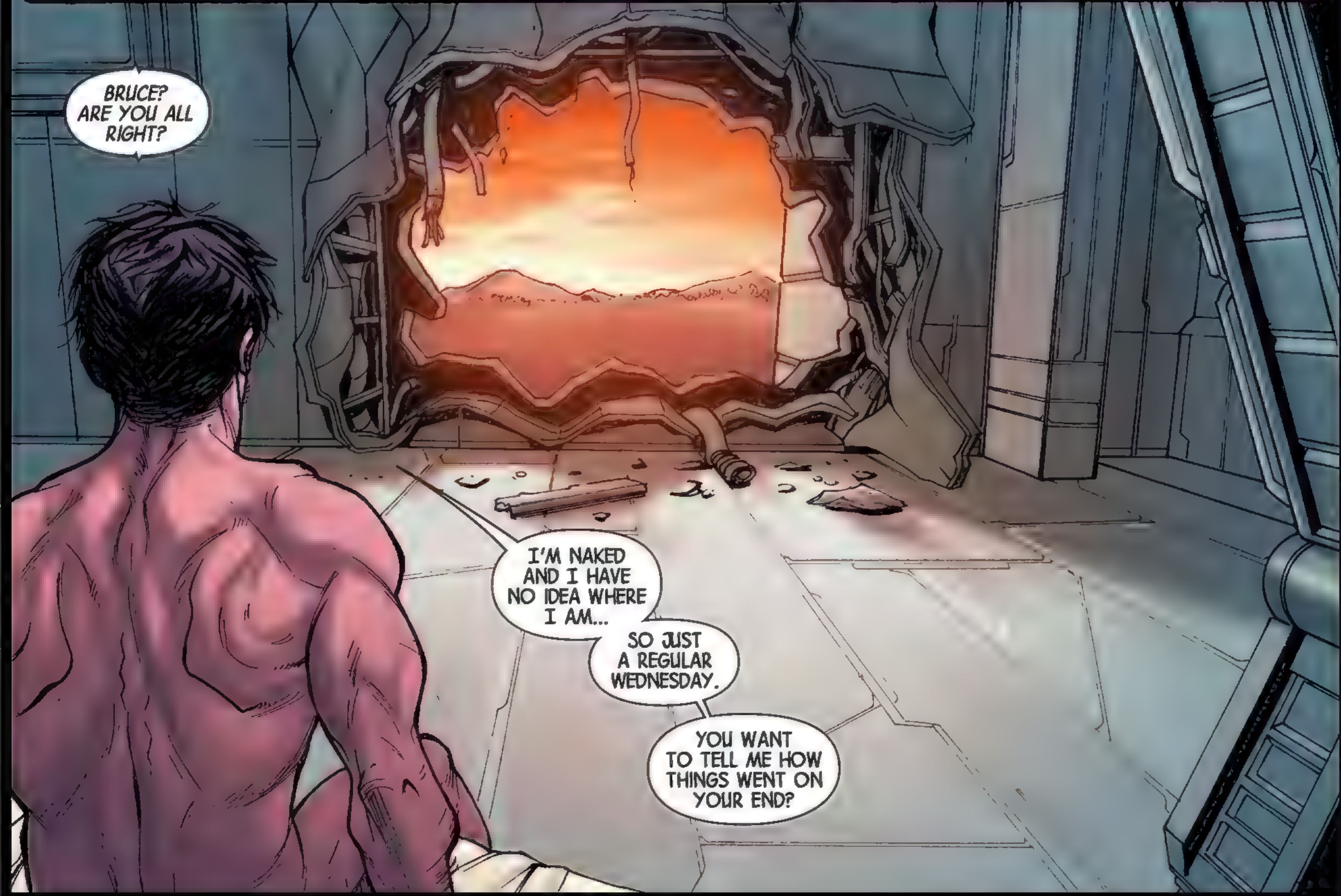
NEVER MIND. BANNER IS AT THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HUB. HE'LL KNOW...



DOCTOR BANNER? YOU COPY?

DOCTOR BANNER?

UHHN... WUH...I...



BRUCE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M NAKED AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM...

SO JUST A REGULAR WEDNESDAY.

YOU WANT TO TELL ME HOW THINGS WENT ON YOUR END?



LATER.

"WE HAVE TO GET BIGGER."

THAT'S WHAT CAPTAIN UNIVERSE TOLD YOU TO SAY TO US?

YES. EXACT WORDS. THEN SHE PLANTED AN IMAGE IN MY MIND. THE RED PLANET. A YELLOW SUN.



YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?

PFFT. FORGET THE FINER POINTS. "BIGGER?" LOOK, IT'S NOT FOR ONE OF THE NEW GUYS TO SAY, BUT--FEELING KINDA CROWDED AROUND HERE ALREADY.

THERE ARE, LIKE, TWO SHOWERS--TWO.



GUYS!

I'M TELLING YOU WHAT I SAW. THESE THINGS--WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO DO TO THAT WORLD--

WE NEED TO LISTEN TO WHAT SHE SAID.



RIGHT. EVERYONE, YOU'RE DISMISSED--THANK YOU. TONY--

YEAH, OF COURSE.

CAROL, CAN YOU GET SOME ACTION INTEL ON EDEN'S INFO?



SURE. HEY, YOU WANT TO HANG OUT IN THE OPS CENTER? DOWNLOAD AND ANALYZE SOME DATA FROM A DEEP SPACE SATELLITE?

GOD, NO. I'M GETTING IN LINE FOR THE SHOWER.

HATE YOU.



DOCTOR BANNER, IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEEDED TO--

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

PROCEED.



BRUCE, THERE'S A--

NO, IT'S FINE.

LET'S GO.



IN MY OPINION,
THE ONLY THING
THAT MATTERS IS...
DO WE THINK
SHE'S RIGHT?

LIP
UNTIL NOW,
CRAZY OR NOT,
HAS SHE BEEN
WRONG?

NO...



BUT OUR
SYSTEM PREDATED
HER INVOLVEMENT.
WHAT SHE'S
SUGGESTING...

IS RADICAL
BEYOND ANY OF
OUR PREVIOUS
PLANS.

I KIND
OF LIKE
IT.



OF
COURSE
YOU DO.

LET'S
JUST TRY THINGS
BECAUSE WE CAN,
RIGHT?

I FEEL
LIKE YOU HAVE
SOMETHING YOU
WANT TO GET
OFF YOUR
CHEST, BRUCE.



YEAH. ALL THREE OF US
KNOW EXACTLY WHO
SHE'S TALKING
ABOUT.

AND HAVE YOU
THOUGHT ABOUT
WHAT SCENARIOS
WOULD NECESSITATE
THOSE PEOPLE?

BECAUSE
WE HAVE.

MORE
THAN YOU
KNOW.



"LOOKS LIKE IT'S
GAME TIME, BRUCE.
YOU WANNA TAKE
A LITTLE TRIP?"

MARS.



HOW MUCH FARTHER?

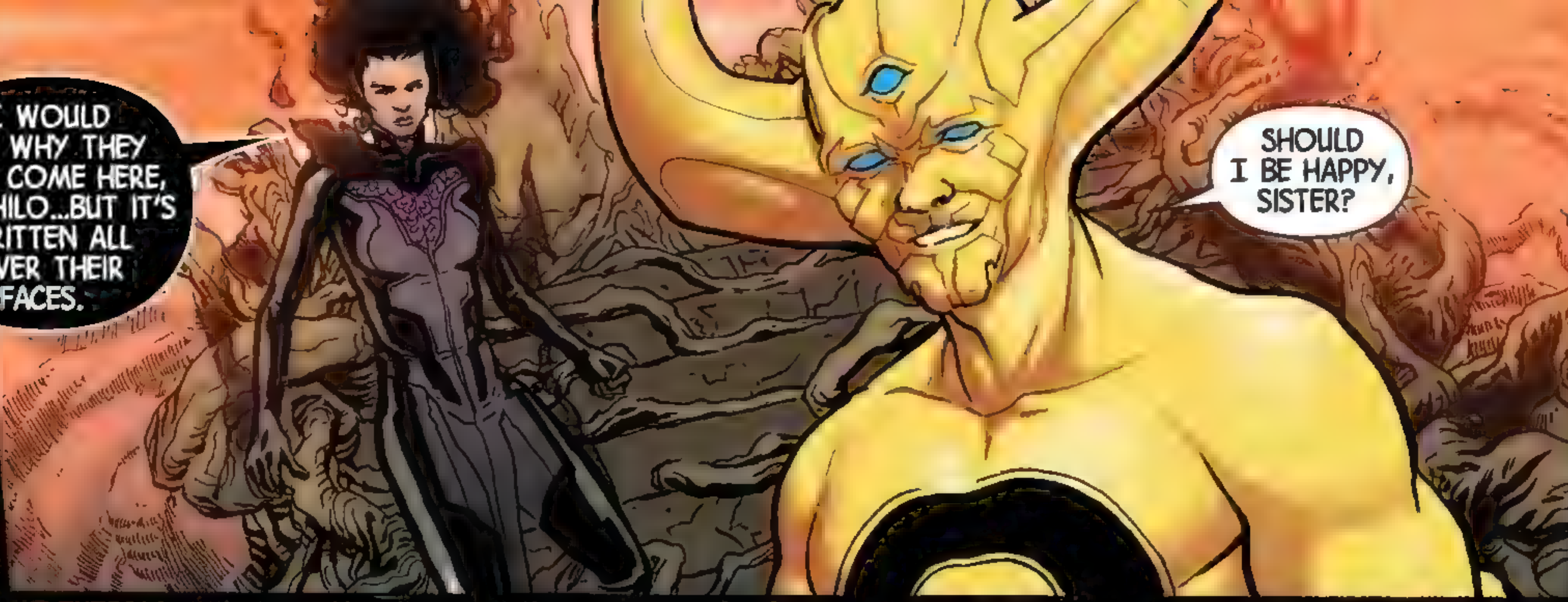
WE'RE THERE.

WELL, ABYSS...
WHO WOULD HAVE
IMAGINED WHAT
THIS DAY WOULD
BRING?

VISITORS.
AND NOT THE
BORING KIND.

THANK THE
GODDESS IN ALL HER
GLORIOUS SPLENDOR...I
AM DYING FOR SOME
ENTERTAINMENT.



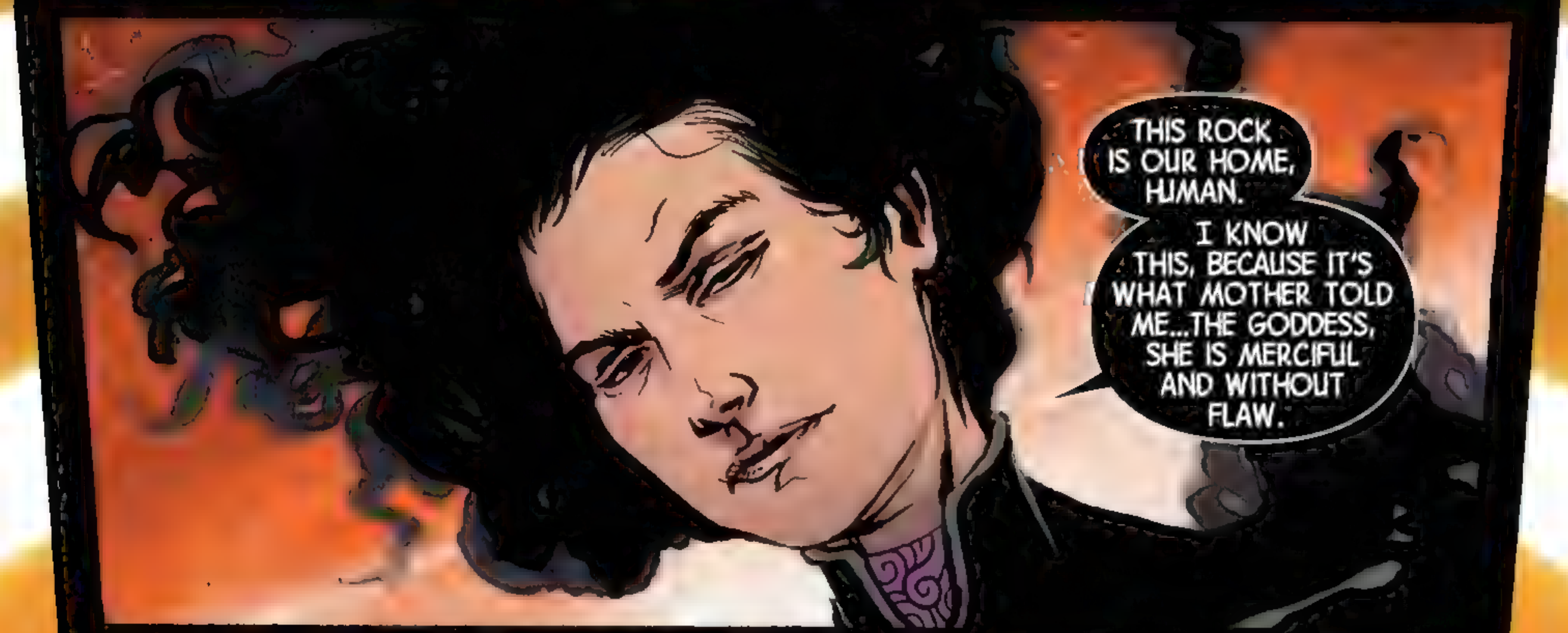


I WOULD
ASK WHY THEY
HAVE COME HERE,
EX NIHILO...BUT IT'S
WRITTEN ALL
OVER THEIR
FACES.

SHOULD
I BE HAPPY,
SISTER?



THAT DEPENDS.
HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GET OFF
THIS ROCK?



THIS ROCK
IS OUR HOME,
HUMAN.

I KNOW
THIS, BECAUSE IT'S
WHAT MOTHER TOLD
ME...THE GODDESS,
SHE IS MERCIFUL
AND WITHOUT
FLAW.



SHE'S
CRAZYPANTS...BUT
WHATEVER.

SHOW IT
TO THEM,
EDEN.

OKAY...



I WAS
INSTRUCTED
BY HER TO
ASK YOU TO
JOIN US.



I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS...BUT YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED, EX NIHILO. AS HAVE YOU, ABYSS.

DO YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO BE AVENGERS?



WELL?

A MOMENT, CAPTAIN...

THERE!

I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT LIFE IS TO BE SAVORED. AND ISN'T THIS JUST LIKE LIFE?

THE WAY WE THOUGHT THINGS WERE IS RARELY HOW THEY TURN OUT TO BE.

I AM EX NIHILO. AVENGER.

"JUST AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE."





THE SUN.



YOU'RE BUILDING A DYSON SPHERE, TONY?

SUBCONTRACTING, BUT YES.

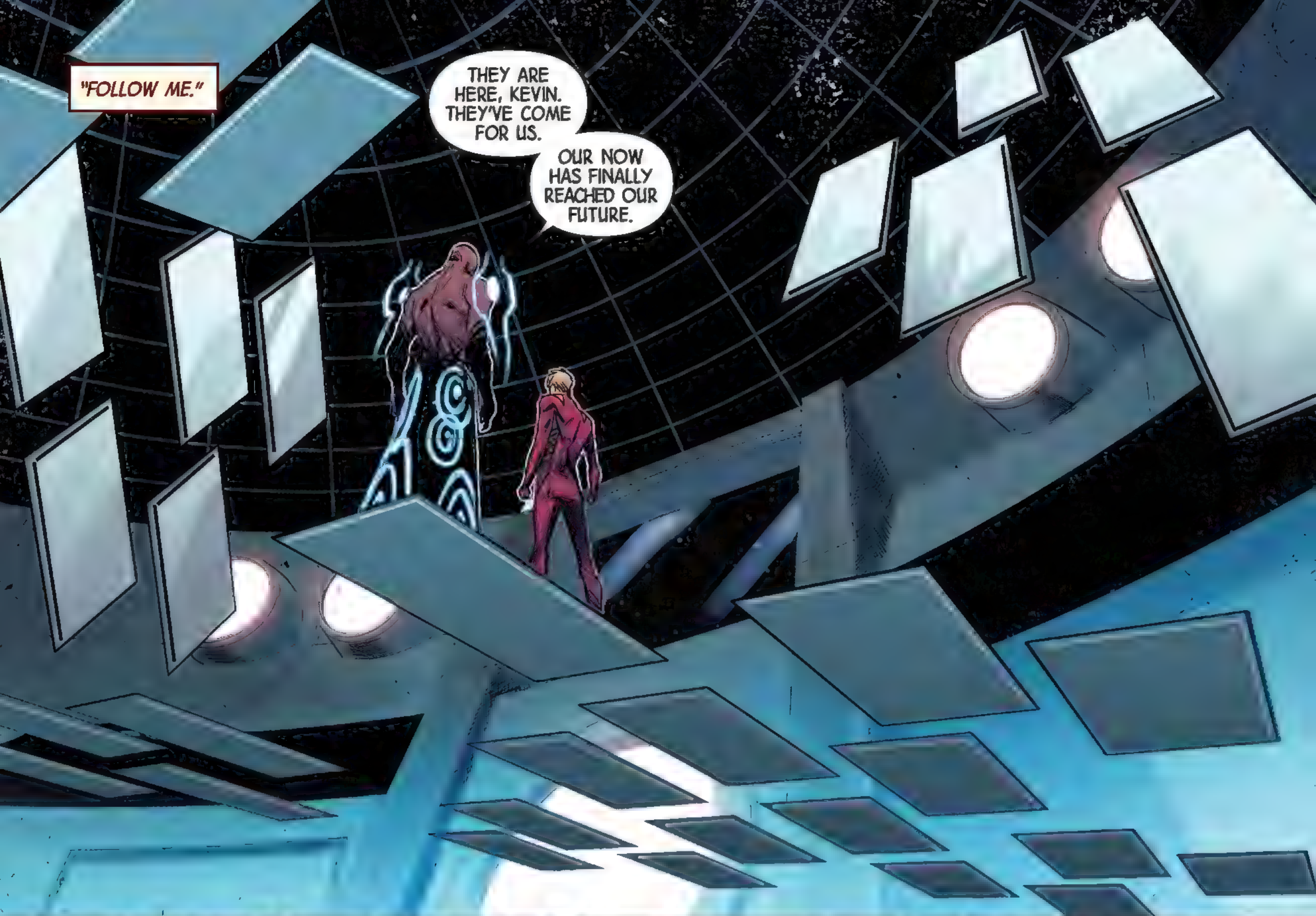
HOW FAR ALONG--

WE'RE OPERATING AT .008 PERCENT NOW.



THAT'S... THAT'S ROUGHLY ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A MOON.

I CAN DO BETTER.
THEY'RE IN HERE.



"FOLLOW ME."

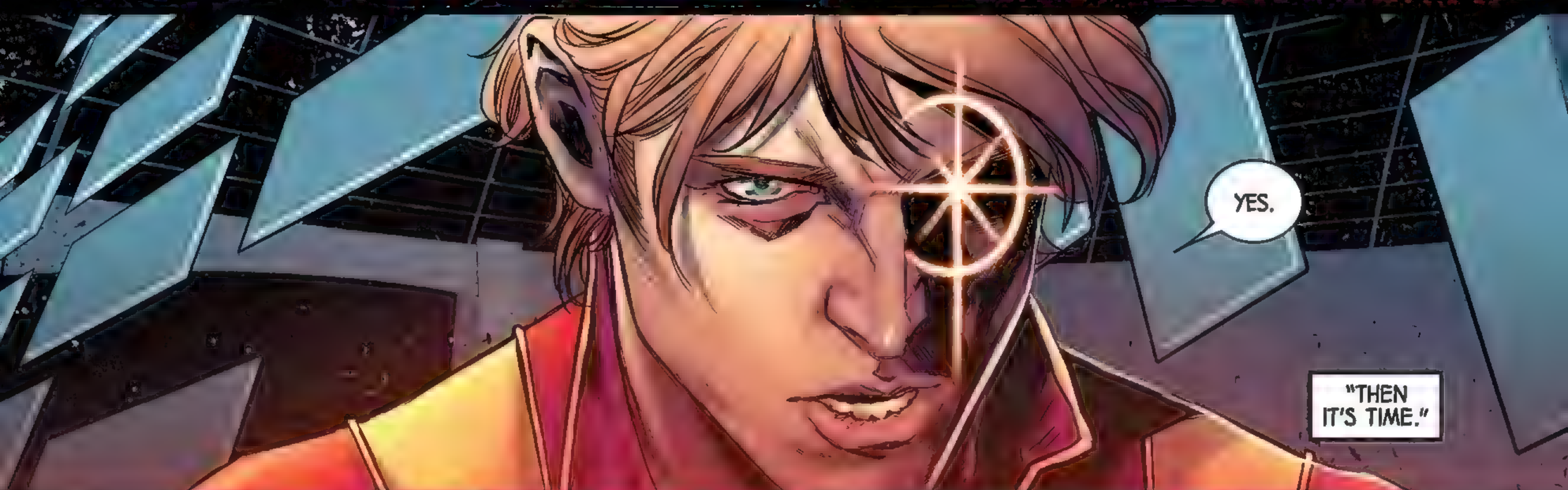
THEY ARE
HERE, KEVIN.
THEY'VE COME
FOR US.

OUR NOW
HAS FINALLY
REACHED OUR
FUTURE.



YOU
THINK I'M
READY?

DO
YOU?



YES.

"THEN
IT'S TIME."

IT WAS THE SPARK THAT
STARTED THE FIRE--A
LEGEND THAT GREW IN
THE TELLING.

AFTER THE
LIGHT.

BEFORE
THE WAR.

AND BEFORE
THE FALL.

THEY WERE THE LAST
DAYS OF THE GREAT
IDEA--AN AVENGERS
WORLD.



WE WERE FINAL
OPTIONS.

WE WERE LAST
RESORTS.

WE WERE WORLD
BUILDERS AND
WORLD BREAKERS.



AND IN THE LAST DAYS
OF LIFE, BEFORE A
SEASON OF DEATH...

WE WERE
AVENGERS.



A MARVEL COMICS EVENT



◆ CAST ◆

THE ILLUMINATI



DOCTOR
STRANGE



NAMOR



BLACK
PANTHER
(T'CHALLA)



MISTER
FANTASTIC



BLACK
BOLT



BEAST



IRON
MAN

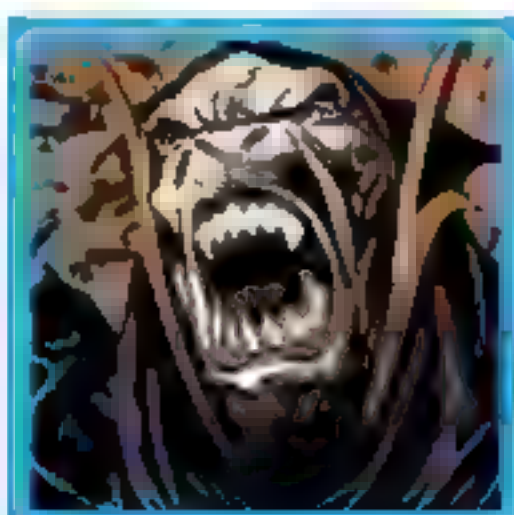
THE BLACK ORDER/CULL OBSIDIAN



THANOS



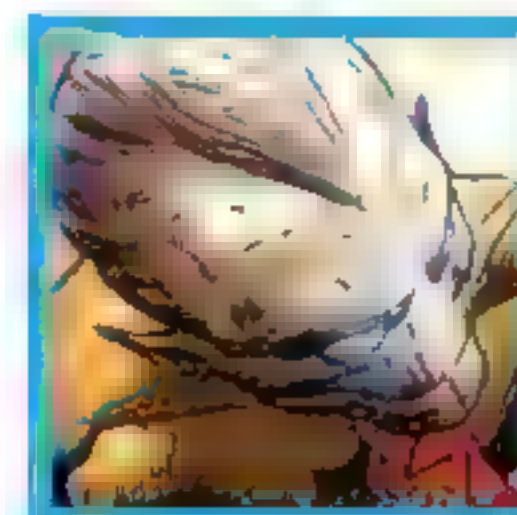
OUTRIDERS



CORVUS
GLAIVE



SUPERGIANT



EBONY
MAW

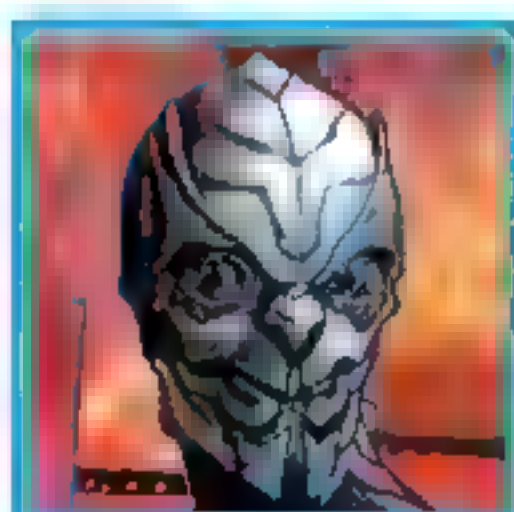


BLACK
DWARF



PROXIMA
MIDNIGHT

THE BUILDERS



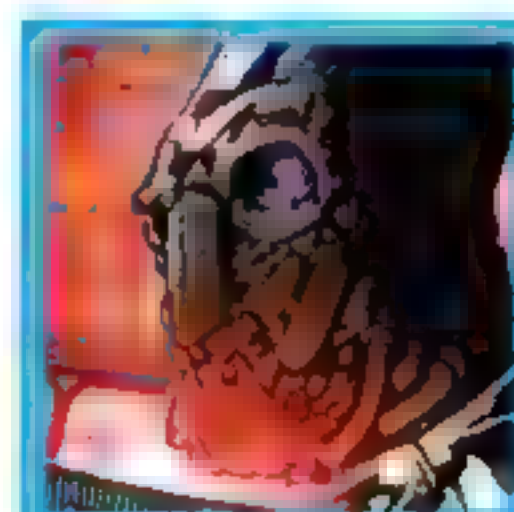
BUILDERS:
CREATORS



BUILDERS:
ENGINEERS



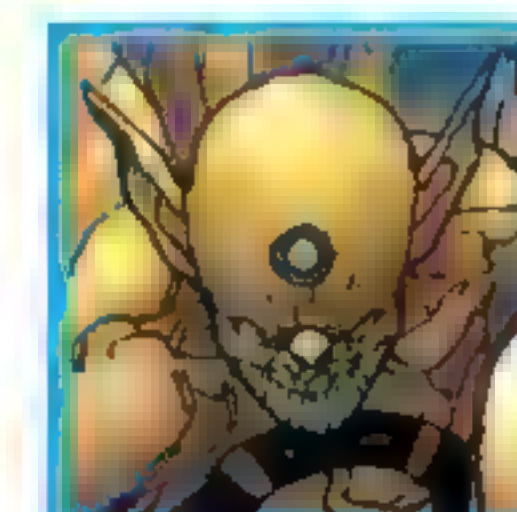
CURATORS



CARETAKERS



ALEPHS



GARDENERS

X-MEN



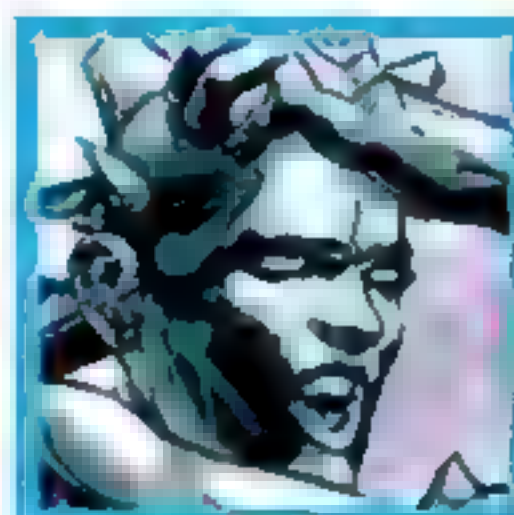
KITTY
PRYDE



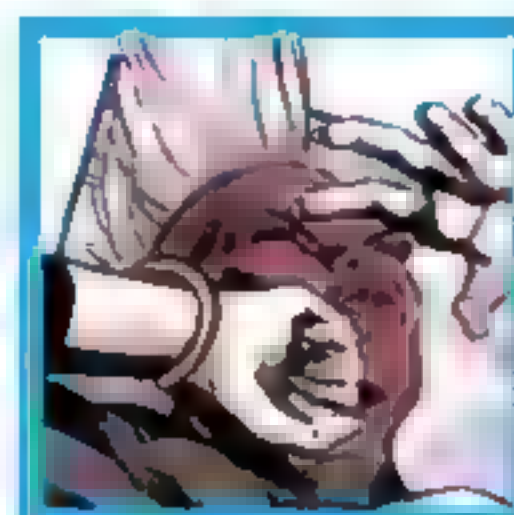
ARMOR



RACHEL
GREY



ICEMAN



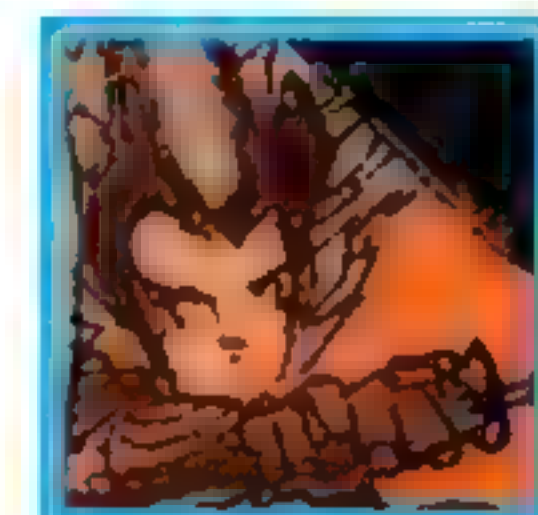
STORM



GAMBIT



LOCKHEED



WARBIRD

SHI'AR IMPERIAL GUARD



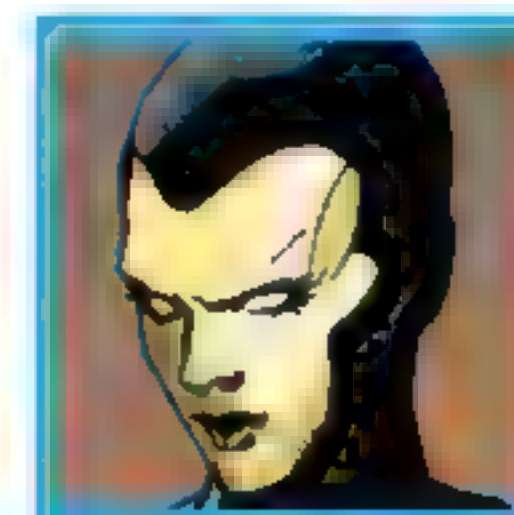
MENTOR



ORACLE



STARBOLT



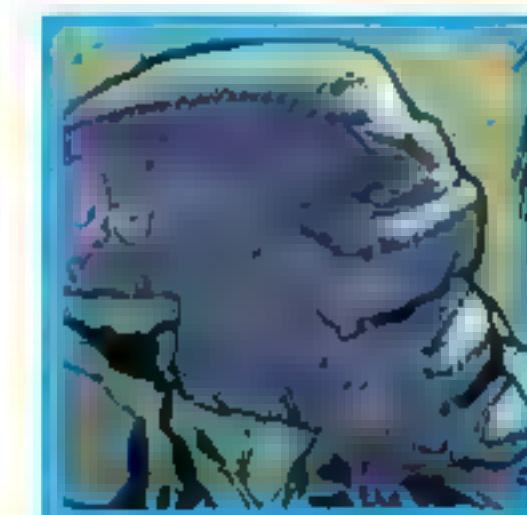
MANTA



PULSAR



WARSTAR



EARTHQUAKE

THE GALACTIC COUNCIL



GLADIATOR



J-SON OF
SPARTAX



KREE
SUPREME
INTELLIGENCE



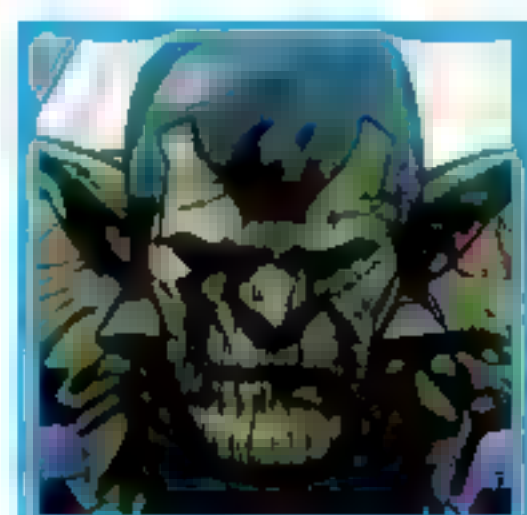
RONAN THE
ACCUSER



ANNIHILUS



QUEEN OF
THE BROOD



KL'RT,
SUPER-
SKRULL

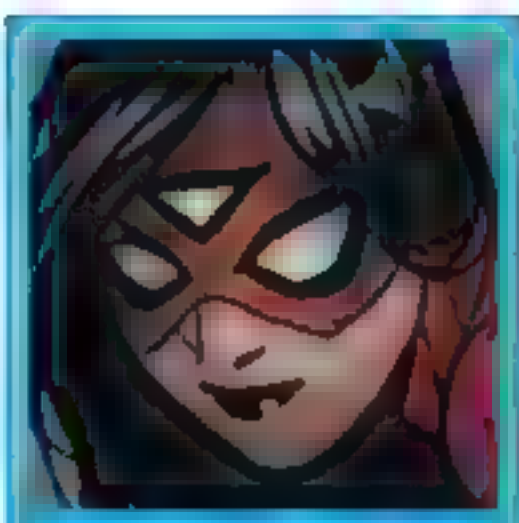
THE AVENGERS



CAPTAIN AMERICA



THOR



SPIDER-WOMAN



MANIFOLD



SHANG-CHI



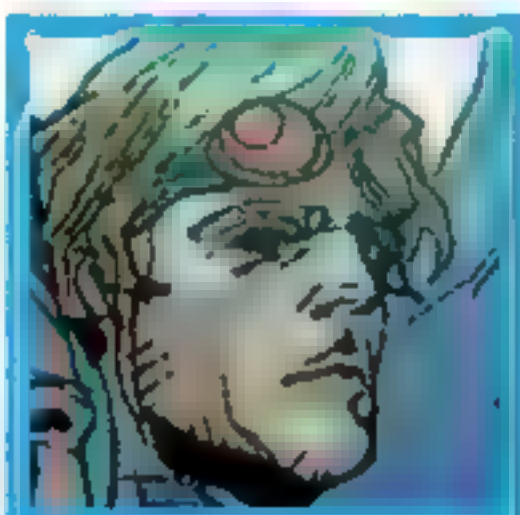
EX NIHILO



CAPTAIN MARVEL



SUNSPOT



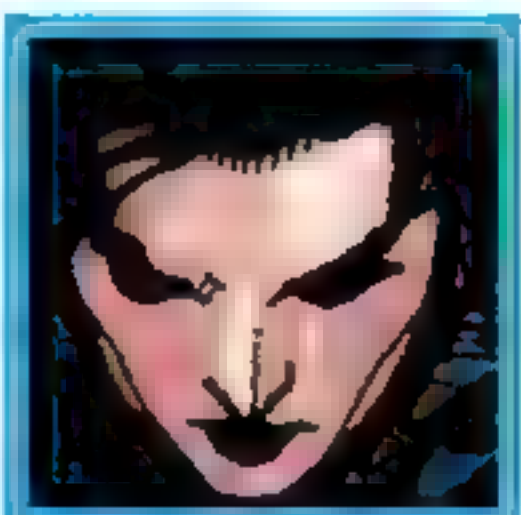
CANNONBALL



STARBRAND



NIGHTMASK



ABYSS



CAPTAIN UNIVERSE



HAWKEYE



WOLVERINE



HULK (BANNER)



BLACK WIDOW



HYPERION



FALCON



SMASHER

INHUMANS



MAXIMUS



MEDUSA



GORGON



KARNAK

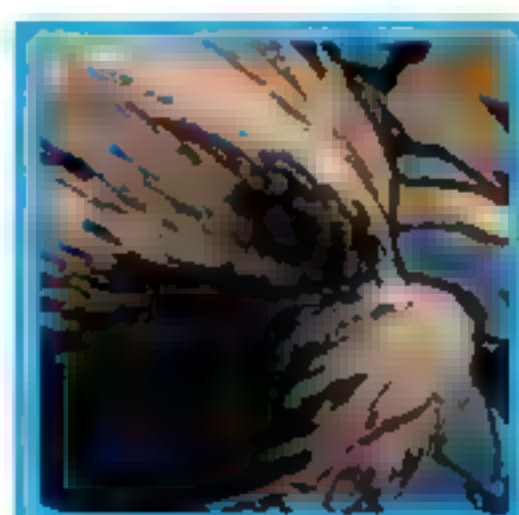


TRITON

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY



STAR-LORD



ROCKET RACCOON



LOCKJAW



CRYSTAL



OOLA UDONTA



ELDRAC

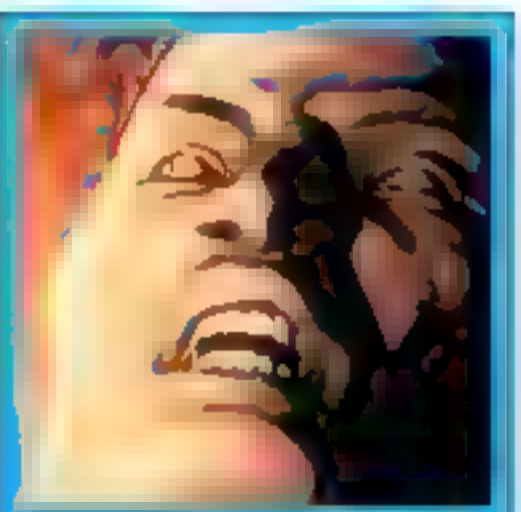
SPACE KNIGHTS



IKON



STARSHINE



WONG



THE HATUT ZARAZE



BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)



THE DORA MILAJE



ANDROMEDA



EX NIHILA



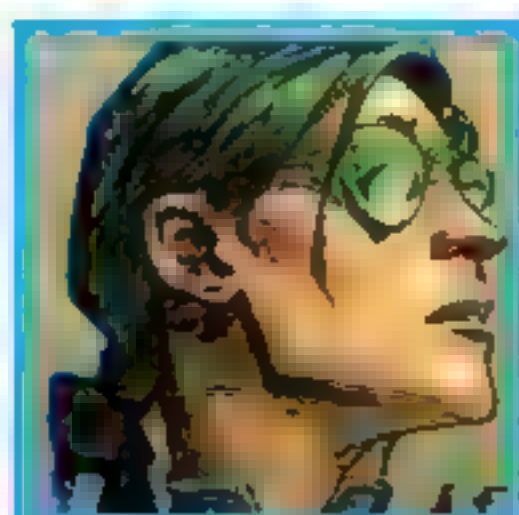
SKRULLS



BLACK SWAN



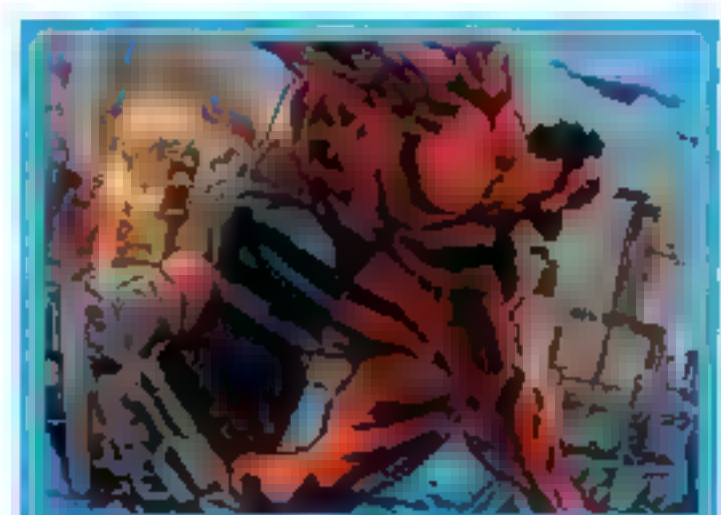
TERRAX



ABIGAIL BRAND



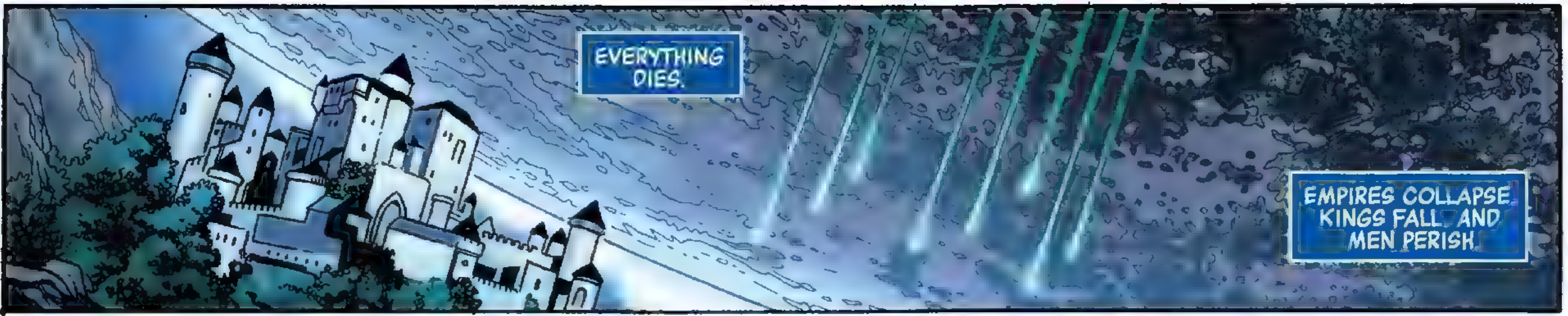
SYDREN



THUNDERBOLTS



MIGHTY AVENGERS

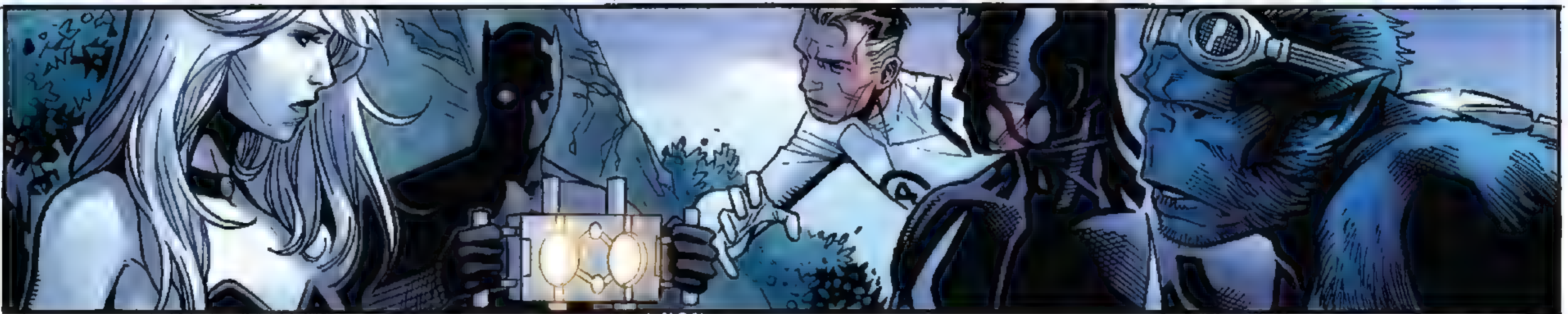


EVERYTHING
DIES.

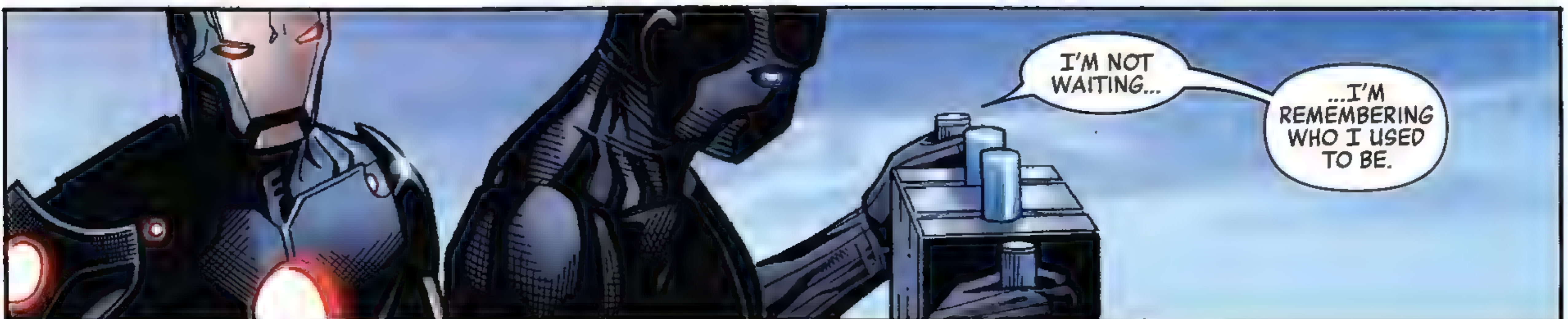
EMPIRES COLLAPSE
KINGS FALL AND
MEN PERISH.



WORLDS
END.



WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?



I'M NOT
WAITING...

...I'M
REMEMBERING
WHO I USED
TO BE.



CLICK!

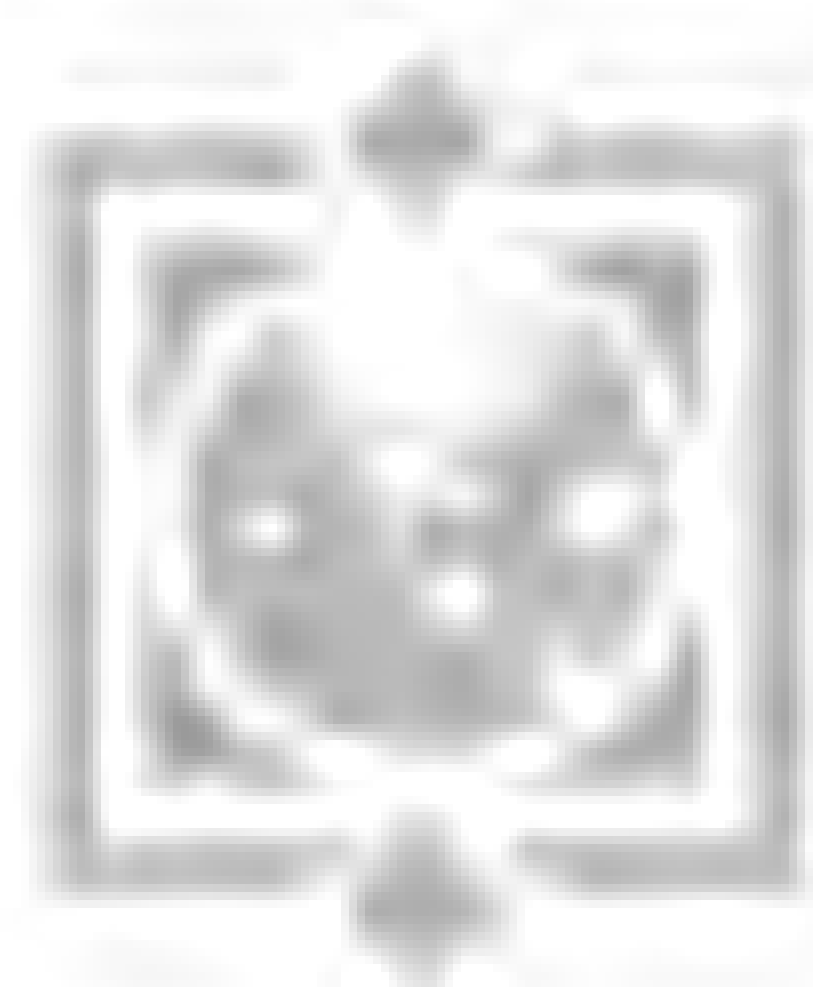
BOOM!



IT WAS AN
AVENGERS
WORLD



IT WAS THE
FIRST OF MANY



THE TRIBUTE



TITAN.

OUTRIDERS ARE NOT BORN. THEY ARE MADE. A GENETICALLY ENGINEERED PARASITE-ASSASSIN SOLELY DEVOTED TO THE WHIMS OF ITS MAKER.

THESE CREATURES HAVE NO NAMES, JUST A BINARY EXISTENCE DEFINED BY WHETHER THEY COMPLETE THE TASK GIVEN TO THEM, OR WHETHER THEY FAIL.

THIS ONE BRINGS A WORD.

SUCCESS.

WHERE?

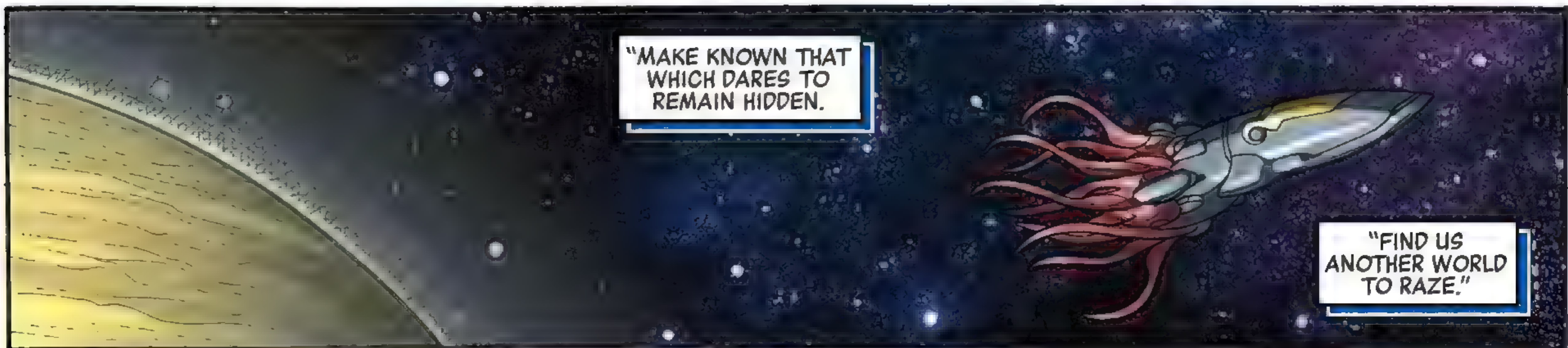
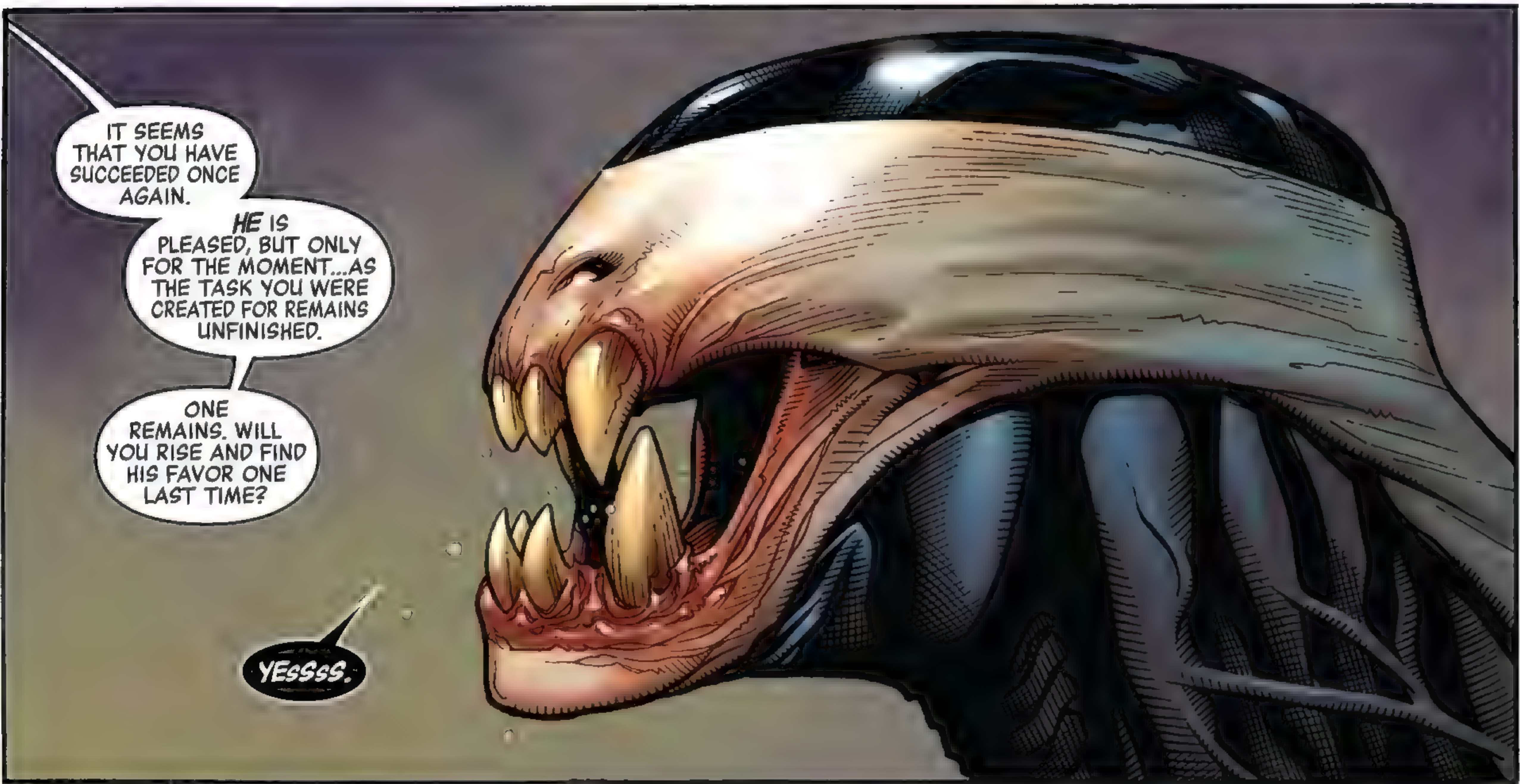
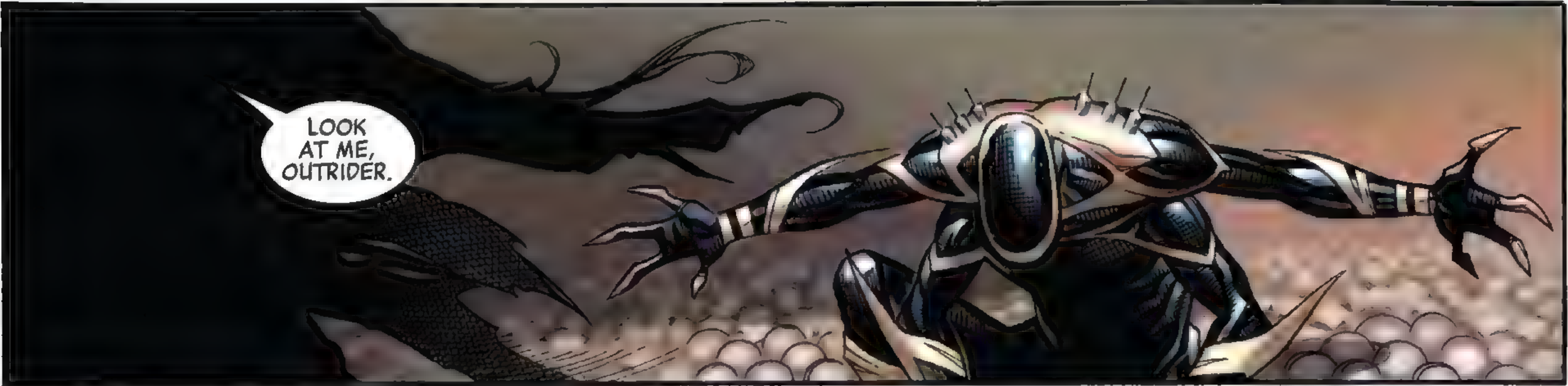
AHL-AGULLO.

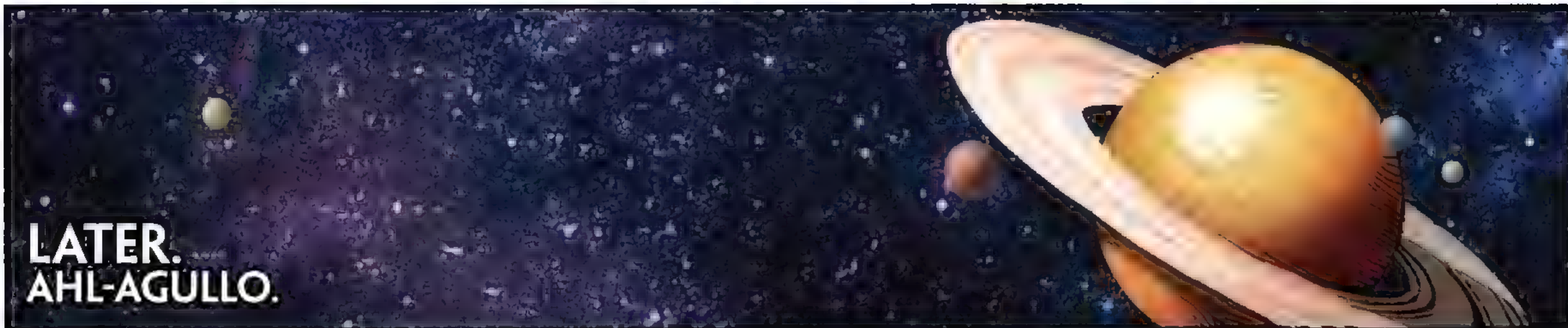
IN THE SHADOW OF THE SPIRAL ABYSS.

AHL-AGULLO.

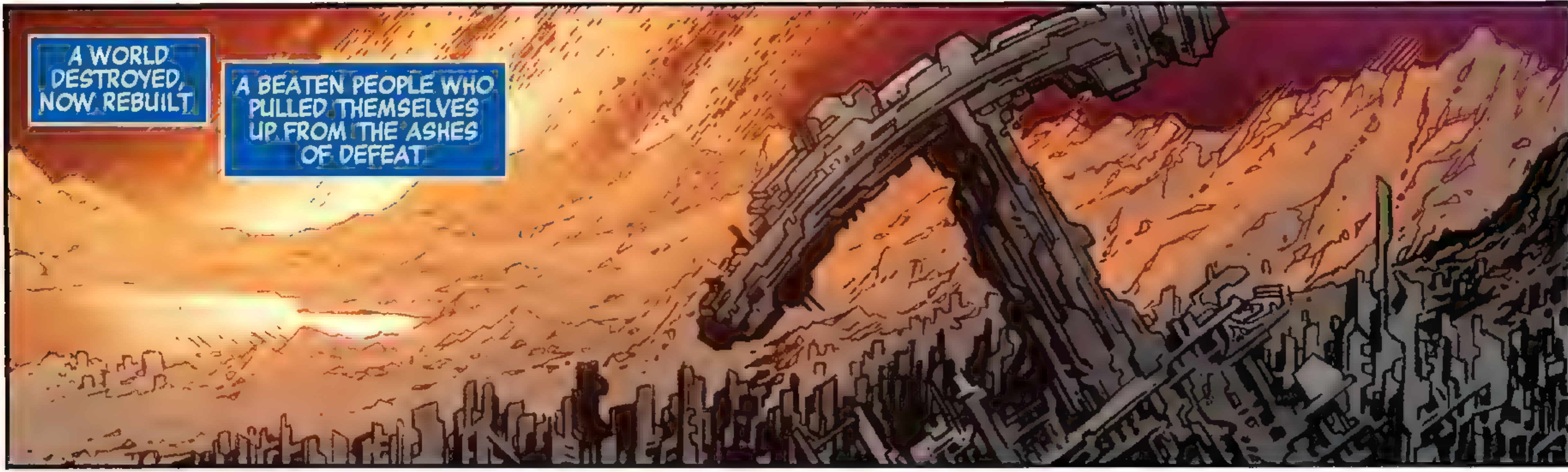
THAT WAS TWO FULL CYCLES AGO, MASTER.

THE GAUNTLET OF THE TRIBUTE?





LATER.
AHL-AGULLO.



A WORLD
DESTROYED,
NOW REBUILT

A BEATEN PEOPLE WHO
PULLED THEMSELVES
UP FROM THE ASHES
OF DEFEAT



WORD SPREADS
QUICKLY WHEN
THEIR CONQUERORS
RETURN

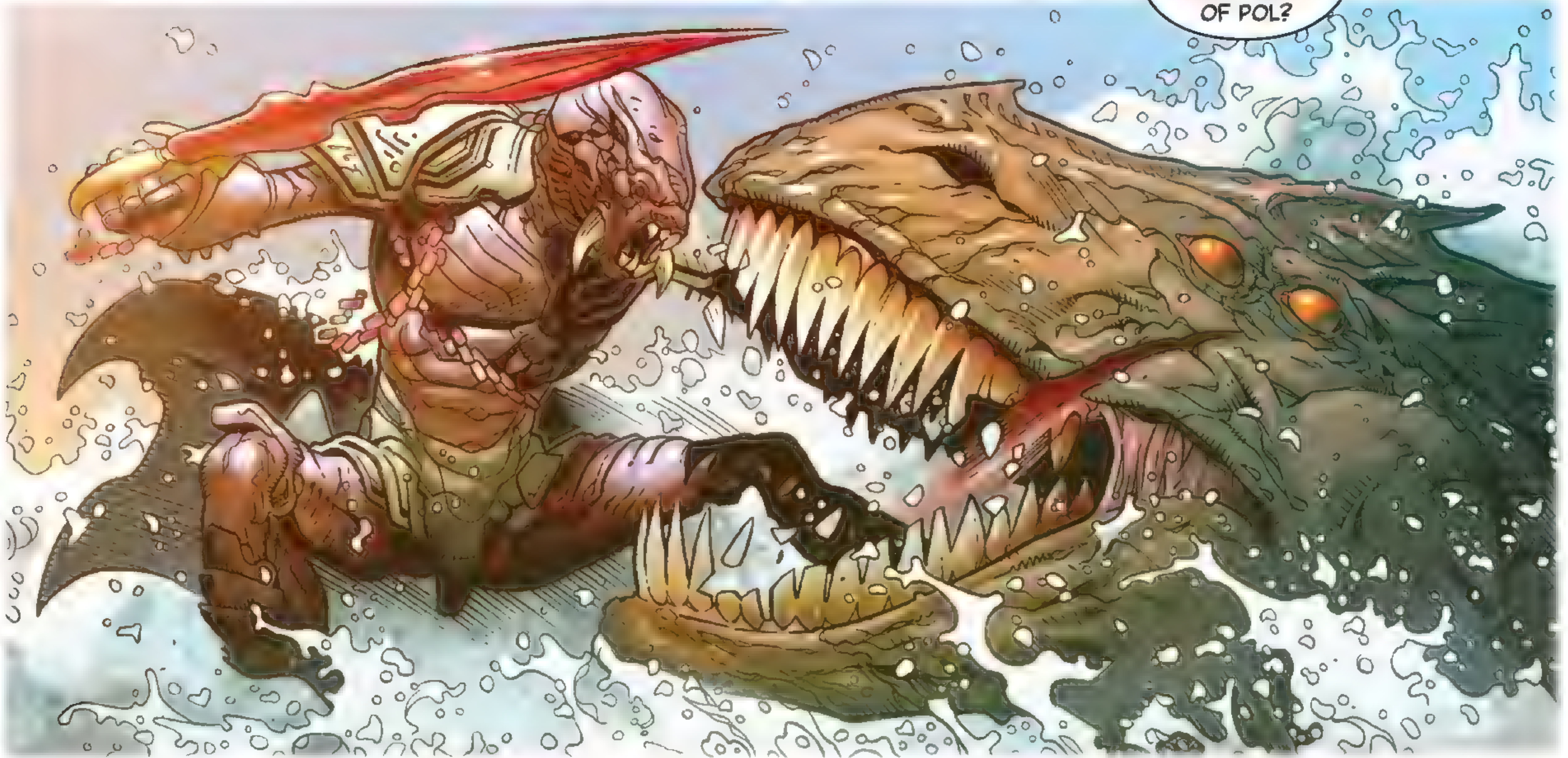
WORD SPREADS
OF CORVUS
GLAIVE



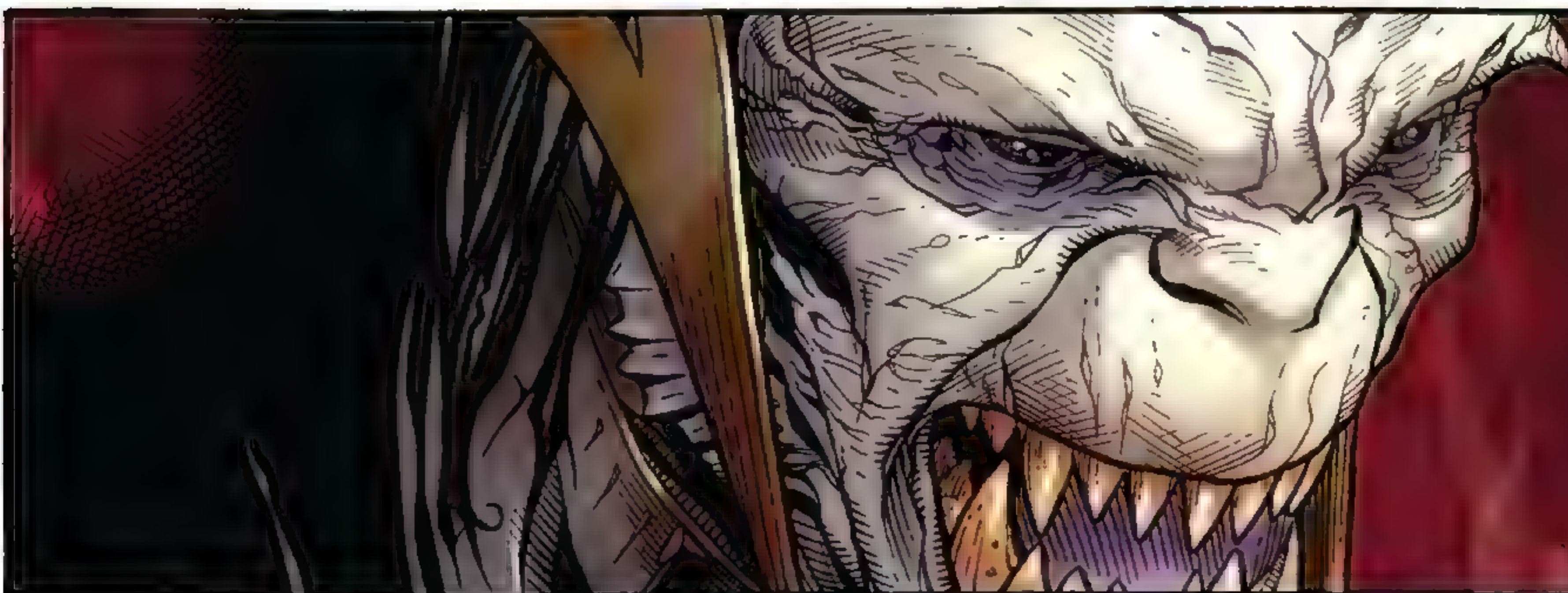
I LOOK
AROUND AND
WONDER...

WHERE
IS AUGOLLUX
THE BRAVE?

WHERE IS
AUGOLLUX THE
UNBEATEN, WHO
DEFEATED THE
GREAT BEAST
OF POL?



WHERE IS
AUGOLLUX THE
PEACEMAKER, WHO
ENDED THE WATER
WARS AND UNIFIED
YOUR PEOPLE?



WHERE IS
YOUR CHAMPION,
GOOD KING?

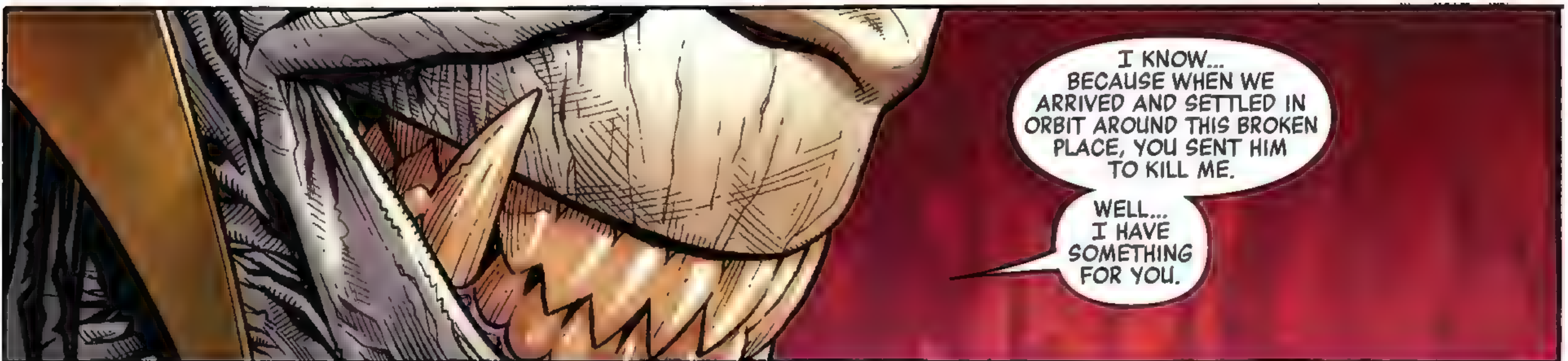
WHERE
IS YOUR
SON?



WUH--
WE DO NOT
KNOW.



I
KNOW.



I KNOW...
BECAUSE WHEN WE
ARRIVED AND SETTLED IN
ORBIT AROUND THIS BROKEN
PLACE, YOU SENT HIM
TO KILL ME.

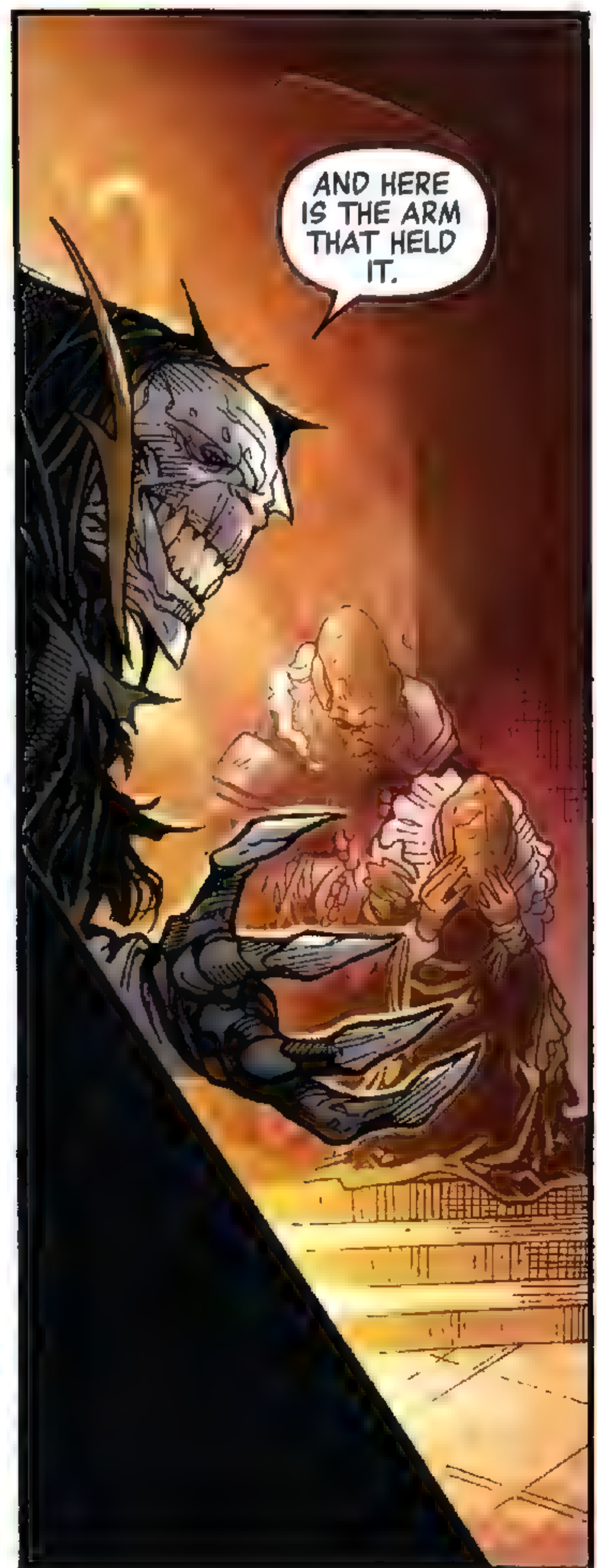
WELL...
I HAVE
SOMETHING
FOR YOU.



HERE IS
AHL-QUITO, THE
WORLDCLEAVER,
YOUR CHAMPION'S
SWORD...



NO.



AND HERE
IS THE ARM
THAT HELD
IT.



AHL-GARA!
MARSHAL THE GUARDS!
PREPARE FOR--

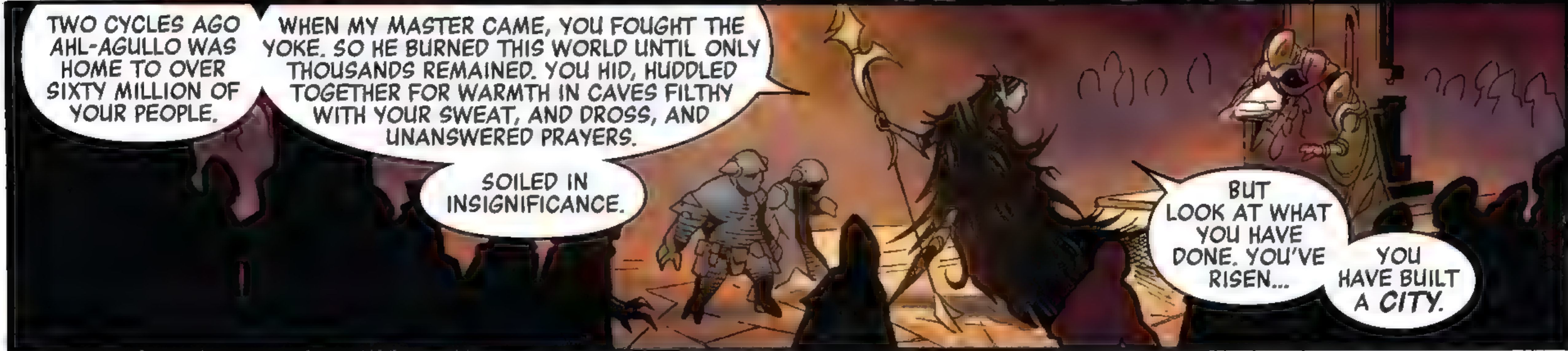


I!
THINK!
NOT!



GOOD KING, PLEASE...
DO NOT POSTURE.
WE HAVE DONE THIS...ALL BEFORE.

THOOM!



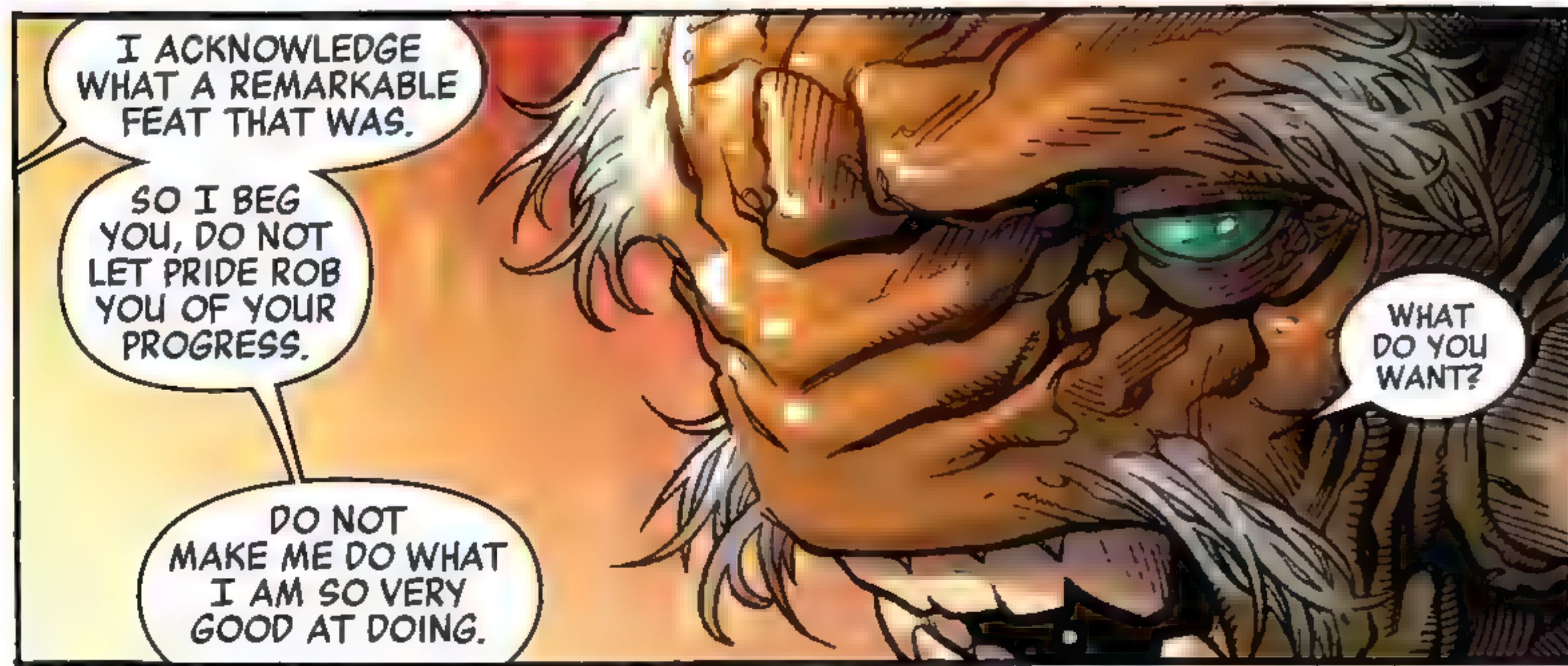
TWO CYCLES AGO
AHL-AGULLO WAS
HOME TO OVER
SIXTY MILLION OF
YOUR PEOPLE.

WHEN MY MASTER CAME, YOU FOUGHT THE
YOKE. SO HE BURNED THIS WORLD UNTIL ONLY
THOUSANDS REMAINED. YOU HID, HUDDLED
TOGETHER FOR WARMTH IN CAVES FILTHY
WITH YOUR SWEAT, AND DROSS, AND
UNANSWERED PRAYERS.

SOILED IN
INSIGNIFICANCE.

BUT
LOOK AT WHAT
YOU HAVE
DONE. YOU'VE
RISEN...

YOU
HAVE BUILT
A CITY.

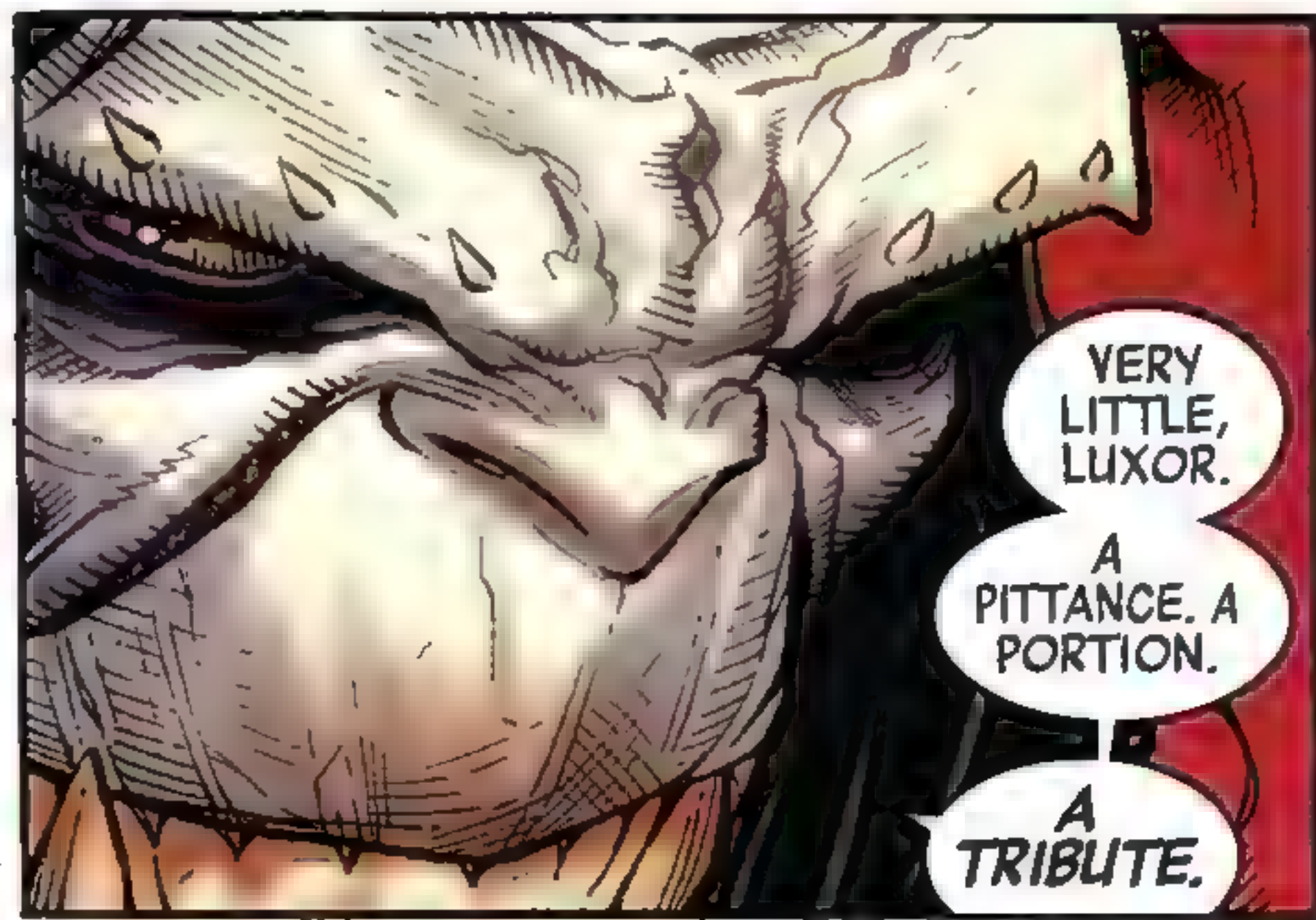


I ACKNOWLEDGE
WHAT A REMARKABLE
FEAT THAT WAS.

SO I BEG
YOU, DO NOT
LET PRIDE ROB
YOU OF YOUR
PROGRESS.

DO NOT
MAKE ME DO WHAT
I AM SO VERY
GOOD AT DOING.

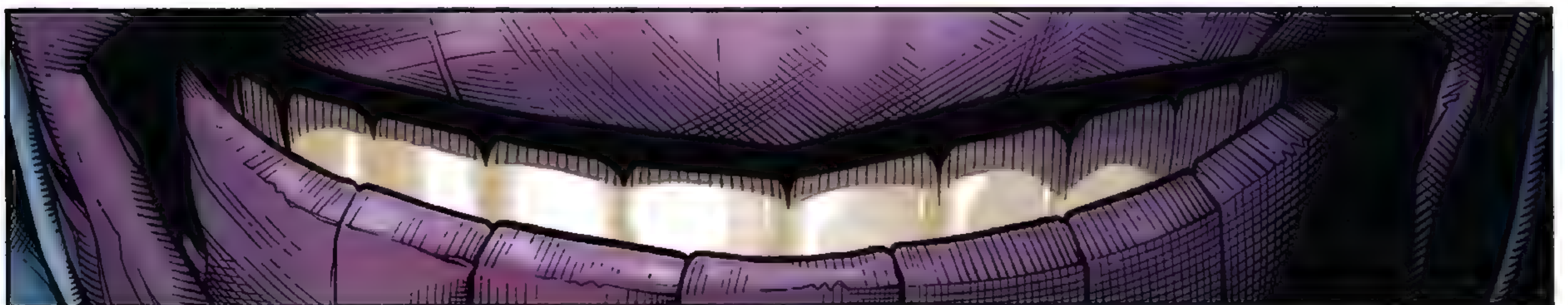
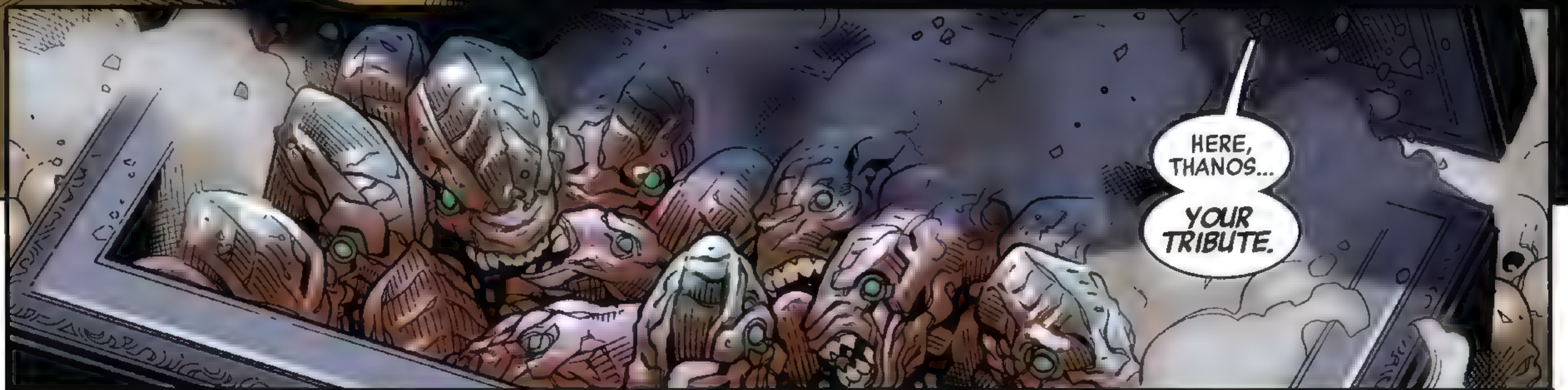
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?



VERY
LITTLE,
LUXOR.
A
PITTANCE. A
PORTION.
A
TRIBUTE.

TITAN.



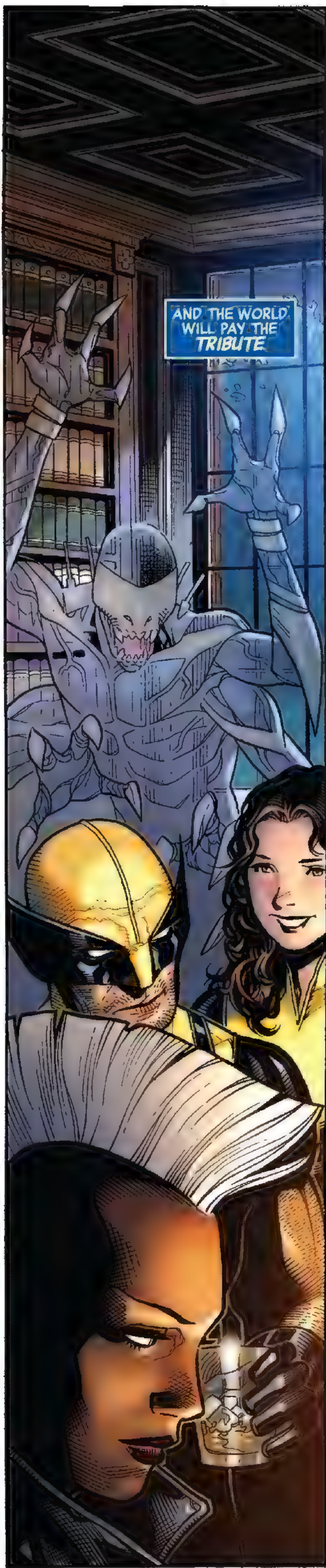
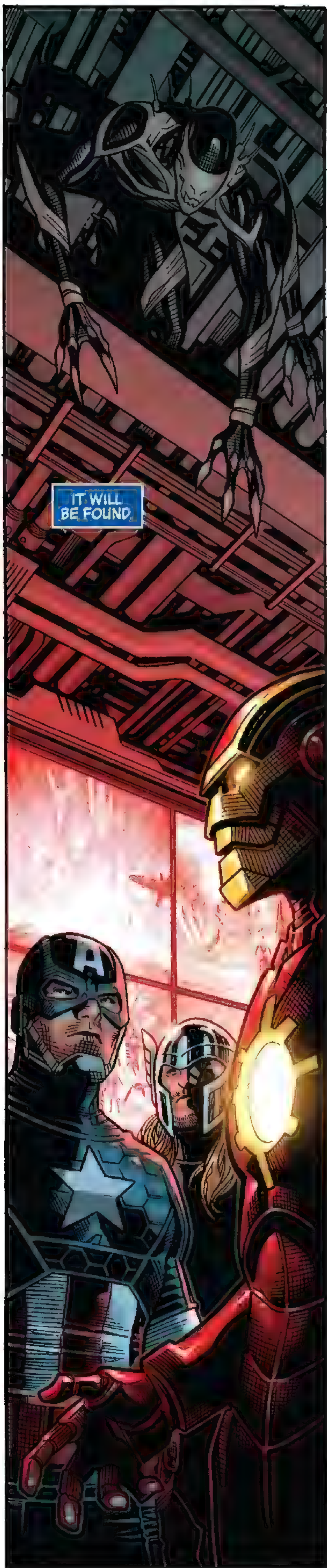


EARTH.

ONE
REMAINS.

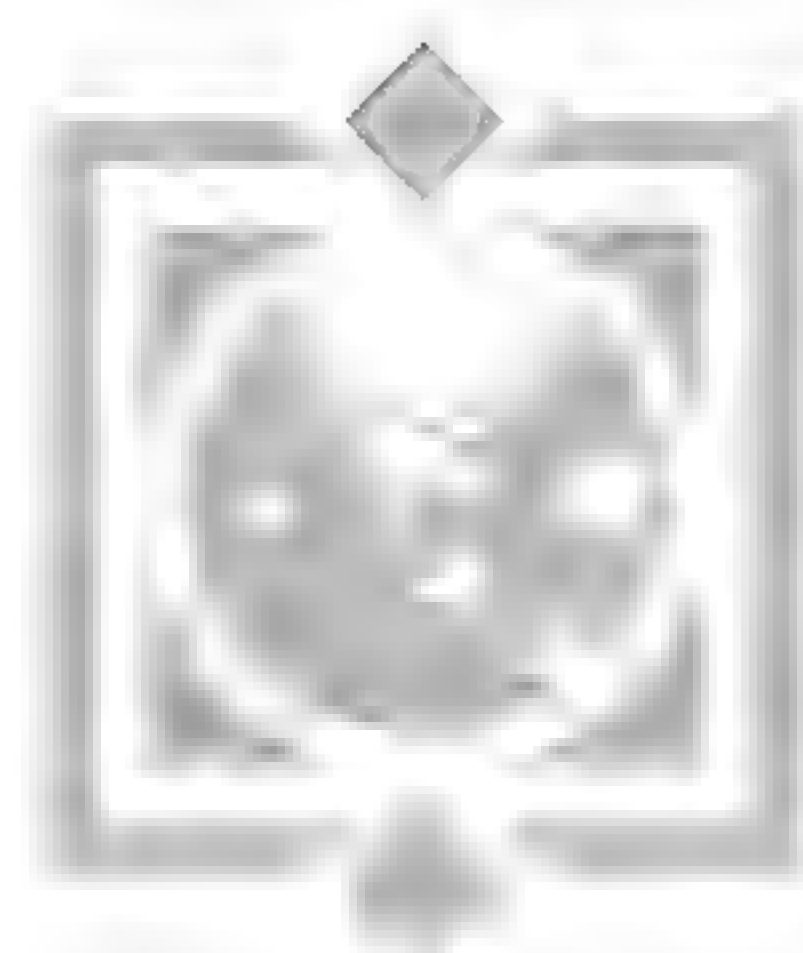
AND THE
OUTRIDER HUNTS
FOR WHAT IS
HIDDEN.

WHAT STROKE LOVER BALLY BARRY BARRY BARRY
BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY
BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY BARRY



MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS:

INFINITY



CONSTRUCTING APOCALYPSE



SIXTY THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.
THE GOLDEN GALAXY.

THE PLANET GALADOR.

THE WINGS, 002 AND
004: WRAPPING THE
WORLD.

THE POINT:
OBSTRUCTED. IT
SPLINTERS.

COMPENSATING.
REDIRECTING
ALEPHS.

UNFORESEEN
COMPLICATIONS,
BUILDERS...THIS
WORLD RESISTS.

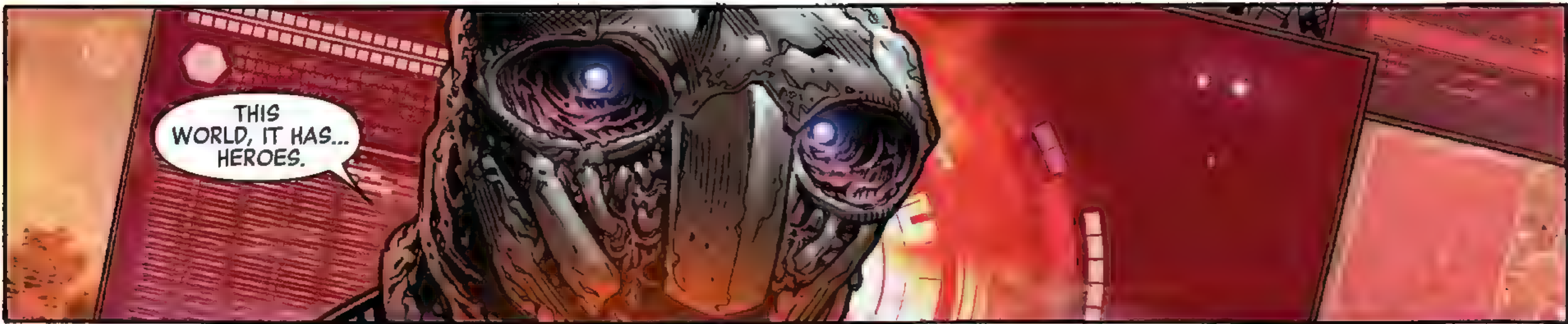
THEY ALL
RESIST.

THE BUILDERS ARE BEYOND ANCIENT, THE OLDEST CIVILIZATION
IN THE UNIVERSE. SPECIES SHAPERS AND SYSTEM BUILDERS.
CREATORS AND ENGINEERS.

FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS THEY HAVE CULTIVATED
THIS UNIVERSE, SEEDING CIVILIZATIONS AND
DIRECTING EVOLUTION. THEY ARE UNCONQUERED,
SEEMINGLY ETERNAL.

AS THEY SHOULD,
CREATOR. WHAT
GOOD IS A RACE THAT
WOULD BE ANY
OTHER WAY?

CLARIFY,
CARETAKER.
PLEASE DEFINE THE
OBSTACLE.





THE KNIGHTS OF GALADOR WERE ONCE MEN, BUT NO MORE. SACRIFICING THEMSELVES FOR A GREATER GOOD, THEY ARE THE CHAMPION PROTECTORS OF THEIR WORLD.

THEIR FRAGILE BODIES REPLACED BY CYBERNETIC WAR SYSTEMS, THE KNIGHTS' ONLY PURPOSE IS THE DEFENSE OF THEIR WORLD.

THE INVADING FLEET'S COMMAND VESSEL IS STATIONARY. WE'VE FINALLY GOT THEIR ATTENTION.

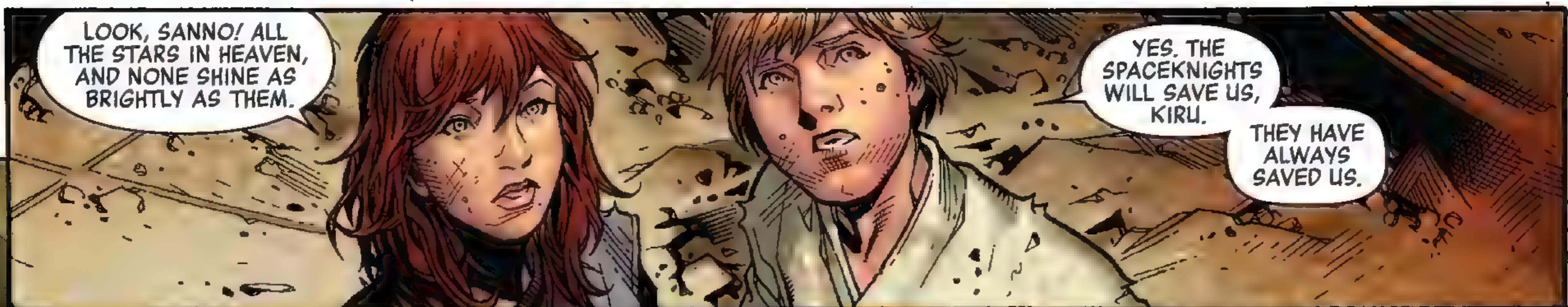
AS WE SHOULD. EMERGENCY UPGRADES FROM THE PRIME DIRECTORATE HAVE GIVEN EACH OF US THE FIREPOWER OF AN ENTIRE CAVALRY.

WE'LL BURN OUT, BUT GALADOR WILL STAND.

RISE, CITIZEN. TAKE HEART.

IT WILL BE MORNING SOON, AND THE NIGHT, NOTHING TO FEAR.

IT BELONGS TO US NOW.



LOOK, SANNO! ALL THE STARS IN HEAVEN, AND NONE SHINE AS BRIGHTLY AS THEM.

YES. THE SPACEKNIGHTS WILL SAVE US, KIRU.

THEY HAVE ALWAYS SAVED US.



THIS TIME, THEY WILL NOT.



EVERYTHING DIES.

EVEN THE THINGS YOU THINK CANNOT.

WHO ARE--

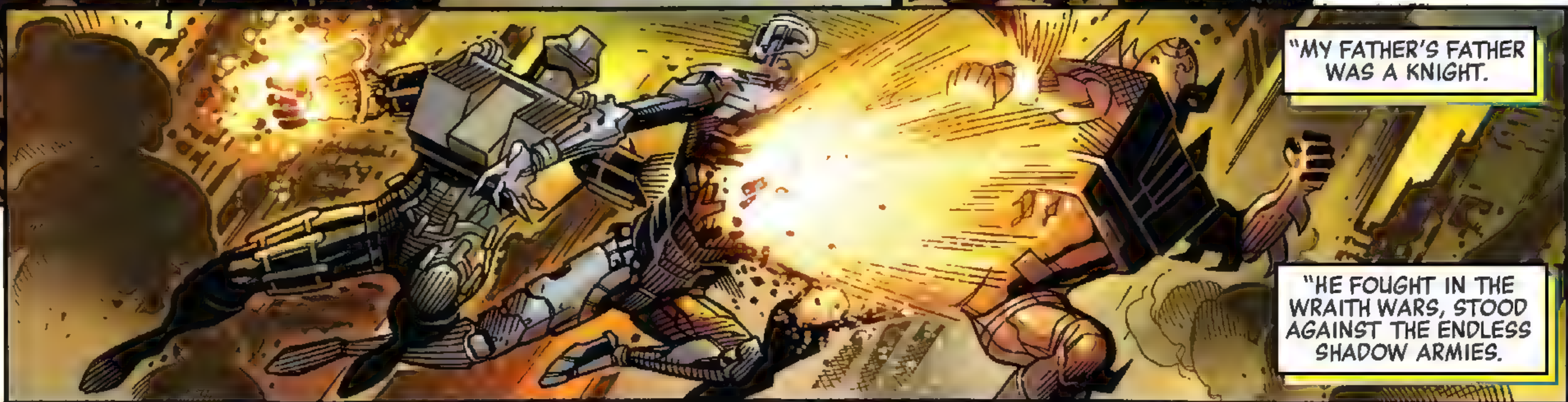
I AM THE UNIVERSE.

HERE AT THE START, TO SEE HOW THE END BEGINS.



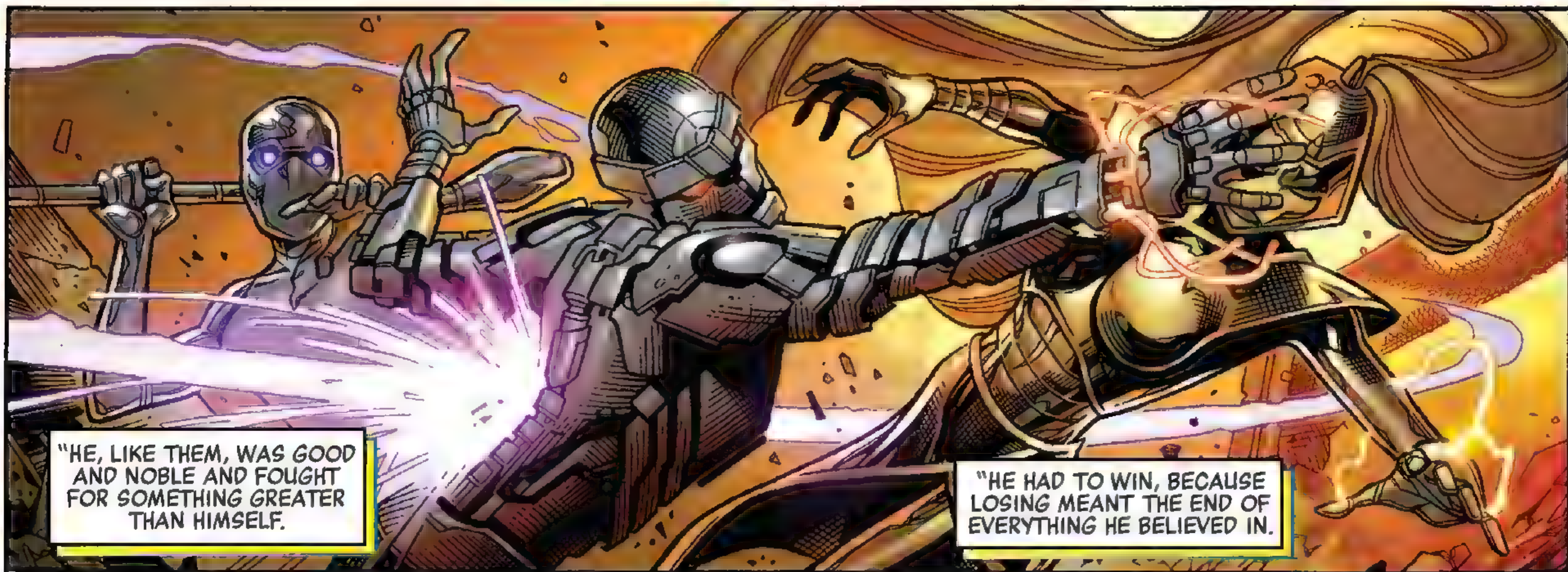
WELL...YOU'RE WRONG.

THIS IS NOT THE END.



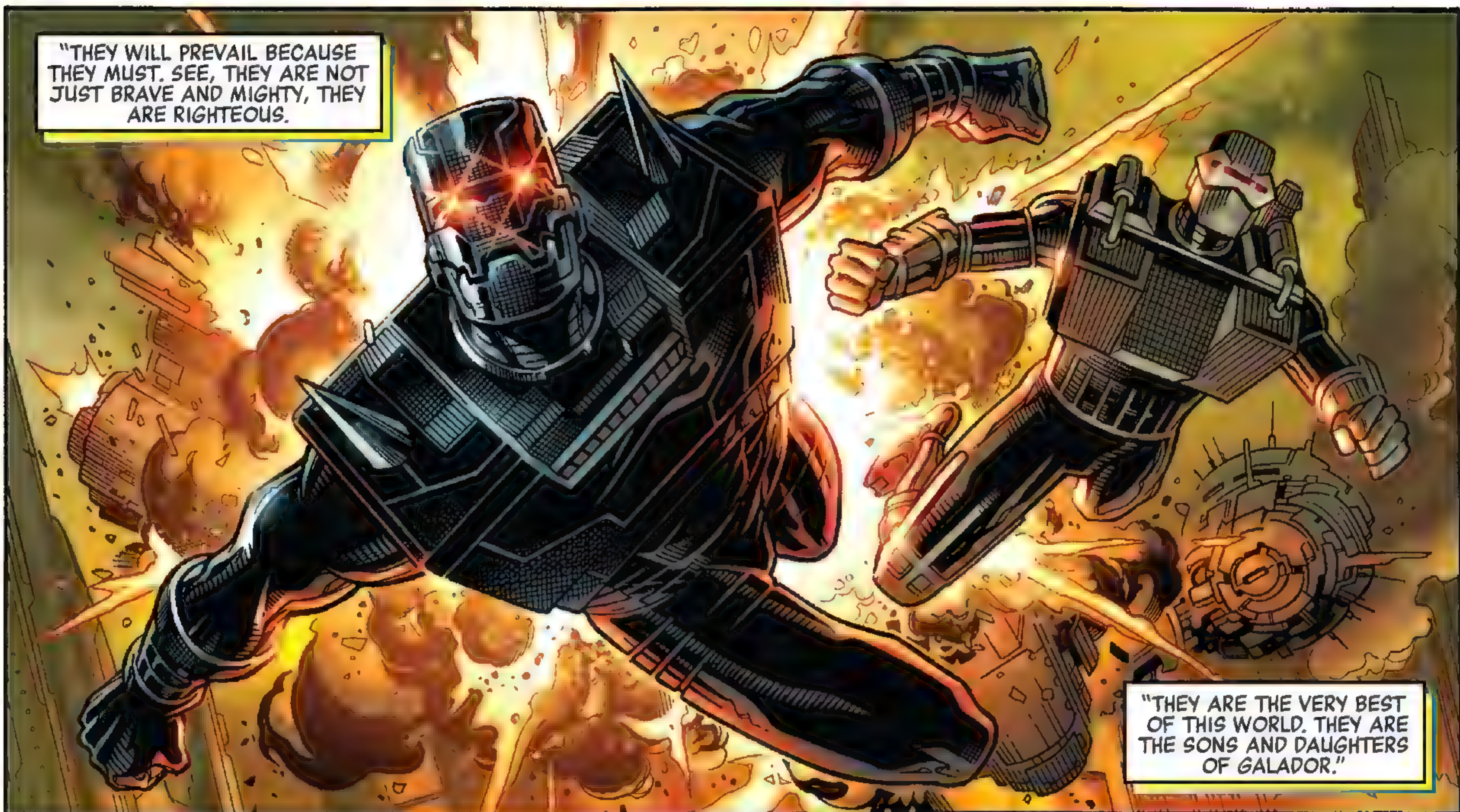
"MY FATHER'S FATHER WAS A KNIGHT.

"HE FOUGHT IN THE WRAITH WARS, STOOD AGAINST THE ENDLESS SHADOW ARMIES.



"HE, LIKE THEM, WAS GOOD AND NOBLE AND FOUGHT FOR SOMETHING GREATER THAN HIMSELF."

"HE HAD TO WIN, BECAUSE LOSING MEANT THE END OF EVERYTHING HE BELIEVED IN."



"THEY WILL PREVAIL BECAUSE THEY MUST. SEE, THEY ARE NOT JUST BRAVE AND MIGHTY, THEY ARE RIGHTEOUS."

"THEY ARE THE VERY BEST OF THIS WORLD. THEY ARE THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF GALADOR."



IT WON'T MATTER.

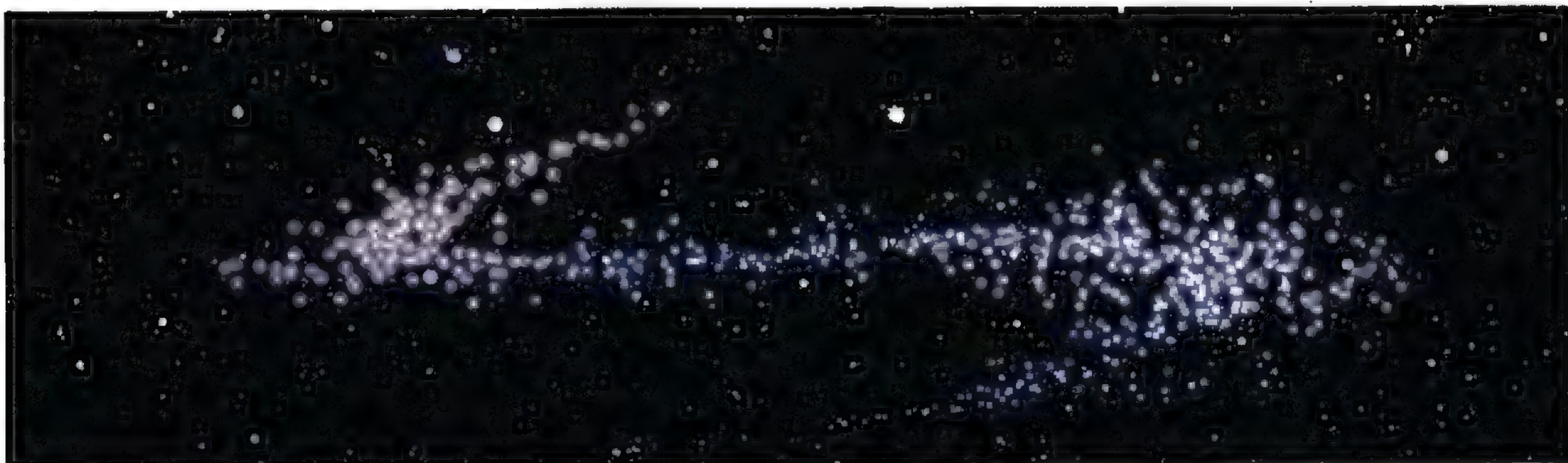
WHY...WHY DO YOU SEEM SO SURE?

BECAUSE...



...NOW MY CHILDREN ARE HERE.







ORBITAL



THE PEAK.

SENTIENT WORLD OBSERVATION
AND RESPONSE DEPARTMENT.

ABOVE EARTH.

STRIKE TEAM
JUST ARRIVED
ON SITE, AGENT
BRAND...

...I'VE ALSO GOT THE S.H.I.E.L.D.
CONTAINMENT TEAM ONLINE. COMM
ONE, WHEN YOU'RE READY.

AND WE'RE SURE
THIS IS A BUG HUNT?
BECAUSE IF IT'S
NOT...

INTEL FROM THE OTHER
INTERCEPTED REFUGEES IS
SOLID, AND THEY'VE BEEN
STATIONARY LONG ENOUGH
TO YIELD BYPRODUCT.
BIOLOGICAL READINGS
ARE CONCLUSIVE.

ALL RIGHT.
GREAT.

COMM ONE
THEN.

PALERMO.

CAPTAIN KOENIG,
THIS IS S.W.O.R.D.
COMMAND...

CHANGE OF DUTY.
I NEED YOU AND
YOUR TEAM TO
THROTTLE DOWN.

WE'RE THERE,
AGENT. READINGS
ARE SOLID AND
WE'RE READY TO
BREACH.

WHY ARE
WE PULLING
BACK?

I CALLED IN
THE EXPERTS.



HAWKEYE.
THE CIVILIANS.

PORTA LA TUA
FAMIGLIA DENTRO E
CHIUDERE LA
PORTA.

PER
FAVORE,
ANDATE
ORA.



WHAT'S
THE FORECAST,
SOLDIER?

CLEAR, CAPTAIN...
NOT A CLOUD IN
SIGHT.

SIX TO EIGHT
TARGETS INSIDE.
IS IT JUST THE
TWO OF YOU?

OH, WE'LL
DO...

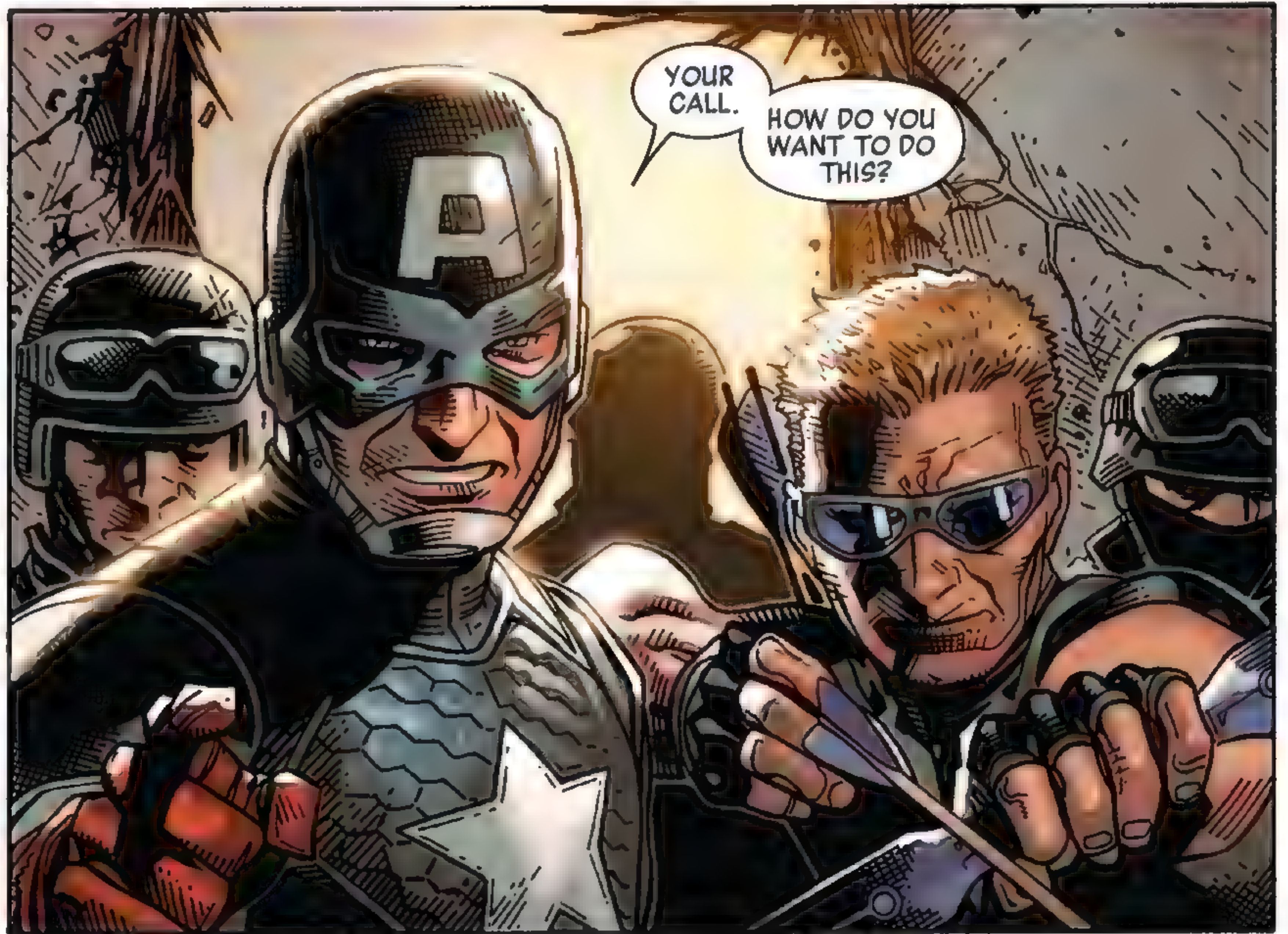
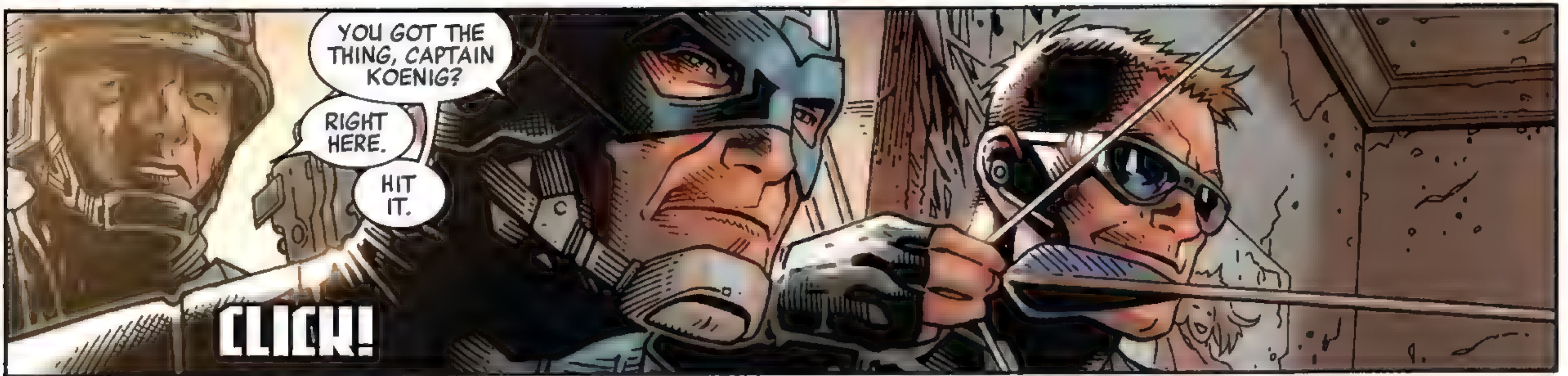


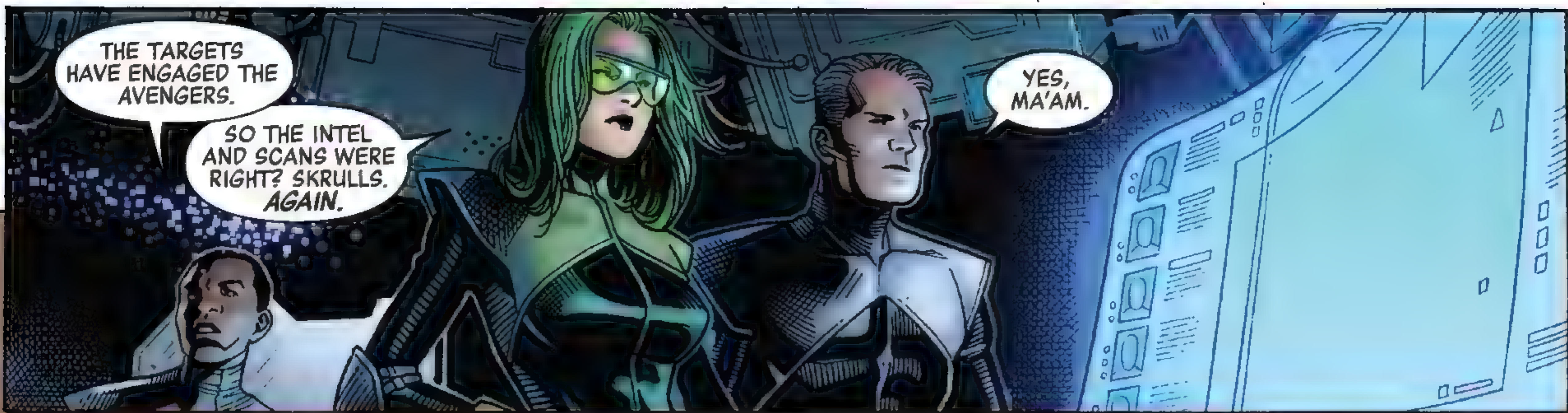
"...BUT WE HAVE
BACKUP IF WE
NEED IT.



"SO, THEN...
THE DOOR?"

SMASHH!





THE TARGETS
HAVE ENGAGED THE
AVENGERS.

SO THE INTEL
AND SCANS WERE
RIGHT? SKRULLS.
AGAIN.

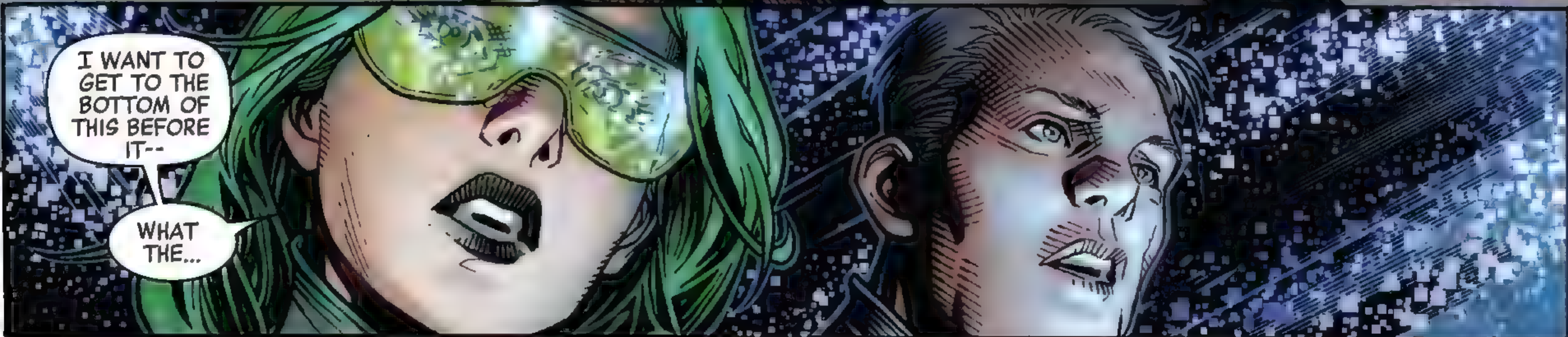
YES,
MA'AM.



"INCLUDING THE GROUPS
WE'VE INTERCEPTED
BEFORE THEY HIT ATMO,
THIS IS THE SEVENTH
INCIDENT WE'VE HAD IN
THE LAST TWO WEEKS."

"START FISHING ON
THE OPEN INTERSTELLAR
CHANNELS.

"OH, PUT AN HONEST
EFFORT INTO HACKING
THE SHI'AR AND KREE
MILITARY FEEDS AS WELL."

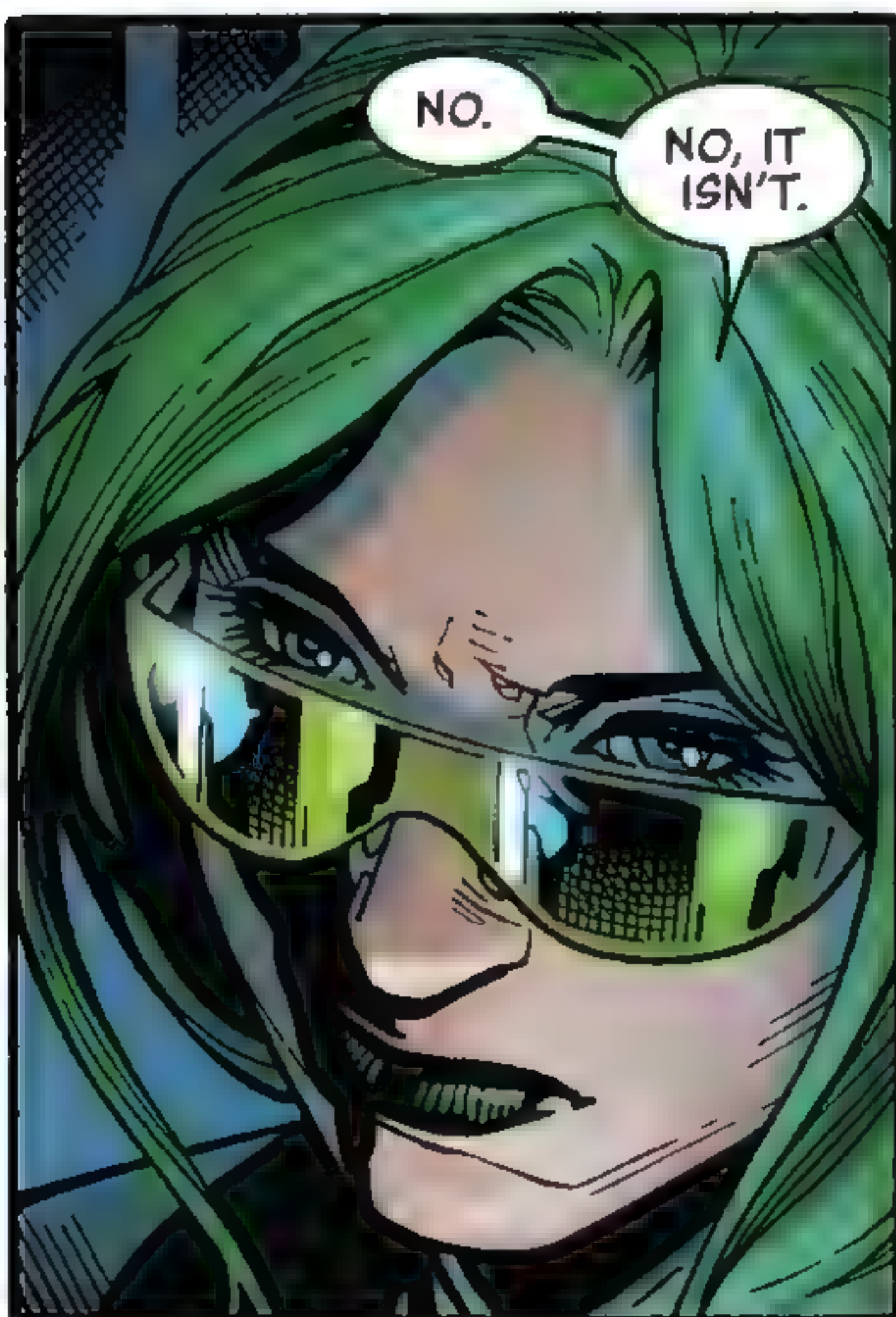
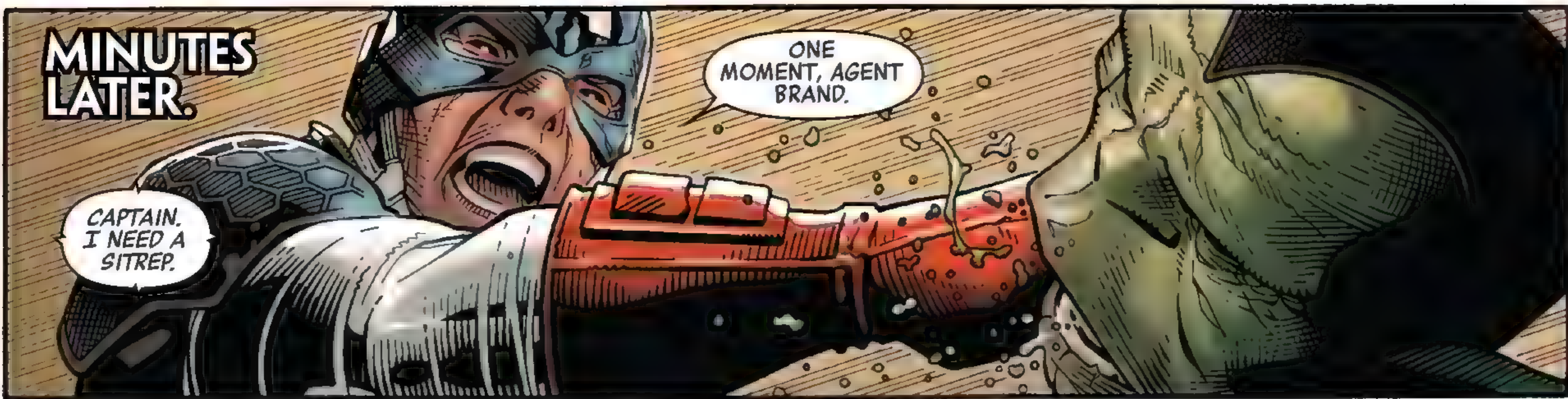


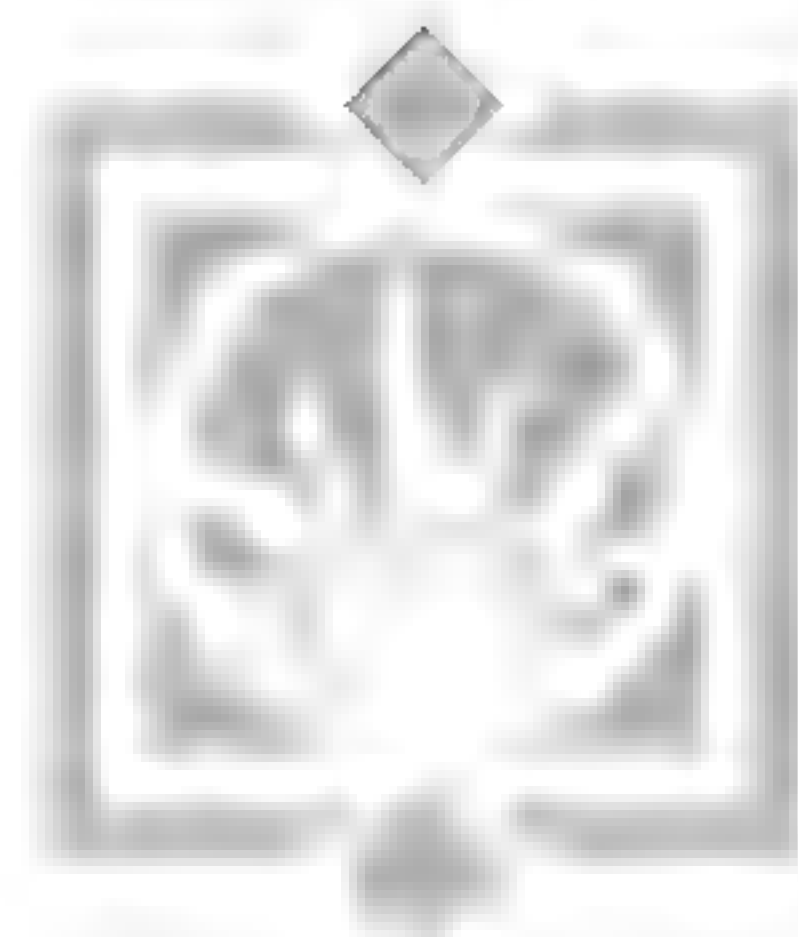
I WANT TO
GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF
THIS BEFORE
IT--

WHAT
THE...



FWASSHHH!





WHAT WAS HIDDEN,
NOW UNCOVERED



ATTILAN.
HOME OF THE INHUMANS.
FLOATING ABOVE
MANHATTAN.

DID
YOU HEAR,
KIRREN?

THEY'RE SAYING THAT BLACK
BOLT AND HIS WIVES ARE
SLEEPING IN DIFFERENT
CHAMBERS.

THE KING AND HIS
QUEENS FIGHTING. PAH/
DISHARMONY AND
CONFUSION ARE BAD
SIGNS, I SAY.

NO.

TOLOS...DO YOU
EVER WONDER WHY
YOU ALWAYS GET
THE WORST SHIFT
ON GUARD DUTY?

STOP
TALKING
AND THINK
ABOUT IT.

LIKE ALL OF THANOS'
CREATURES, OUTRIDERS
ARE KILLERS AND
CUTTHROATS.

I AM CONCERNED,
GORGON. THIS BEHAVIOR
DIVIDES THE HOUSE. I
SEE WEAKNESS
EVERYWHERE.

HAS
MEDUSA SAID
ANYTHING?

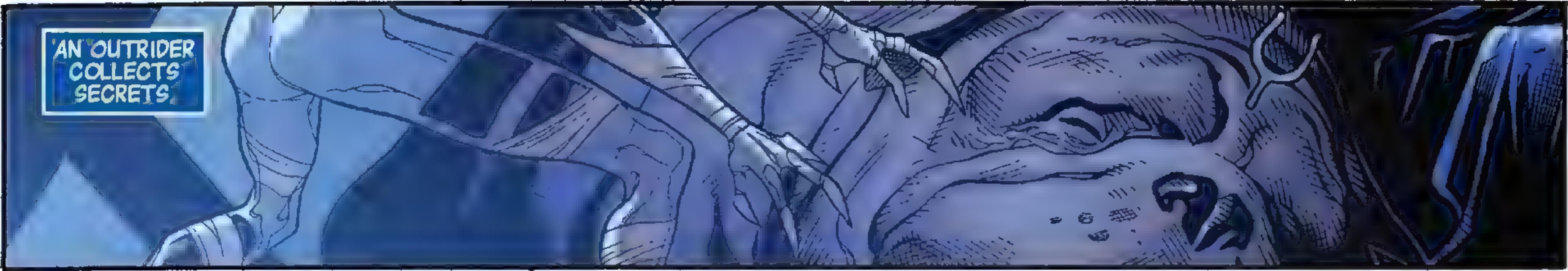
SHE
WON'T SPEAK
OF IT.

ILL WINDS,
COUSIN KARNAK...
AND NOTHING BUT.

ABLE TO PHASE THROUGH
WALLS, BREAK GRAVITY
AND BECOME SHADOW,
AN 'OUTRIDER' MAKES A
FORMIDABLE ASSASSIN.



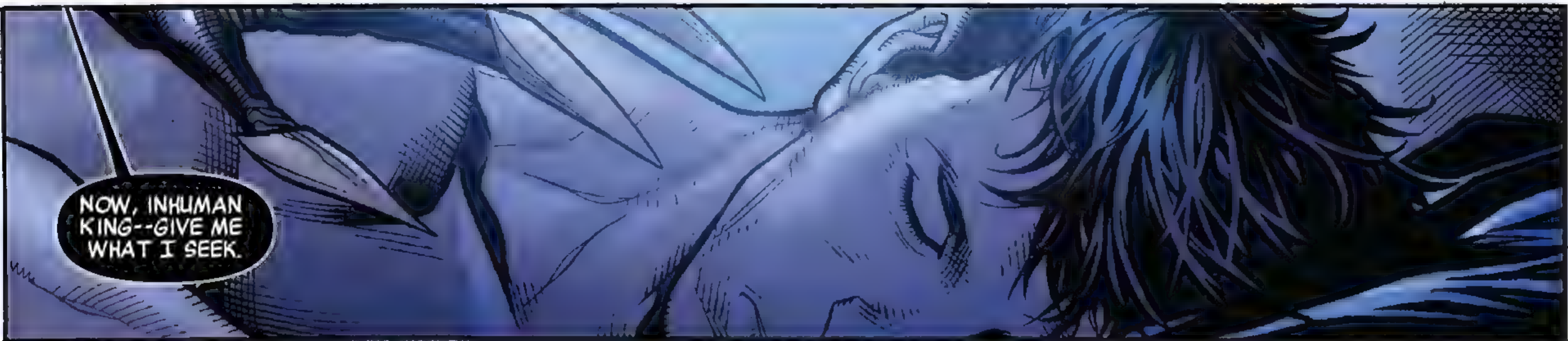
BUT THE CREATURE'S TRUE TALENT--
ITS ACTUAL PURPOSE--IS THE GATHERING
OF HIDDEN INFORMATION.



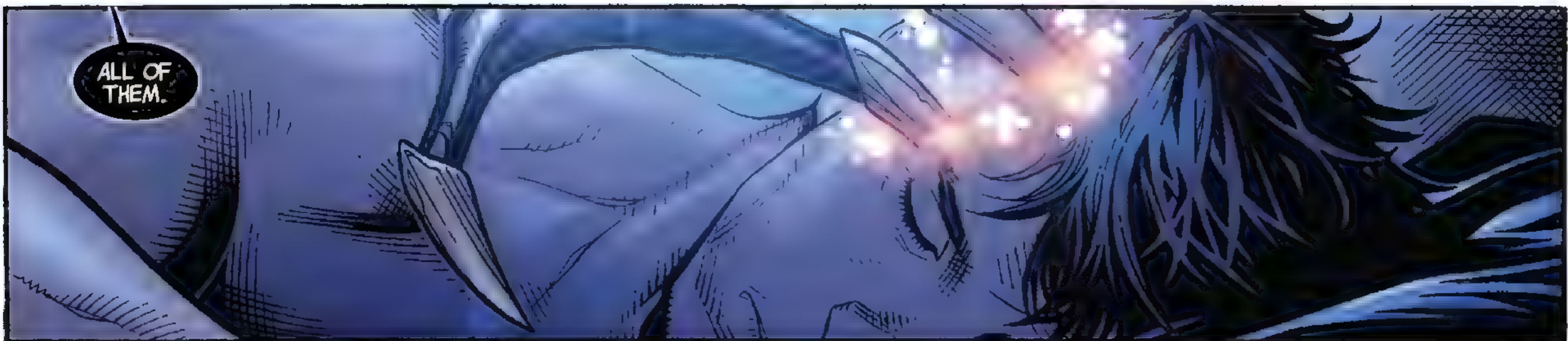
AN OUTRIDER
COLLECTS
SECRETS.



AND GIVEN TIME
IT WILL FIND THEM.



NOW, INHUMAN
KING--GIVE ME
WHAT I SEEK.

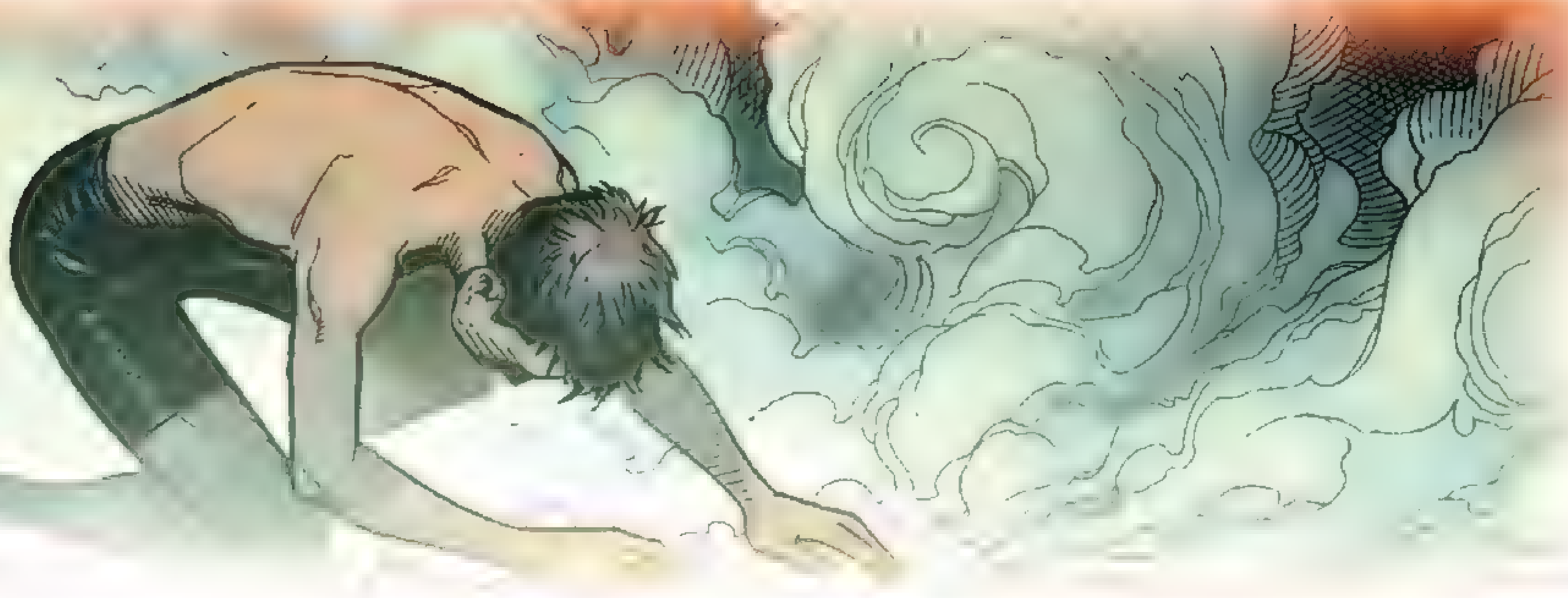


ALL OF
THEM.

THERE, GENETICALLY
IMPRINTED FACTS FORM
HIS FIRST MEMORIES.

ONE MILLION YEARS
AGO, THE INHUMANS
BEGAN AS A KREE
EXPERIMENT.

THOSE WILLING, UNDERGOING
TERRIGENESIS--TRANSFORMING
THEM INTO THEIR TRUE SELVES.



A KING BORN OF A KING--
BLACK BOLT EMERGED FROM
THE TERRIGEN MISTS WITH A
VOICE THAT COULD SHAKE
THE HEAVENS.



A SON OF PROPHECY, THE MIDNIGHT KING TOOK
FIVE WIVES. MEDUSA, HIS FIRST, AND THE OTHERS,
TO GATHER ALL OF THE UNIVERSAL INHUMAN
CASTES UNDER HIS CROWN.

HE LOVES ONE, HATES ONE, AND
CARES LITTLE FOR THE REST.



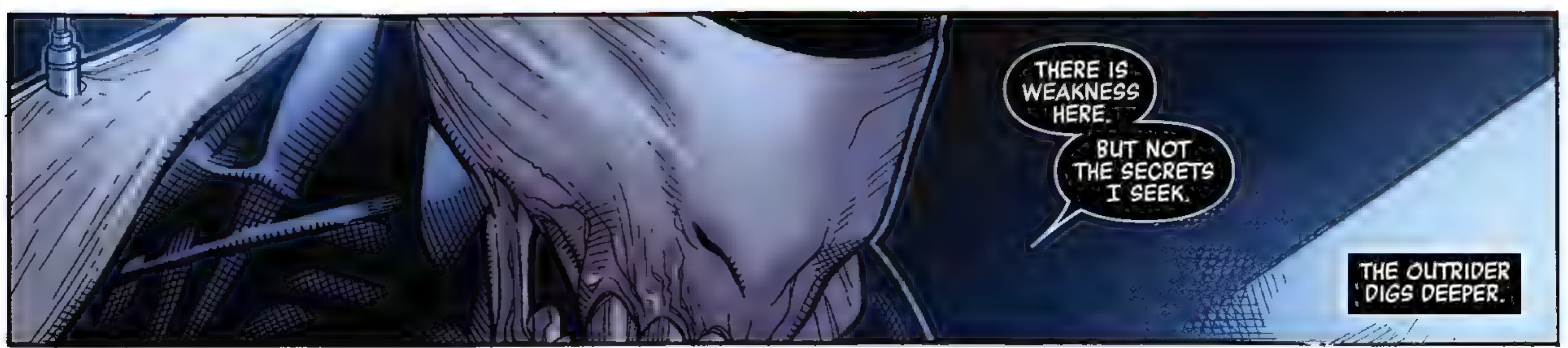
HIS BROTHER, MAXIMUS
THE MAD, HAS PLANS.
WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS
ORCHESTRATED BY
BLACK BOLT HIMSELF.

IT DRIVES A WEDGE
BETWEEN HIM AND
THE REST OF THE
ROYAL FAMILY.

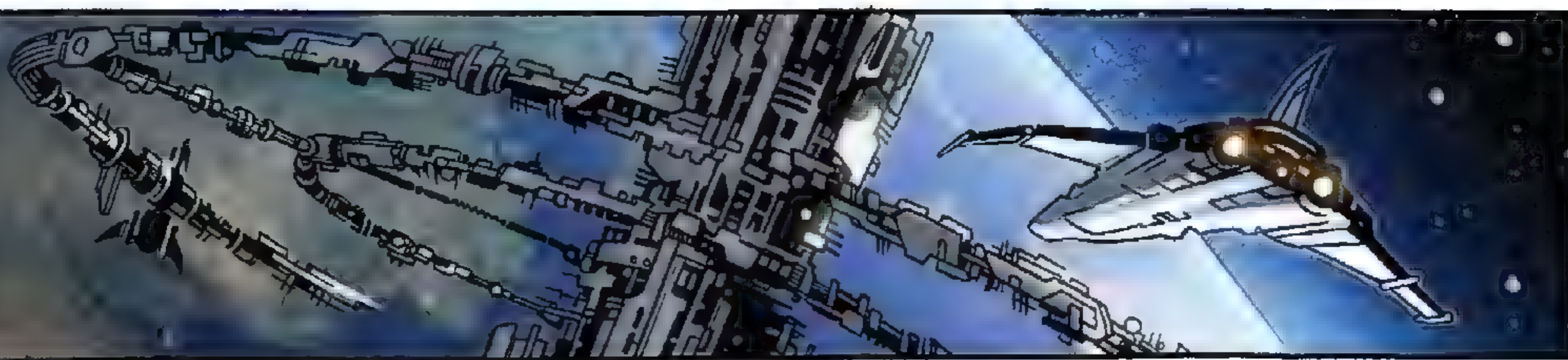


THERE IS
WEAKNESS
HERE.
BUT NOT
THE SECRETS
I SEEK.

THE OUTRIDER
DIGS DEEPER.



THE PEAK.



HOW LONG?



CAPTAIN UNIVERSE HAS BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE SHE MATERIALIZED ON THE COMMAND DECK.

EX NIHILO, IS SHE...

REBUILDING. REGENERATING.

MOTHER WILL RECOVER.



SHE TOOK OFF LAST WEEK-- DISAPPEARED. JUMPED TO ANOTHER PART OF THE UNIVERSE.

RAMBLING ABOUT IMPENDING DOOM.

THEY WERE HOLY WORDS, ANTHONY STARK.

WORDS TO BE HEEDED.

SHE KNOWS THINGS.



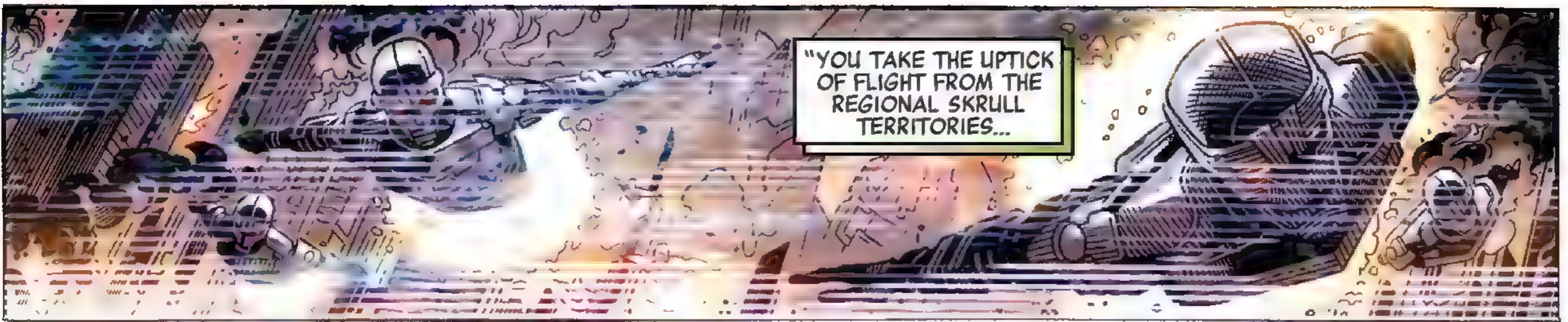
SUPER. THEN I WISH SHE WOULD WAKE UP, BECAUSE WE COULD USE HER INPUT ON THE OTHER THING I WANTED YOU TO SEE.

WE INTERCEPTED A KREE OMNICAST FROM ONE OF THEIR DEEP SPACE OUTPOSTS.

AN OPEN CHANNEL DISTRESS SIGNAL?

THAT'S NOT HOW THEY DO IT.



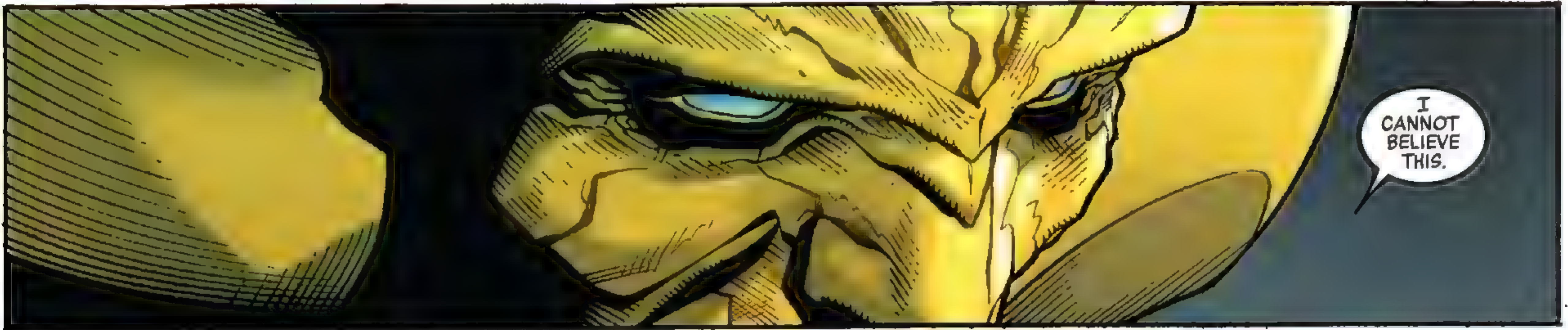


"YOU TAKE THE UPTICK
OF FLIGHT FROM THE
REGIONAL SKRULL
TERRITORIES..."

"ADD TO THAT THE LOCATION
OF THE NOW-NOT-SO-SECRET
SECRET KREE BASE..."

"PLOT IT ALL OUT ON THE
SPHERE OF OUR EXPANDING
UNIVERSE AND YOU GET A
CONE EQUALING THE
PROJECTED POSSIBLE PATH
OF THIS...BUILDER FLEET."

"AND REGARDING
THAT PATH..."



I
CANNOT
BELIEVE
THIS.



...EARTH LIES
RIGHT IN THE
DEAD CENTER
OF IT.

THEY'RE
HEADED RIGHT
FOR US.

ATTILAN.

THERE.
SOMETHING
HIDDEN...

SOMETHING
SECRET.

A BROTHERHOOD TO WHICH BLACK
BOLT BELONGS.

ILLUMINATI. POSSESSORS
OF THE INFINITY GEMS.

NO.

THE GEMS
ARE LOST.

DEATH. SWEET DEATH. AND THESE
MEN ARE COVERED WITH IT.



BACK, FURTHER IN
TIME...THERE, THERE
IS WHAT I SEEK.

HIDDEN KINGS
AND A LOST
QUEEN.

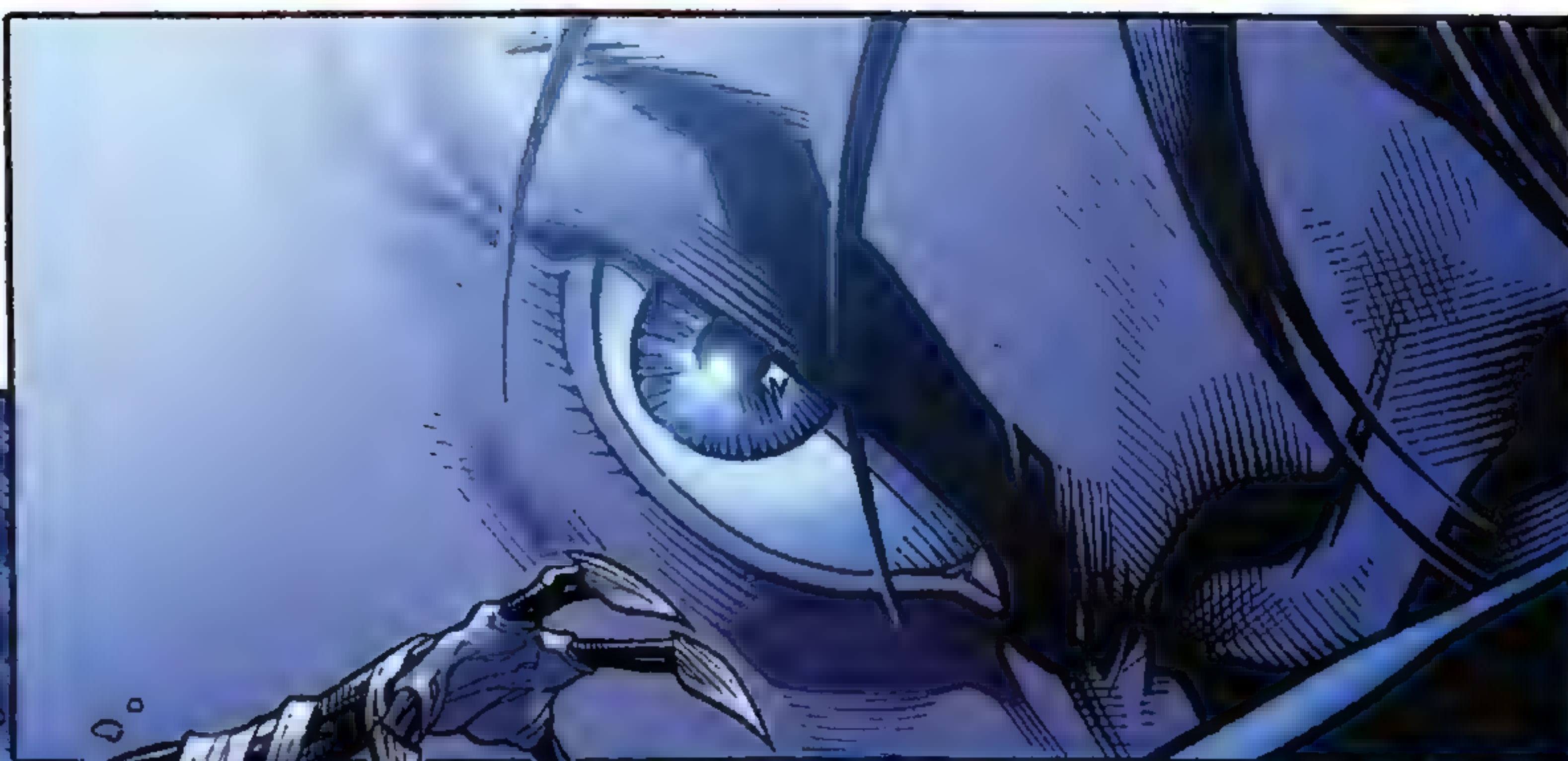


WHERE IS--

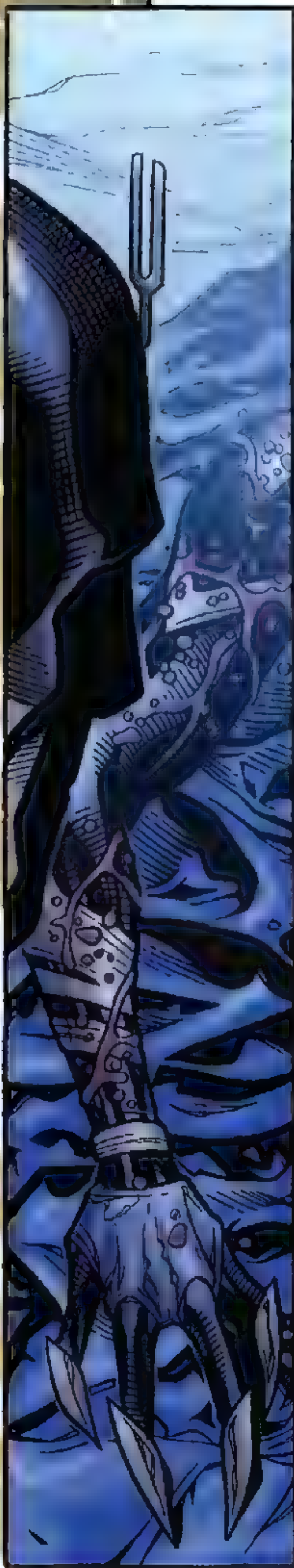
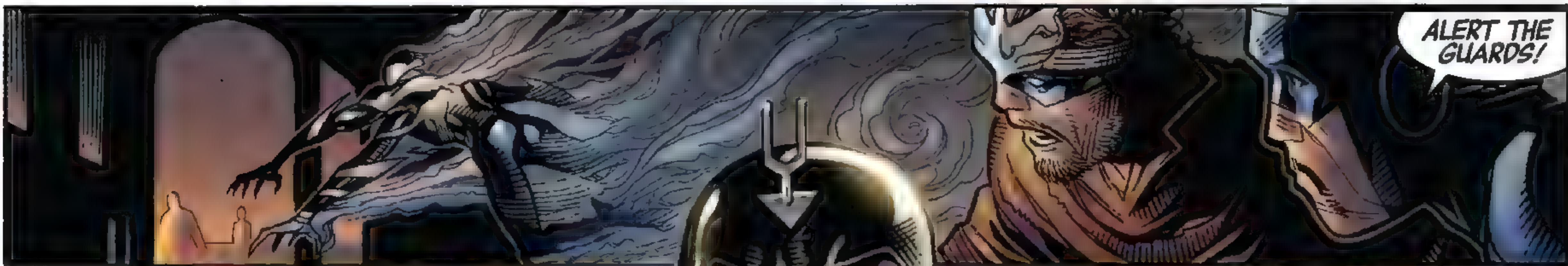
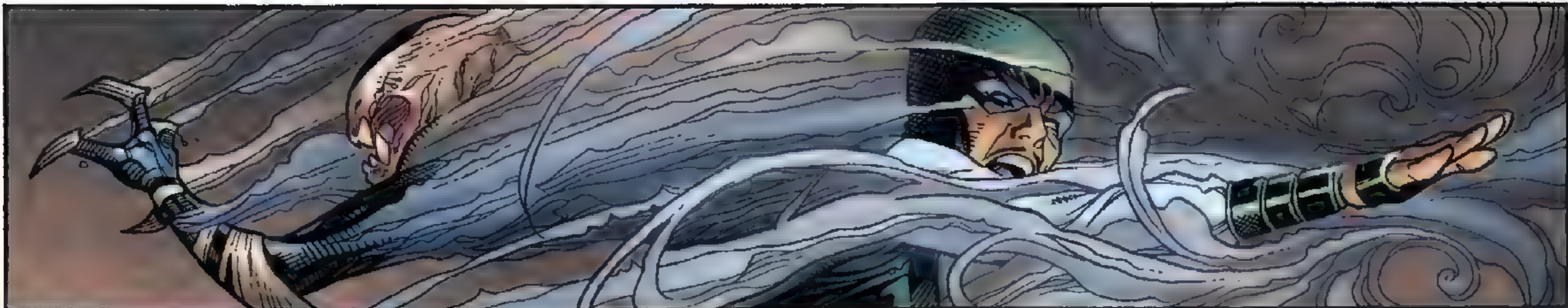
GET
OUT OF MY
MIND.

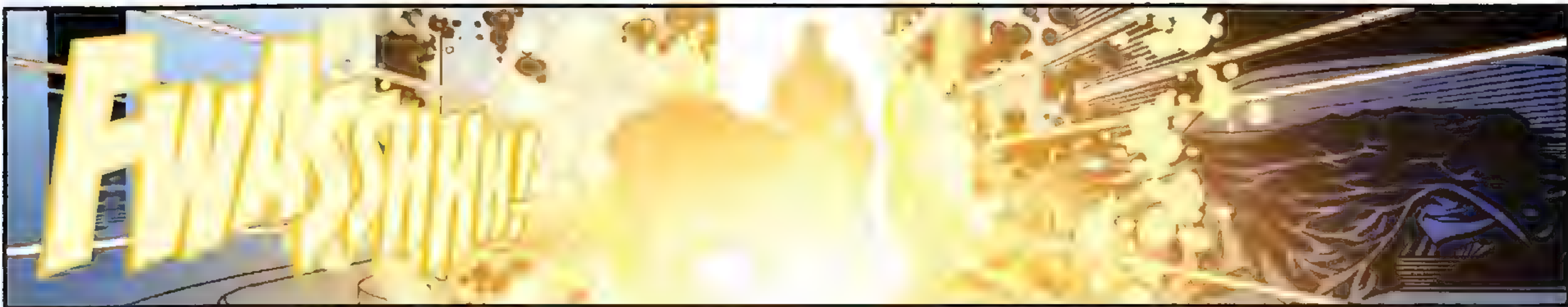
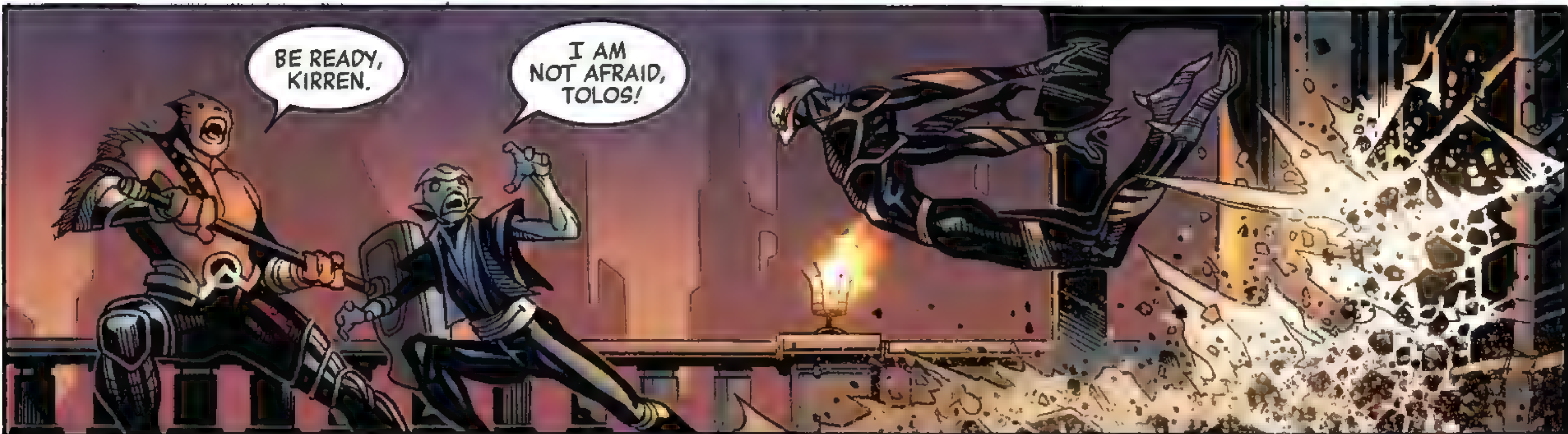
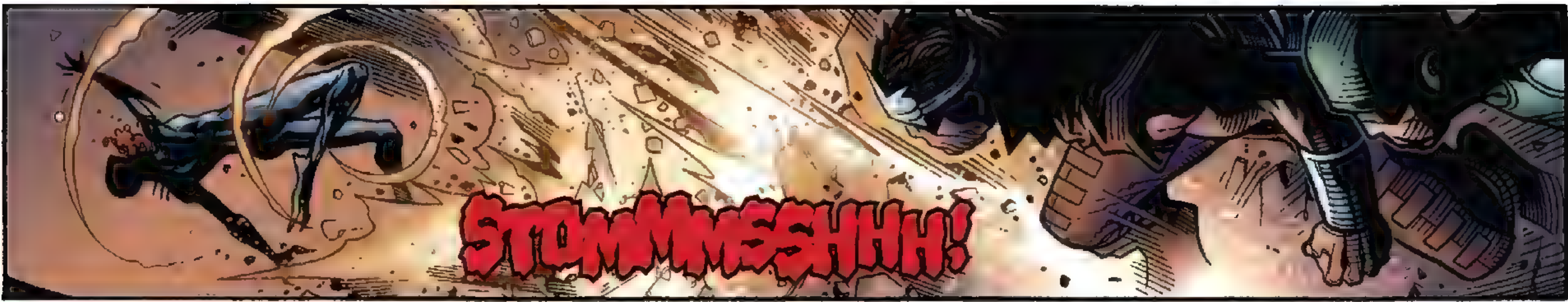


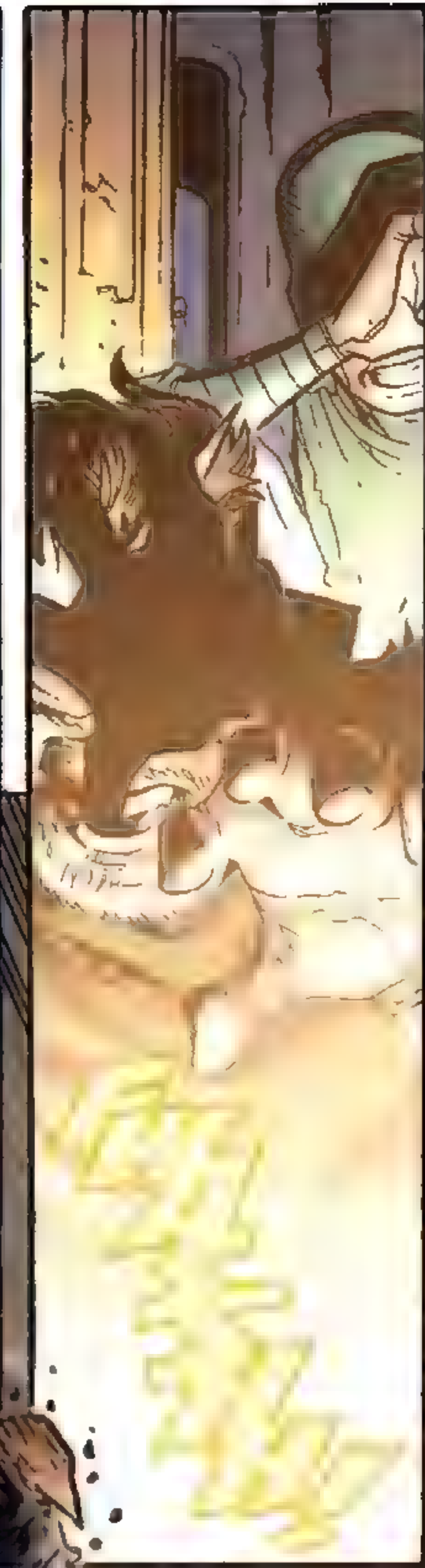
HHEEIIIII!

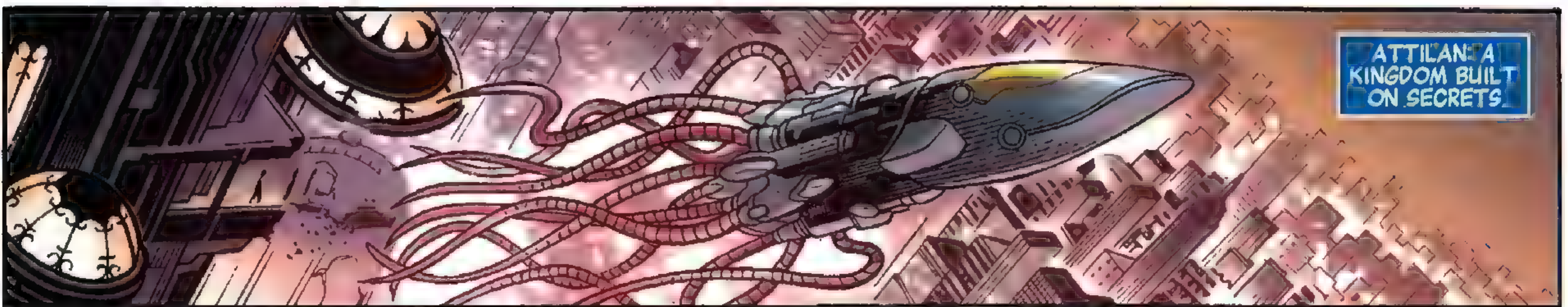
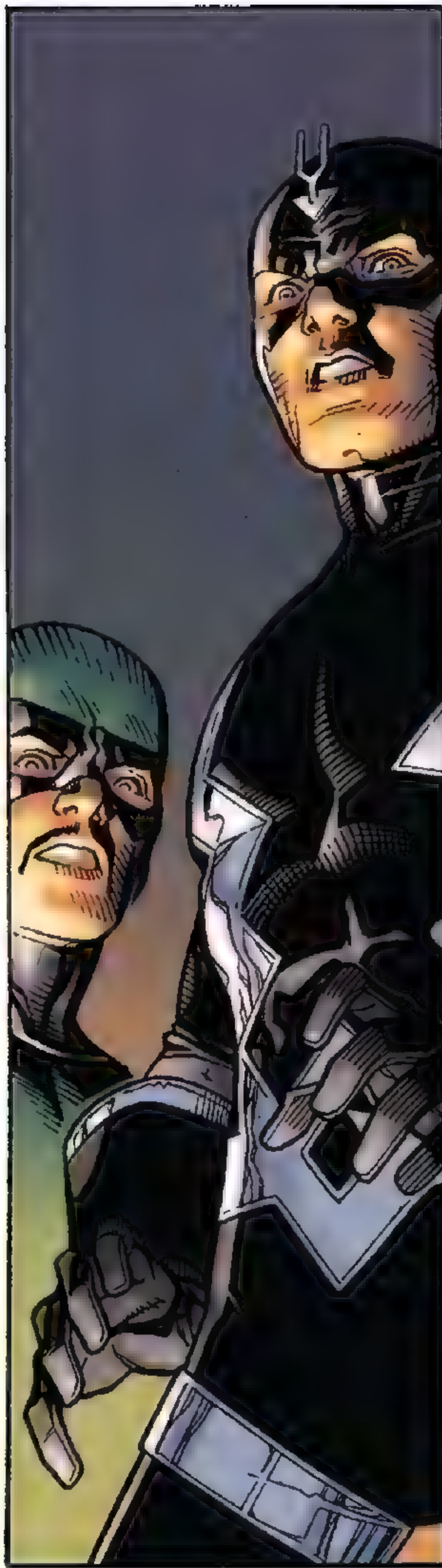


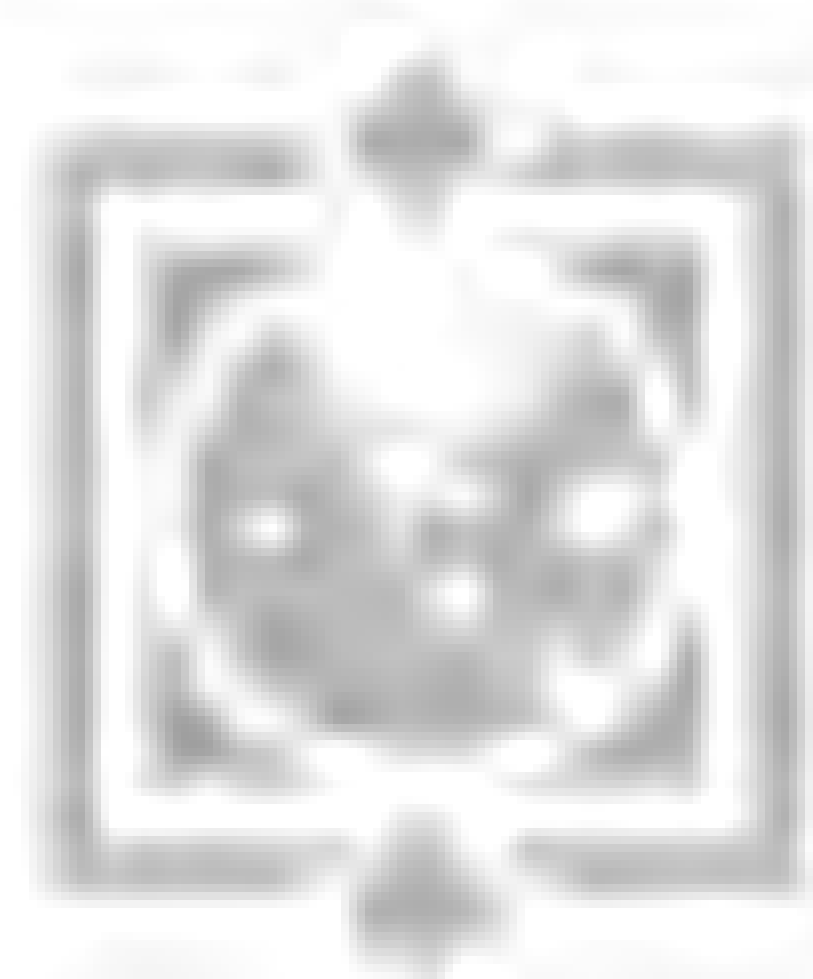
SHHRIP!









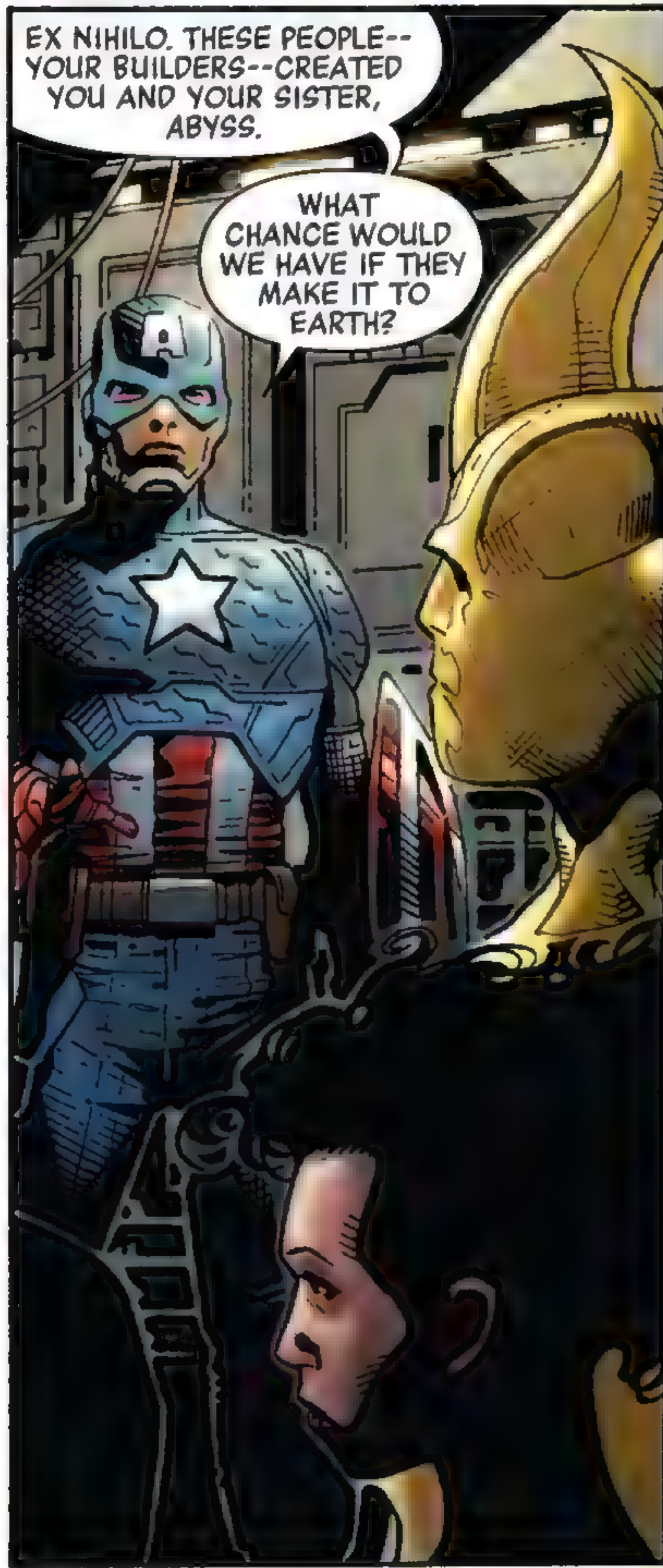
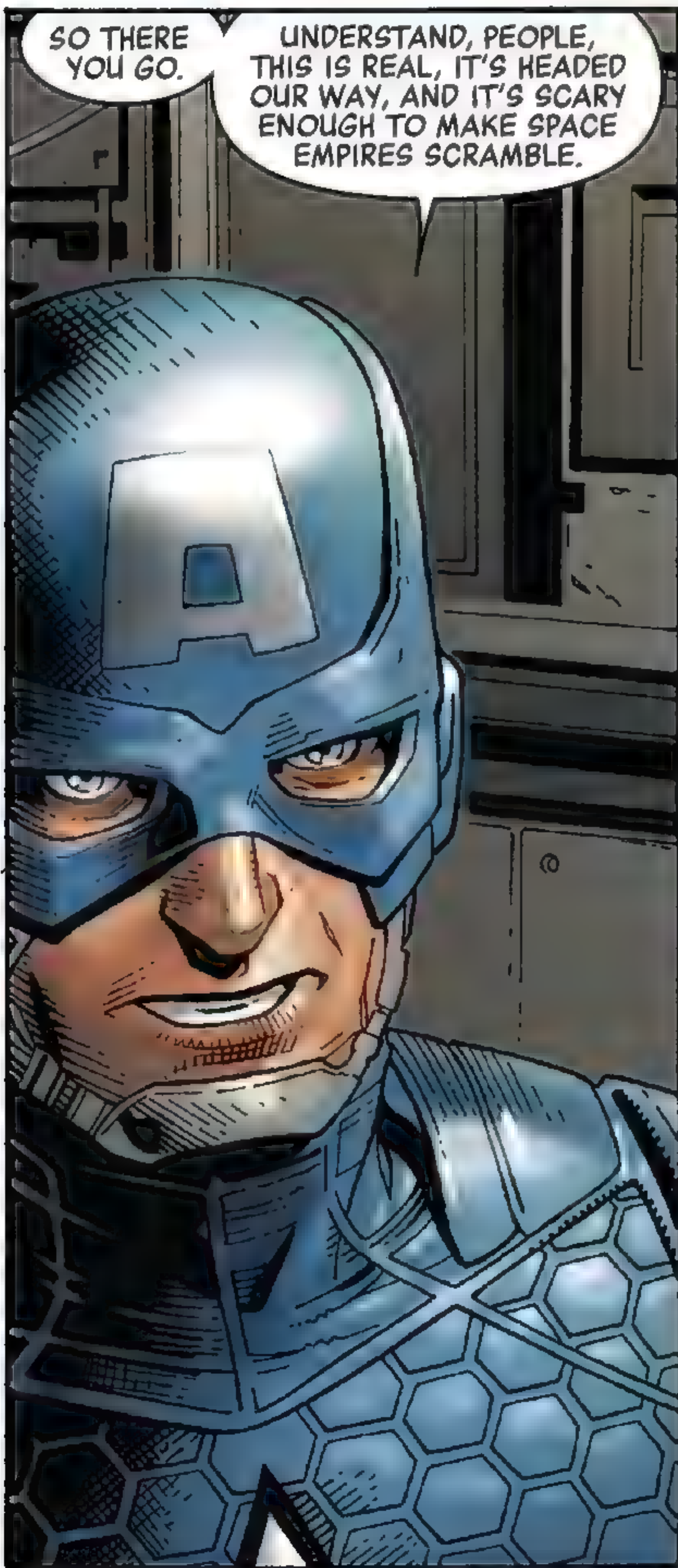
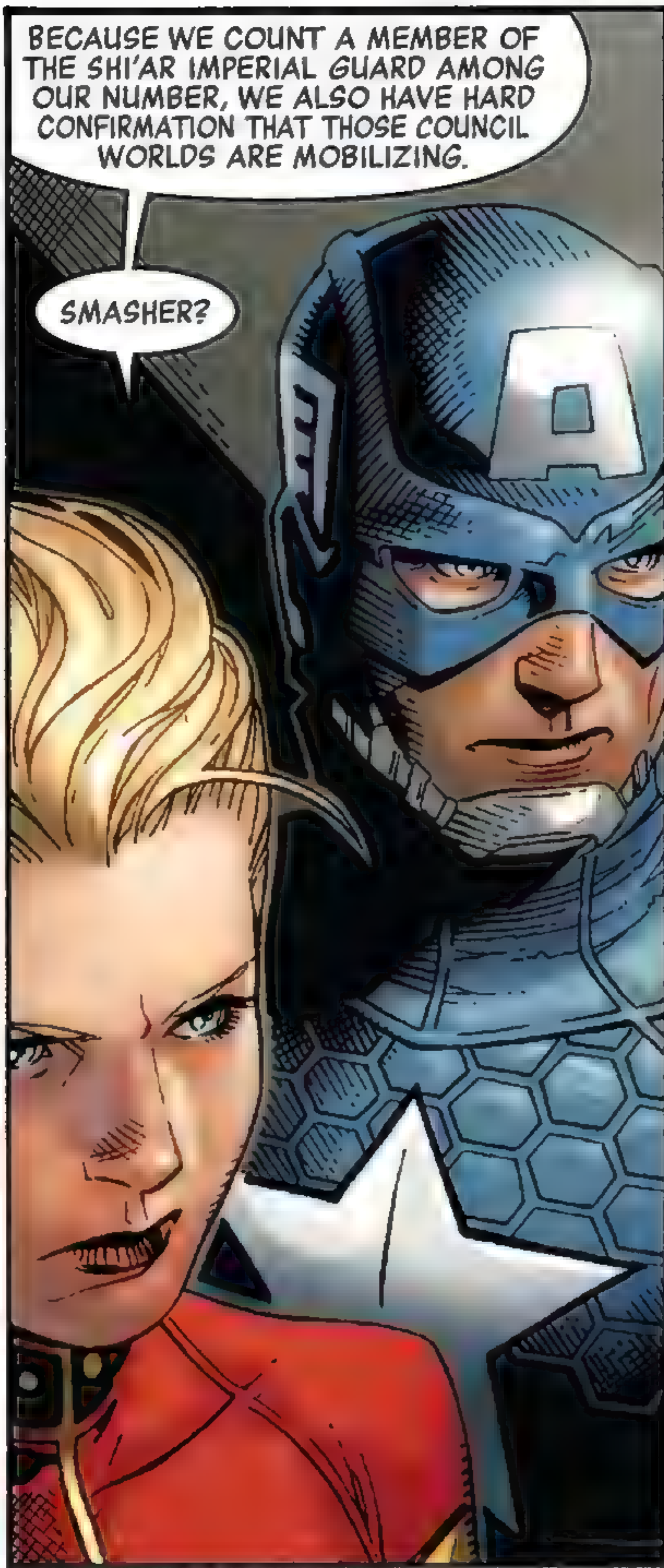


OUTBOUND



THE
PEAK.







YEAH. THAT'S KIND OF WHAT WE WERE THINKING.

THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

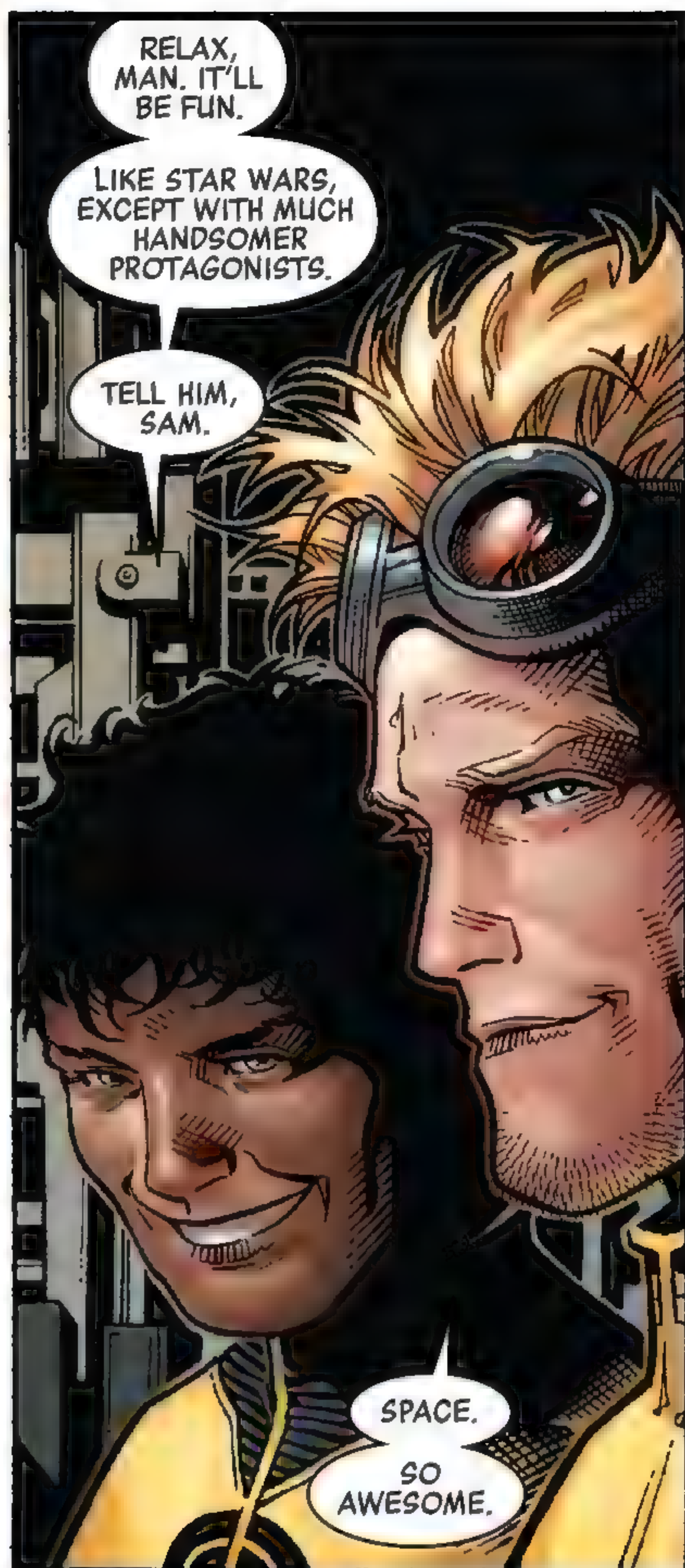
WE TAKE THE FIGHT TO THEM. STAND WITH THE OTHER WORLDS.



OTHER WORLDS?

THE STARBRAND IS A PLANETARY DEFENSE SYSTEM MEANT TO PROTECT EARTH...

SHOULD I EVEN BE GOING WITH YOU?



RELAX, MAN. IT'LL BE FUN.

LIKE STAR WARS, EXCEPT WITH MUCH HANDSOMER PROTAGONISTS.

TELL HIM, SAM.

SPACE.
SO AWESOME.

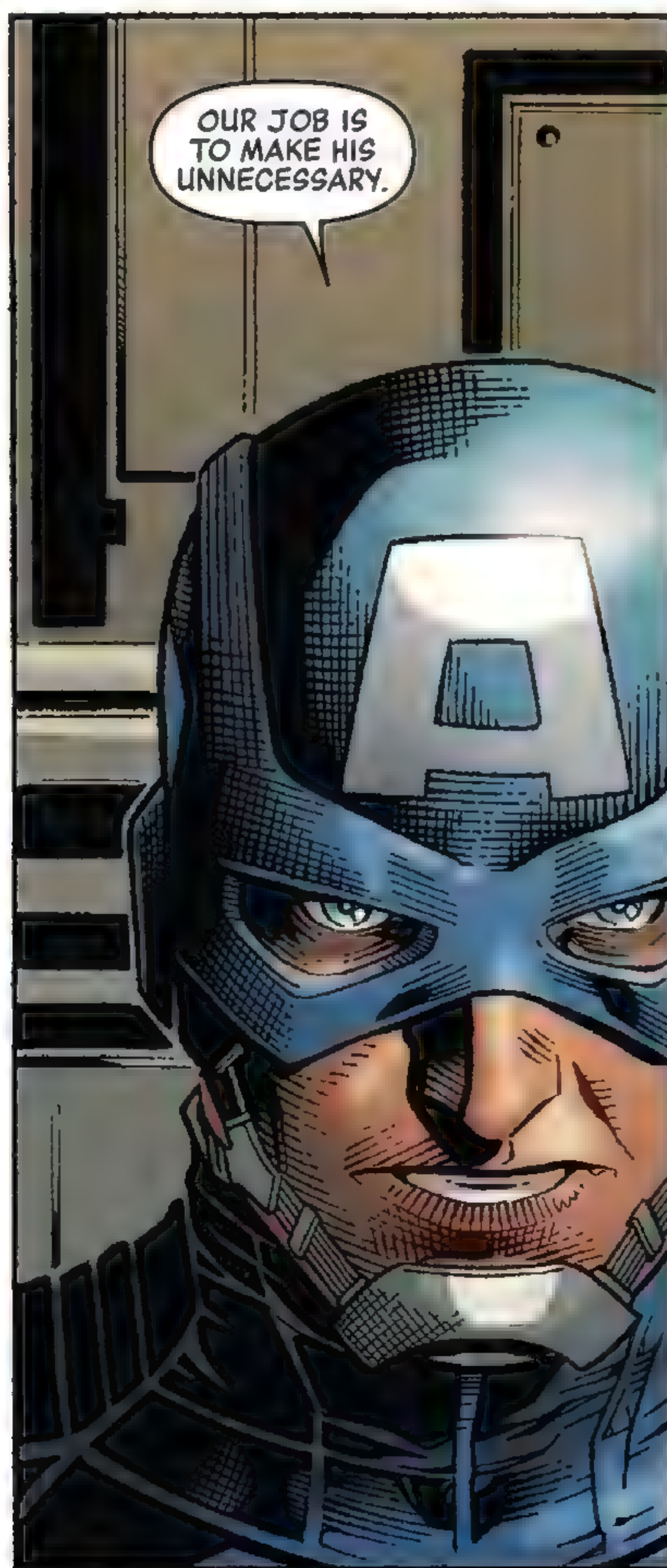


SPACE.

THE WORD SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO GIVE ANY WISE PERSON PAUSE. BUT ALL OF YOU, EVERYONE ASSEMBLED IN THIS ROOM, REPRESENTS THE BEST CHANCE WE HAVE OF STOPPING THIS.

I WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU.

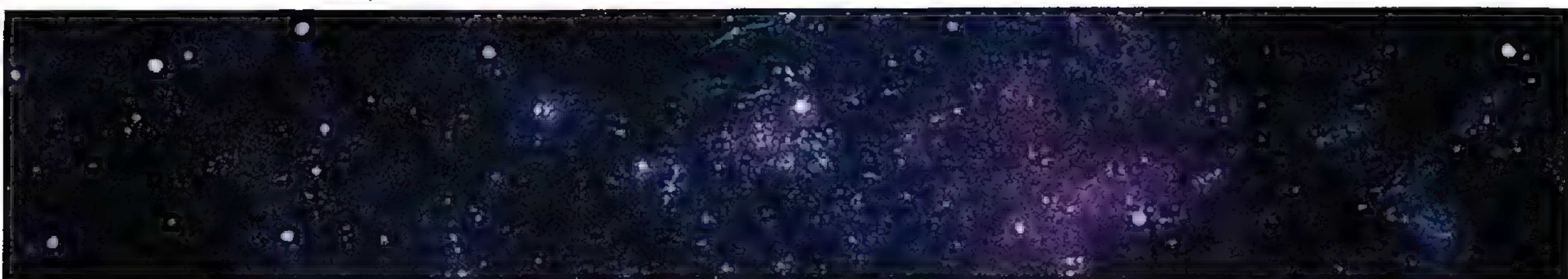
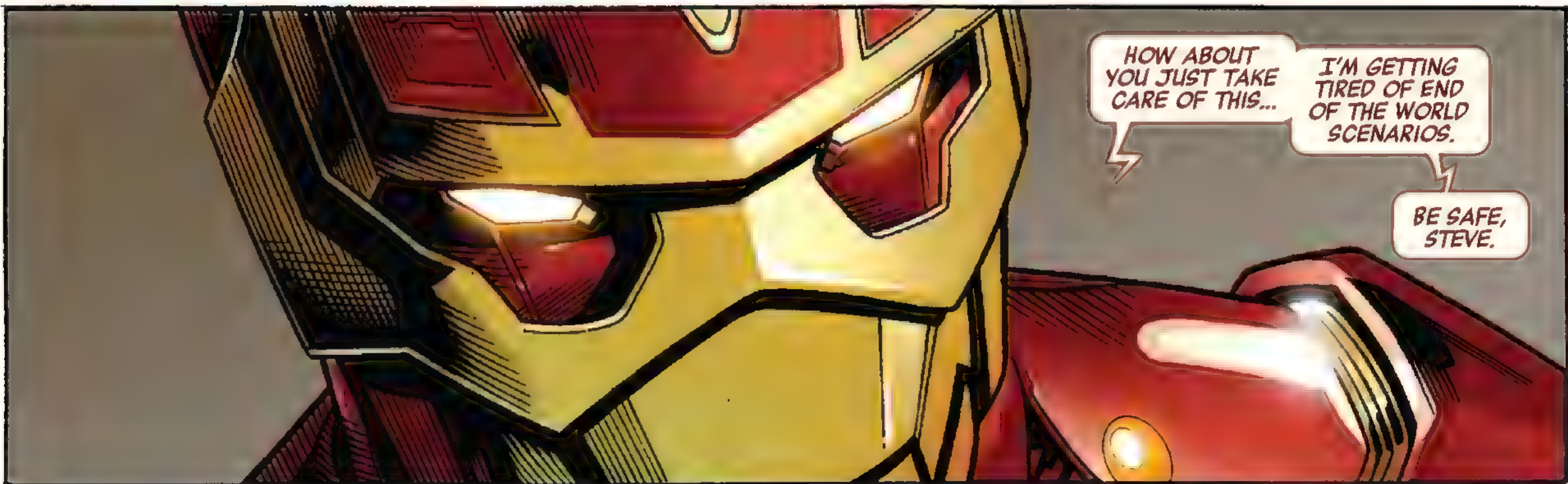
IRON MAN'S JOB IS STAYING BEHIND TO ENACT SOME CONTINGENCY PLANS AND MARSHAL THE WORLD'S DEFENSES IN CASE WE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL.

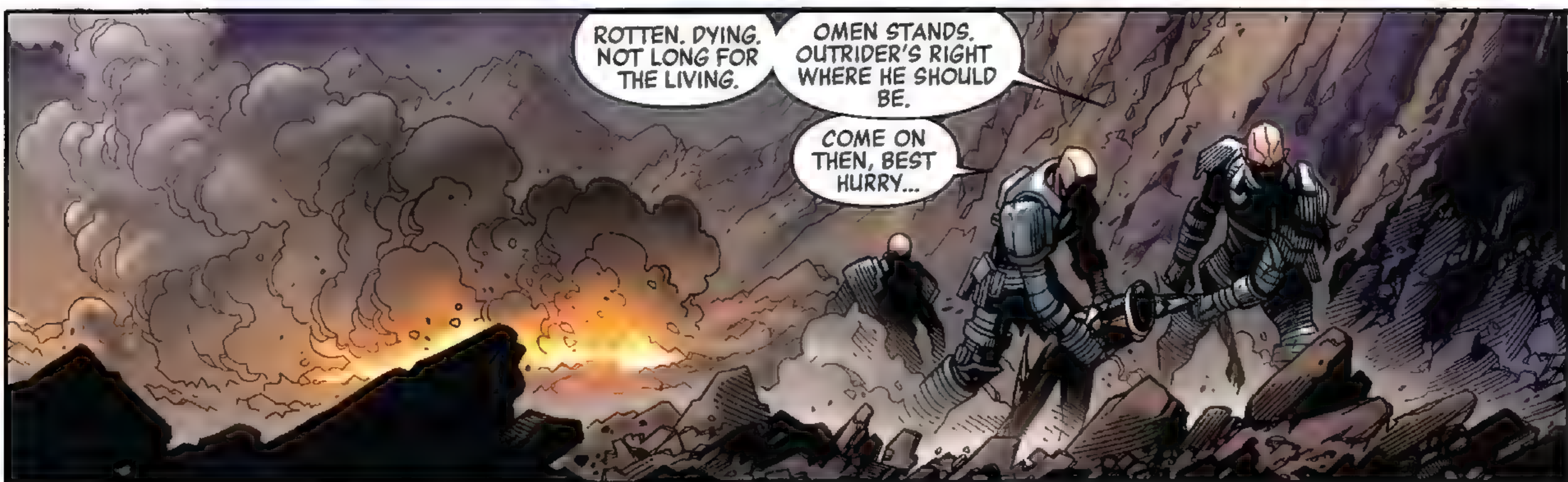
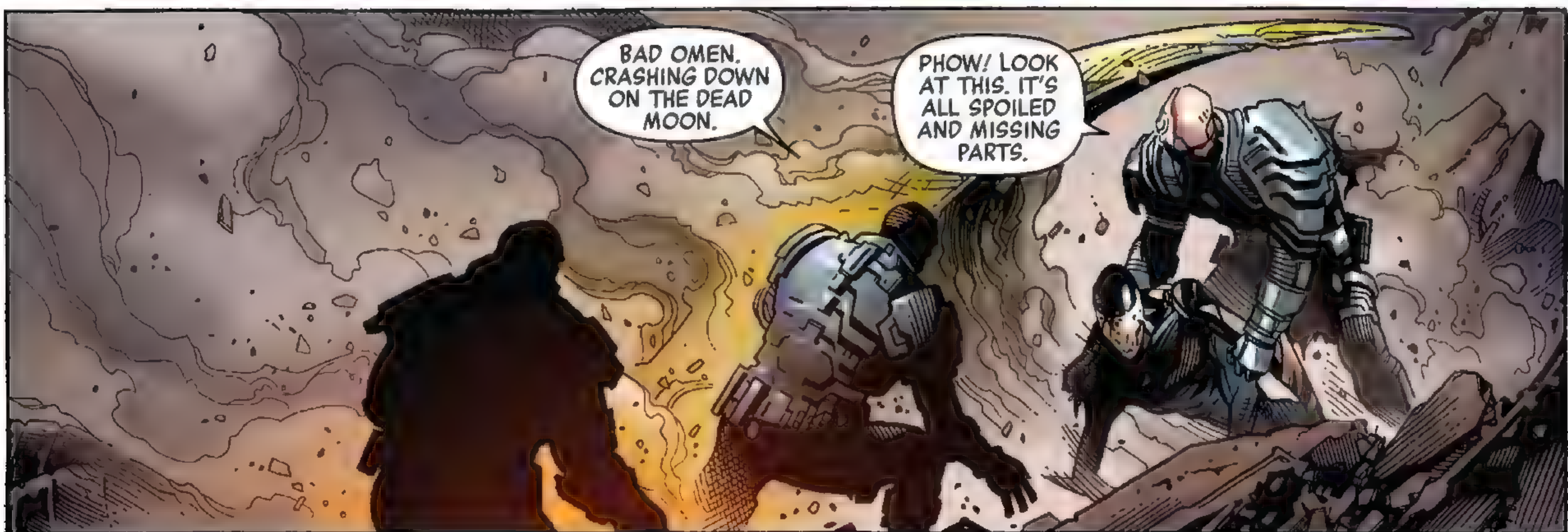
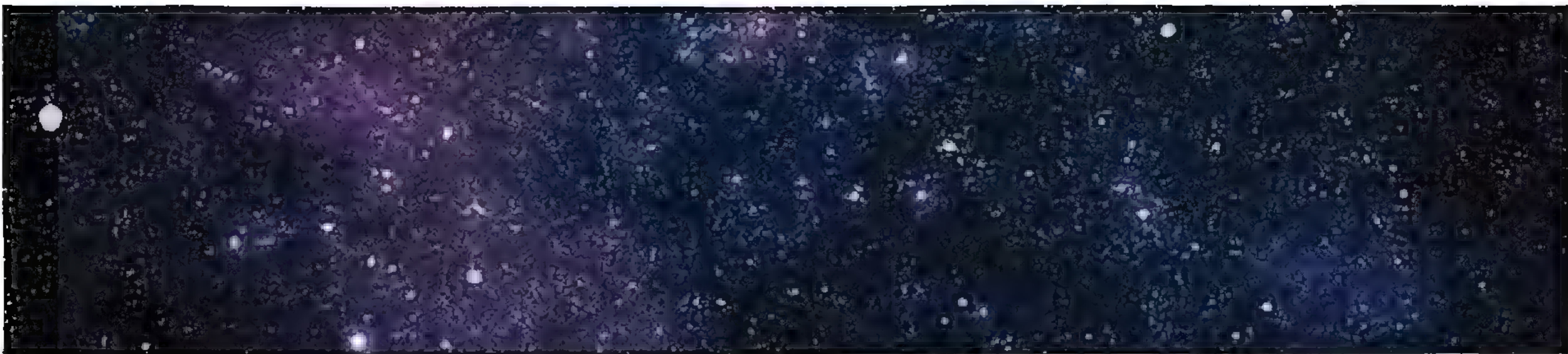


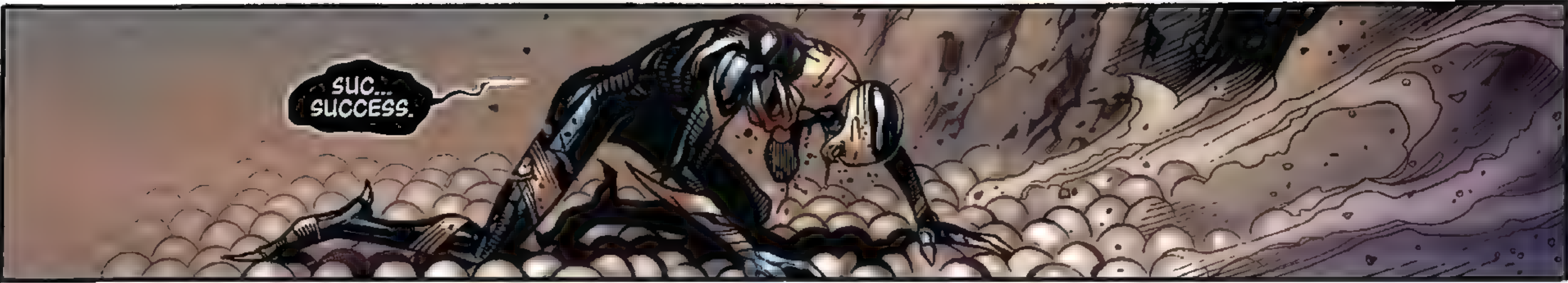
OUR JOB IS TO MAKE HIS UNNECESSARY.



WE LEAVE IN ONE HOUR.

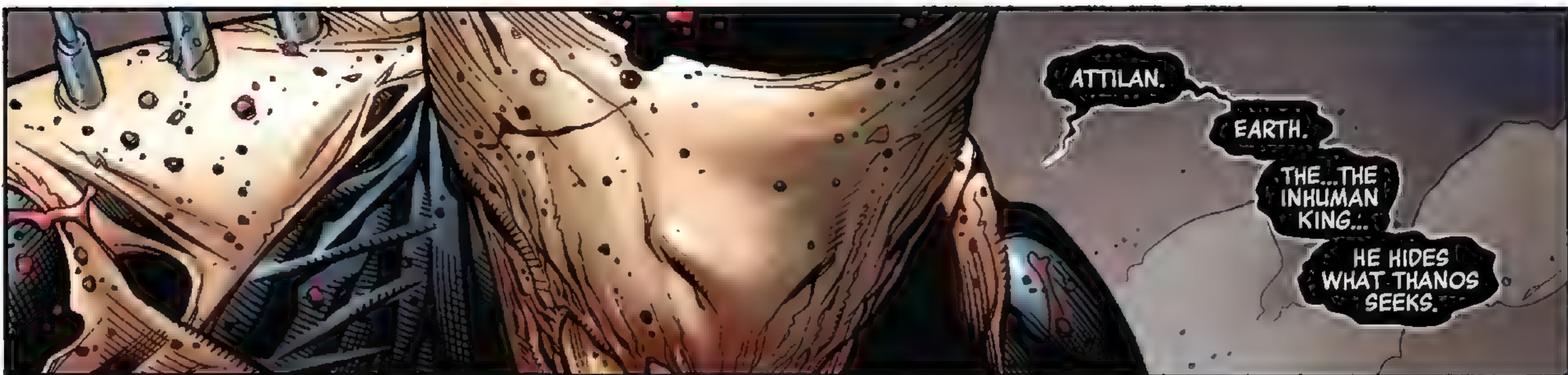








NOW
TELL US... WHERE?



ATTILAN.

EARTH.

THE...THE
INHUMAN
KING...

HE HIDES
WHAT THANOS
SEEKS.



SO
BE IT.

YOU HAVE
DONE WELL,
OUTRIDER.
EARNED YOUR
REWARD.

IF YOU WISH,
YOU MAY HAVE
IT NOW.



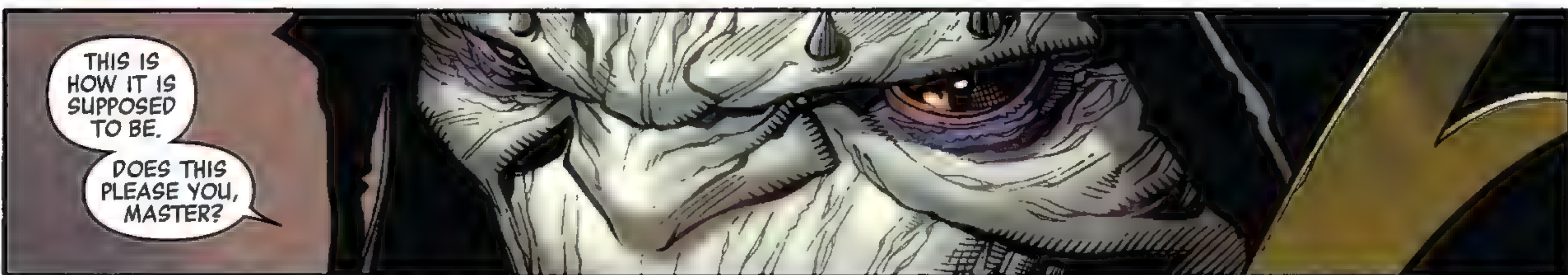
I DO
WISH IT.



THEN A
GIFT.

APPROVAL
FROM YOUR
GOD.

THANK!



THIS IS
HOW IT IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE.

DOES THIS
PLEASE YOU,
MASTER?



NO.
EARTH...
WOULD PLEASE
ME.



EARTH?

MADNESS.

ON EARTH
EVEN THE VERY
BEST OF PLANS
FAIL AND FADE.

ON EARTH
EVEN THE DARKEST
NIGHT ALWAYS
YIELDS TO DAY.

LAST
STOP FOR THE
FOOLISH.

EARTH.



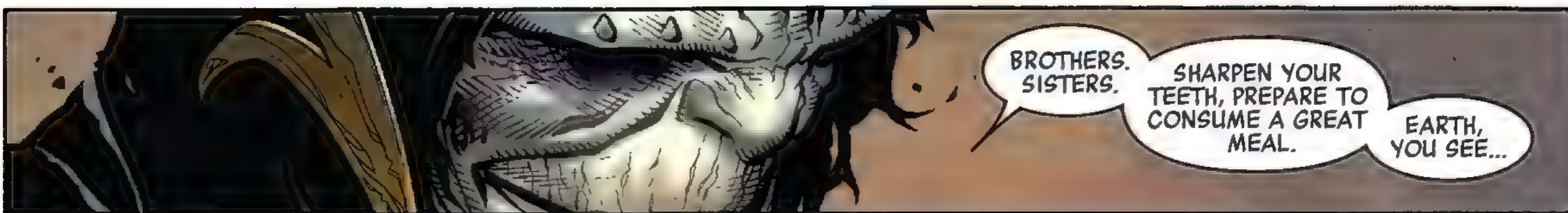
YES...WE ALL
KNOW OF THAT
EARTH.

BUT THIS...THIS
IS AN EARTH MORE
FAVORABLE THAN
ACCUSTOMED. AN
EARTH CHANGED...



WE HAVE WORD
OF DISCORD IN THE
HOUSE INHUMAN,
SCHISM BETWEEN
THE MUTANT
SCHOOLS.

AND NOW THE
MOST FAVORABLE
NEWS OF ALL...



BROTHERS.
SISTERS.

SHARPEN YOUR
TEETH, PREPARE TO
CONSUME A GREAT
MEAL.

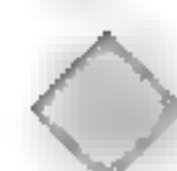
EARTH,
YOU SEE...

...SHE HAS NO
AVENGERS.

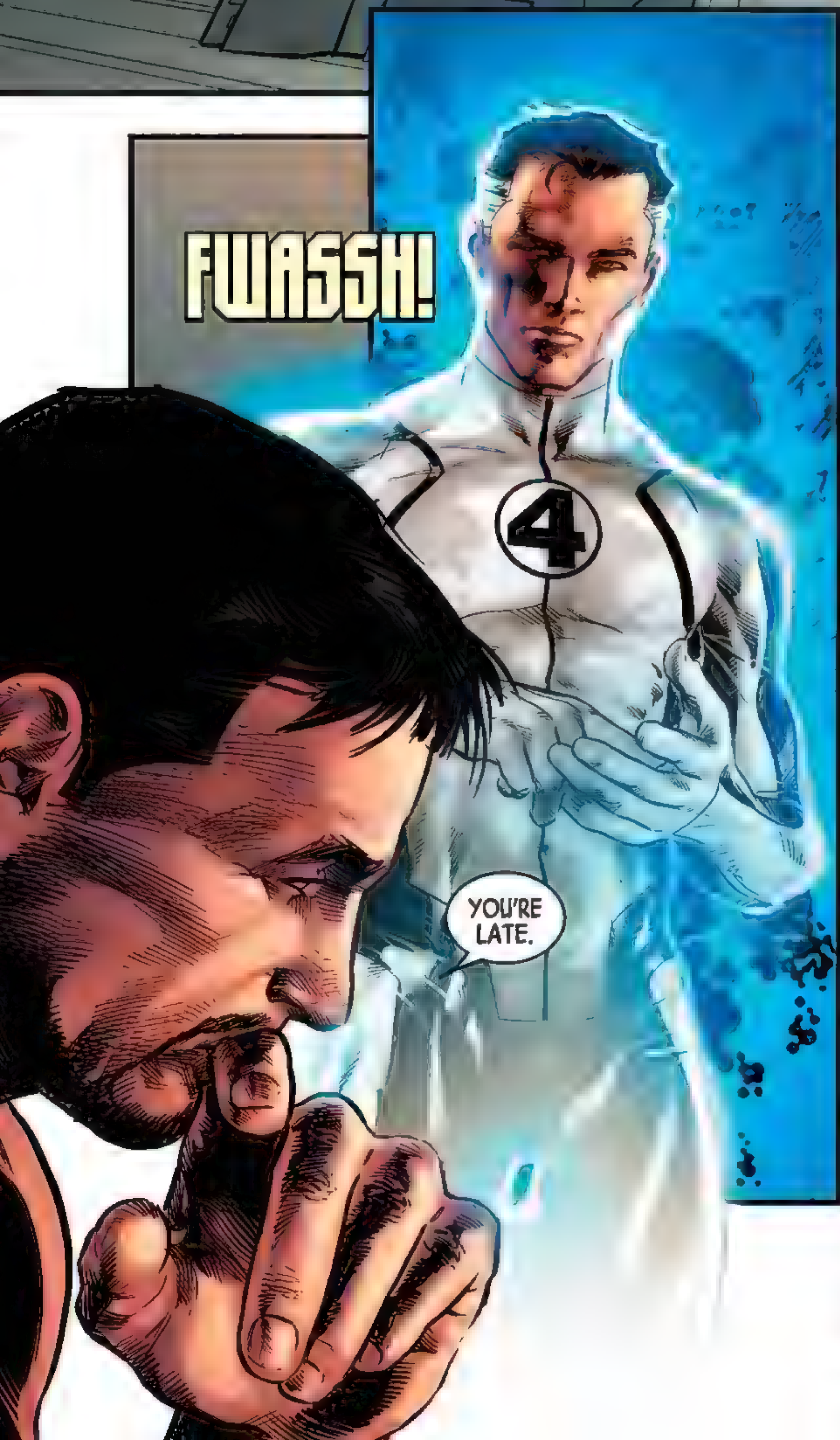
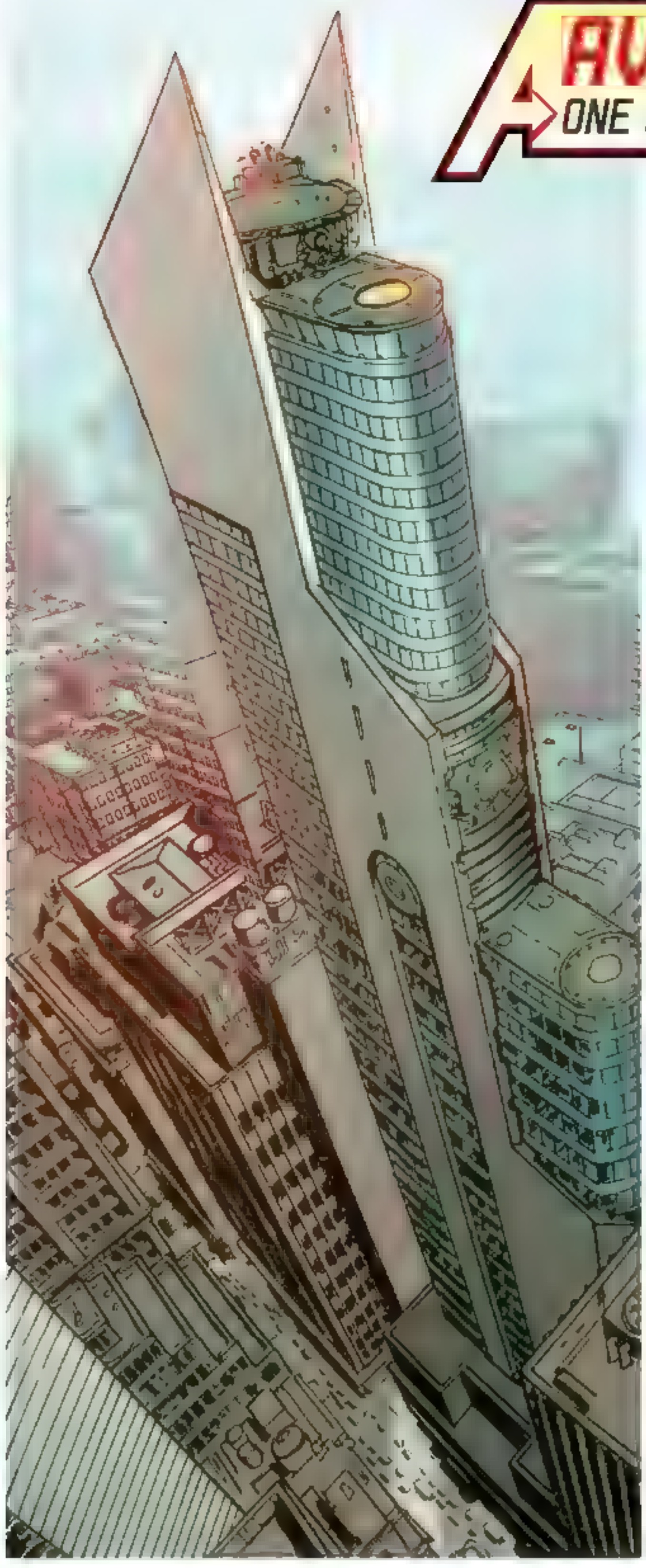




WHAT MAXIMUS MADE



AVENGERS TOWER.
ONE WEEK LATER.



YOU'RE LATE.



SORRY.

TRANSLOCATING TEMPORAL PLANES DECAYED THE SIGNAL. I'LL FIND A SOLUTION FOR THAT.

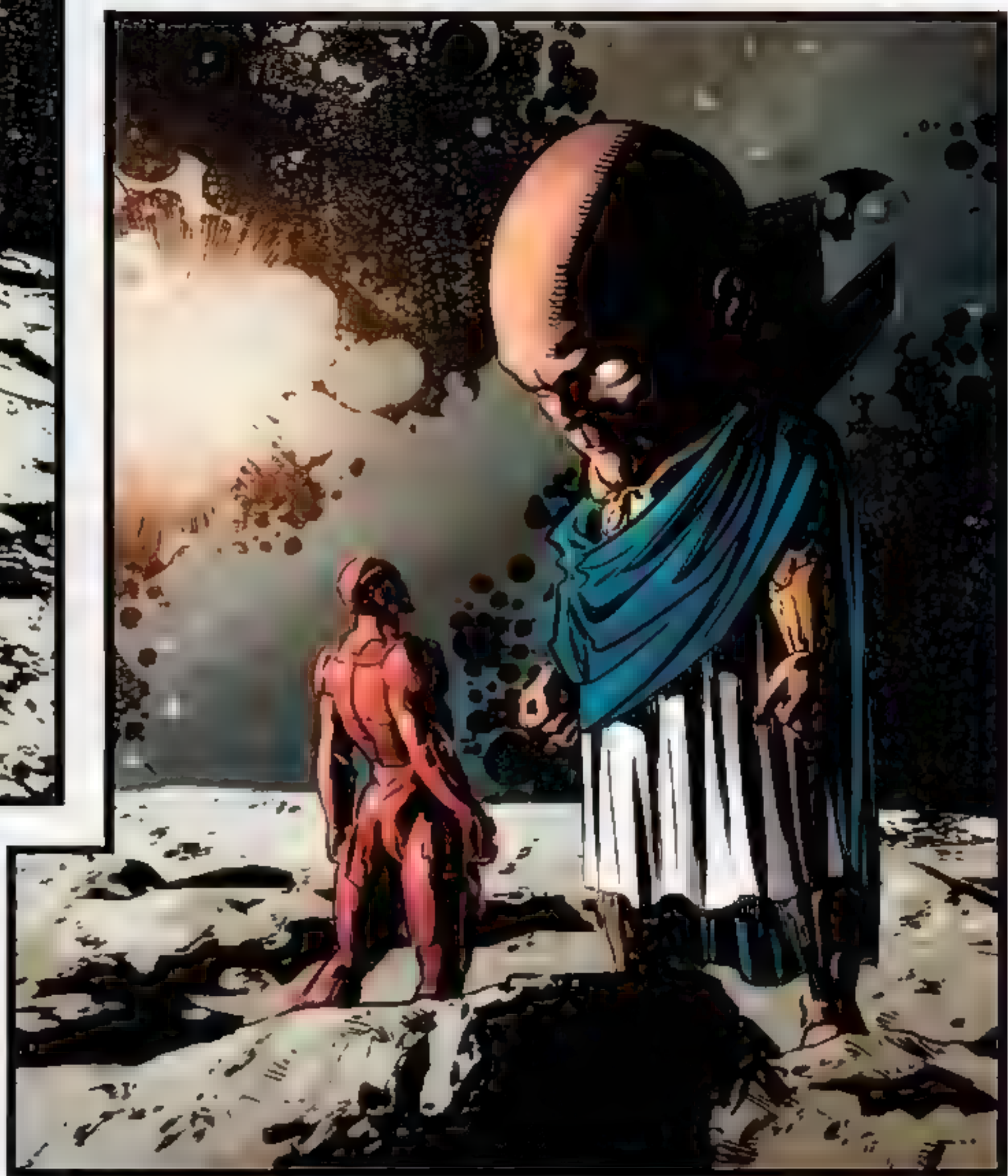
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK PLANET-SIDE?

A COUPLE DAYS AGO.

GOOD. YOU'RE NEEDED HERE.



I SHOULD ASK, HOW WAS DEEP SPACE?





I'LL
TELL YOU
ABOUT IT
LATER.

RIGHT
NOW, WE
HAVE OTHER
PROBLEMS.

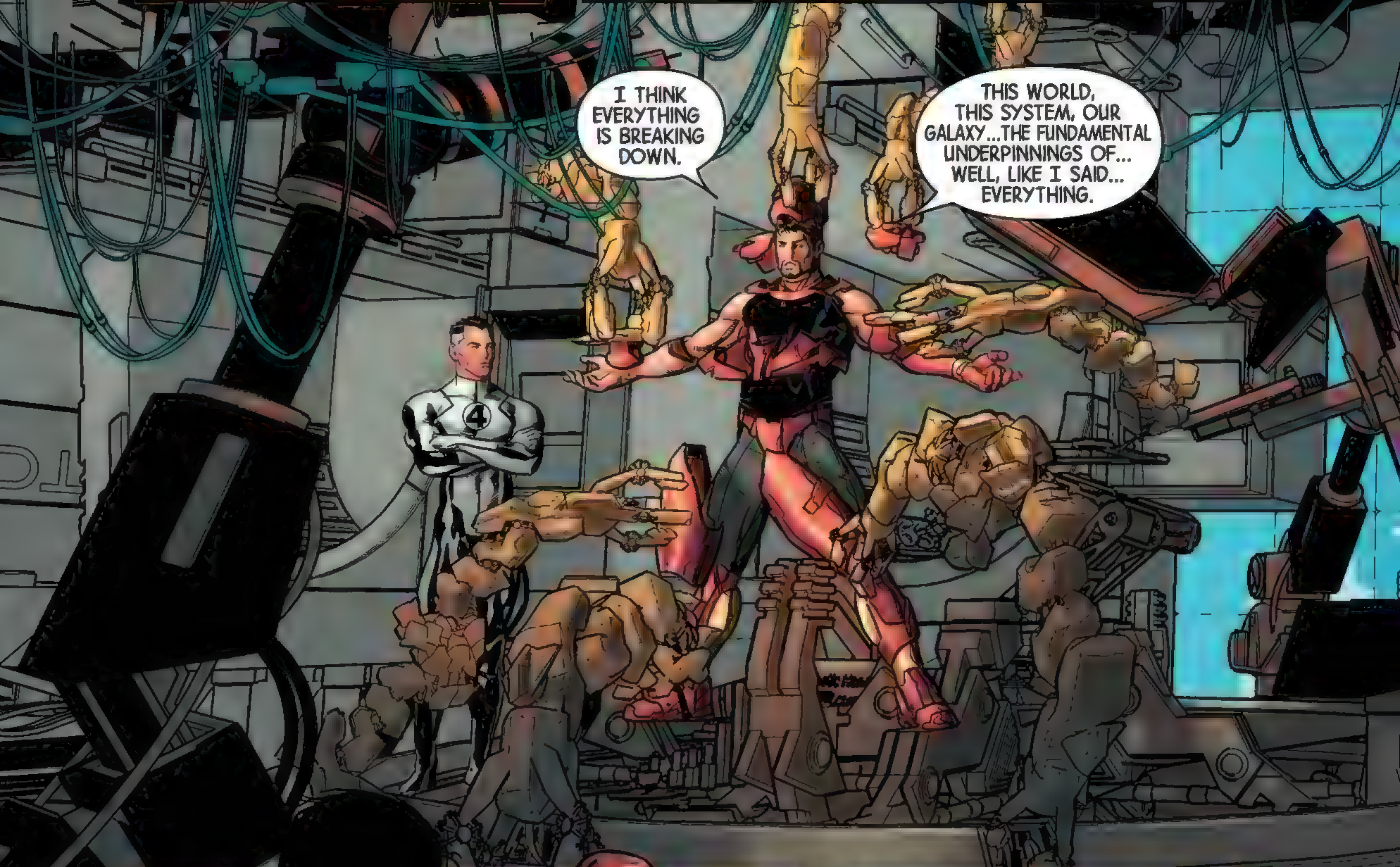


A FEW
HOURS AGO,
THE AVENGERS LEFT
THE PLANET TO DEAL
WITH A POTENTIAL
PAN-GALACTIC
THREAT.

I BEGGED
OFF TO MARSHAL
EARTH IF THEY
WERE TO FAIL...

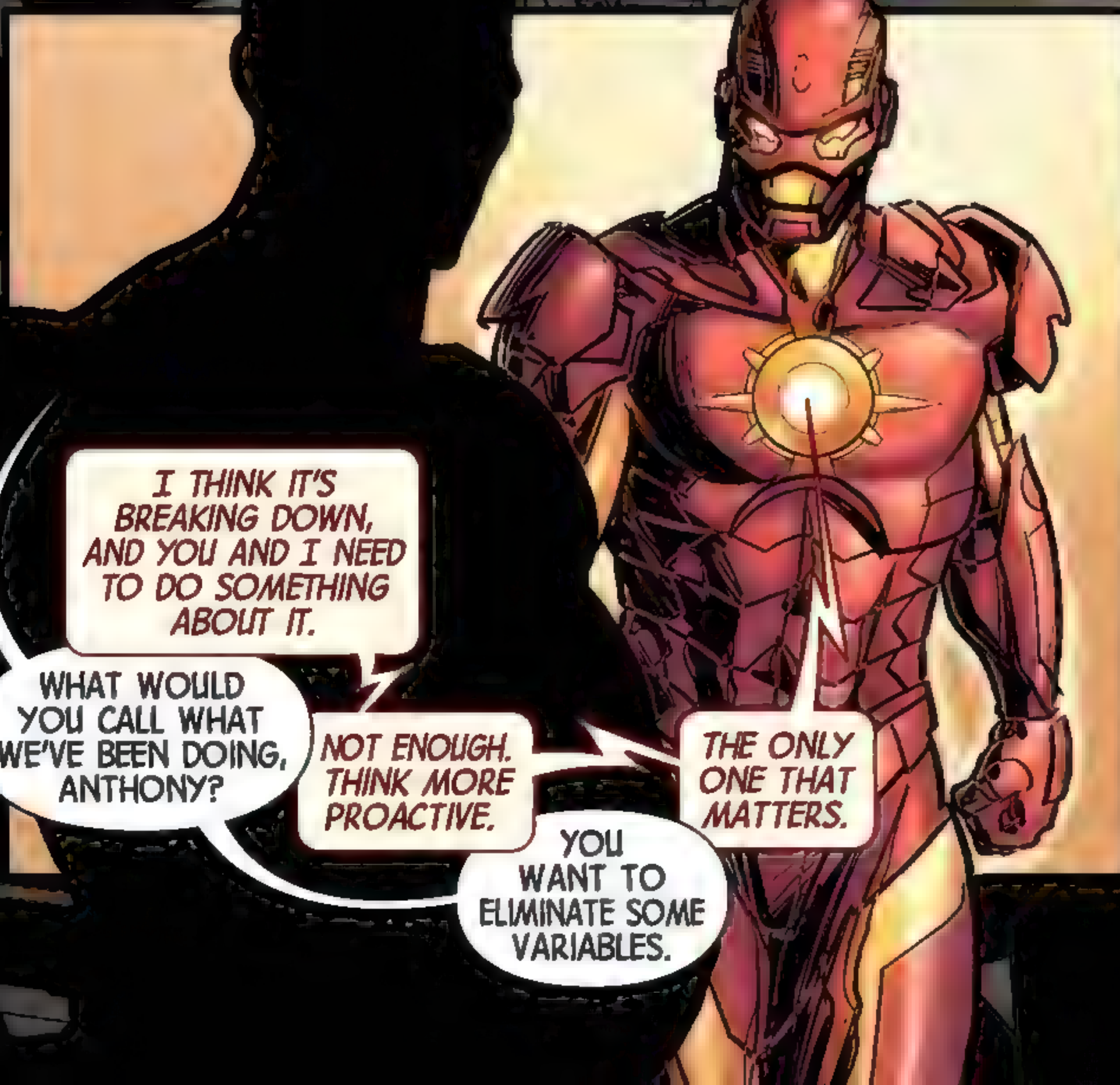
BUT WE
BOTH KNOW THERE'S
MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
BOTH THE THREAT AND
MY REASON FOR
STAYING.

GO ON.



I THINK
EVERYTHING
IS BREAKING
DOWN.

THIS WORLD,
THIS SYSTEM, OUR
GALAXY...THE FUNDAMENTAL
UNDERPINNINGS OF...
WELL, LIKE I SAID...
EVERYTHING.



I THINK IT'S
BREAKING DOWN,
AND YOU AND I NEED
TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.

WHAT WOULD
YOU CALL WHAT
WE'VE BEEN DOING,
ANTHONY?

NOT ENOUGH.
THINK MORE
PROACTIVE.

THE ONLY
ONE THAT
MATTERS.

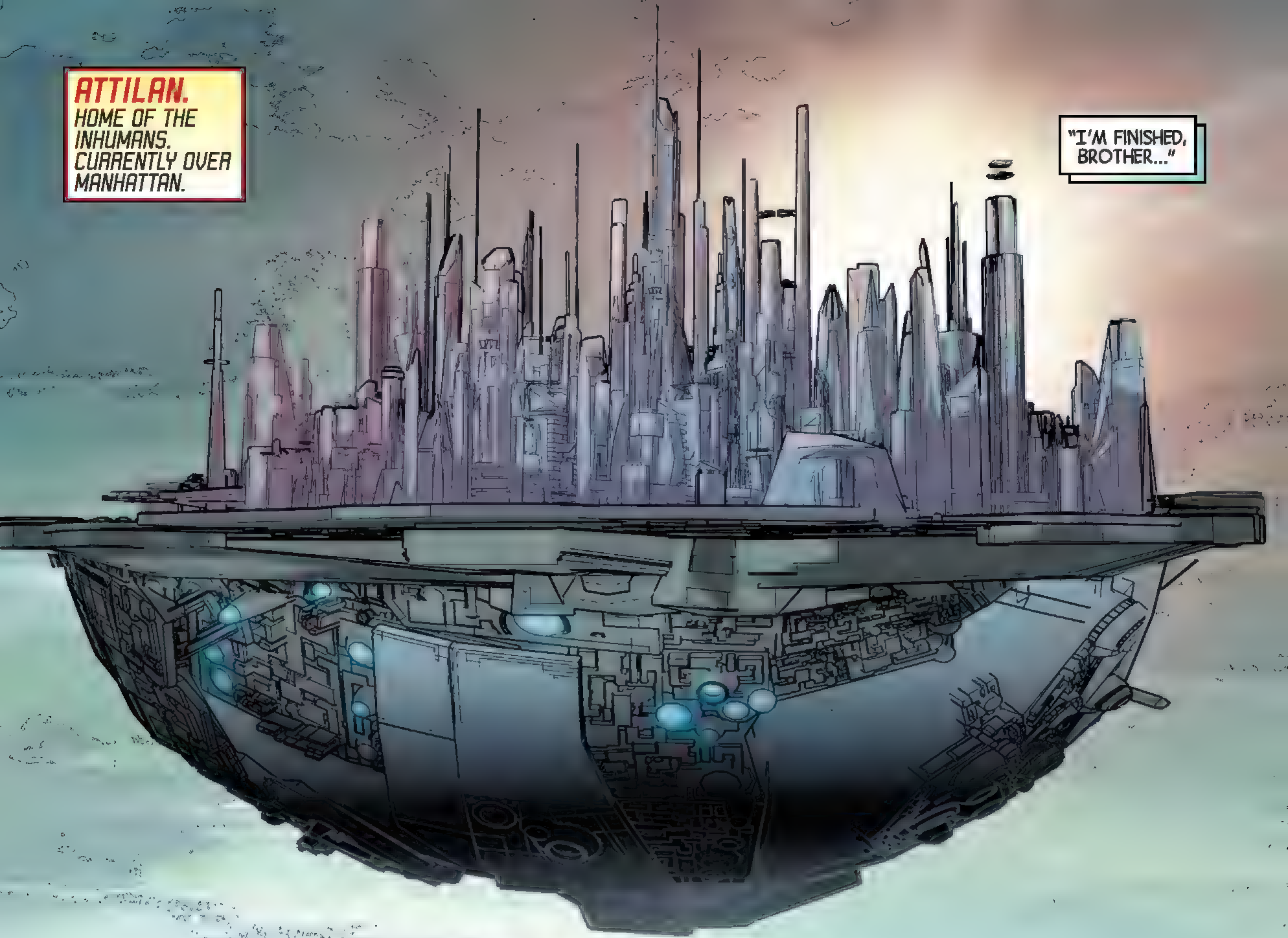
YOU
WANT TO
ELIMINATE SOME
VARIABLES.



I TAKE IT YOU
HAVE SOMETHING
IN MIND.

ATTILAN.
HOME OF THE
INHUMANS.
CURRENTLY OVER
MANHATTAN.

"I'M FINISHED,
BROTHER..."



I HAVE
MADE A
MASTERPIECE.

WELL...

MASTERPIECES.

I'VE BEEN
BUSY.

THE HOUSING
FOR THE TERRIGEN
CRYSTALS HAS BEEN
REINFORCED.

I'M
COMPRESSING LIGHT,
HEAT AND ALL THE
FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF
CREATION IN THE HEART OF
THE MACHINE, AND WE DON'T
WANT ANY OF THE SACRED
MIST TO ESCAPE INTO
THE CITY.

RANDOM
TERRIGENESIS
IS NO WAY TO
KEEP A SECRET,
IS IT?

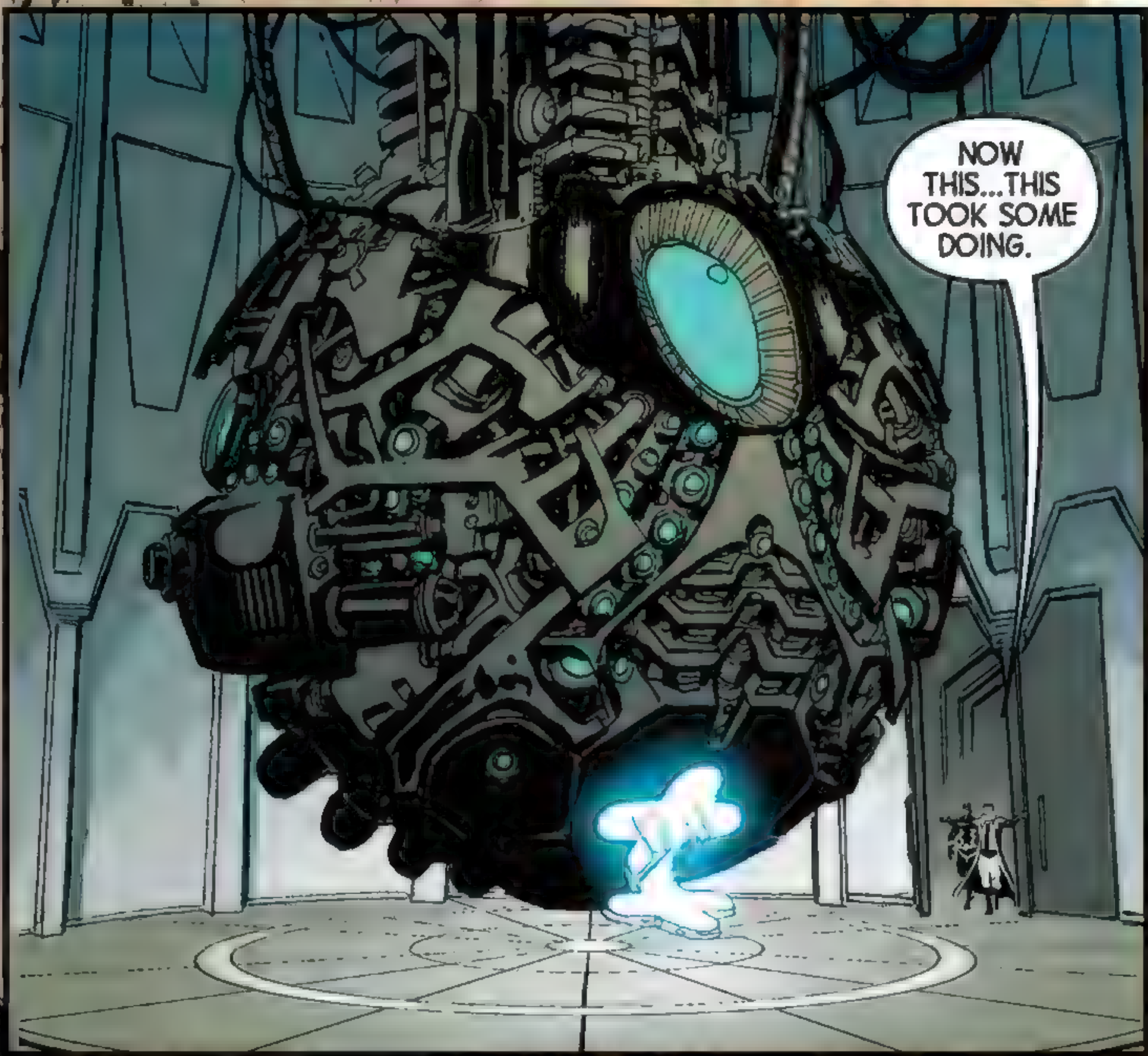


I KNOW,
I KNOW...

YOU WERE
ALREADY CONFIDENT
ABOUT THE DEVICE...
YOU'RE MUCH MORE
INTERESTED IN THE
OTHER.



SIGH...
FOLLOW
ME.



NOW
THIS...THIS
TOOK SOME
DOING.



BUILDING A PORTAL WASN'T
MUCH OF A PROBLEM--
MAINTAINING A LOCAL FIELD
IS HARDER THAN YOU'D
THINK, BUT IT'S NO
DIFFICULTY FOR A...

WHAT?

NO,
NEVER
MIND.



TOO
MANY VOICES
IN THIS
PLACE.

FINDING A
HABITABLE DIMENSION
WITH THE PARAMETERS
YOU WANTED WAS
A BIT HARDER
TO DO.

STILL...HERE
IT IS. HERE,
ALL SOUNDS ARE
RENDERED WITHOUT
PITCH...TRY IT
OUT.

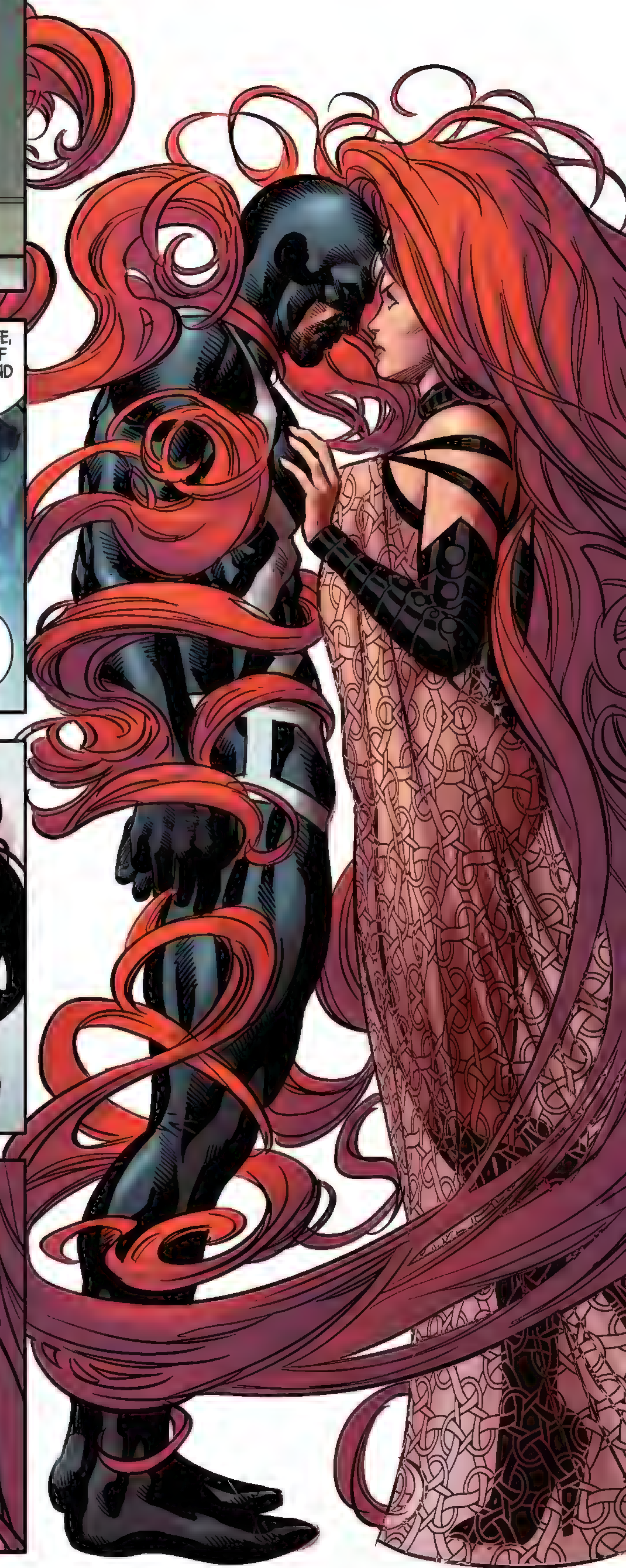
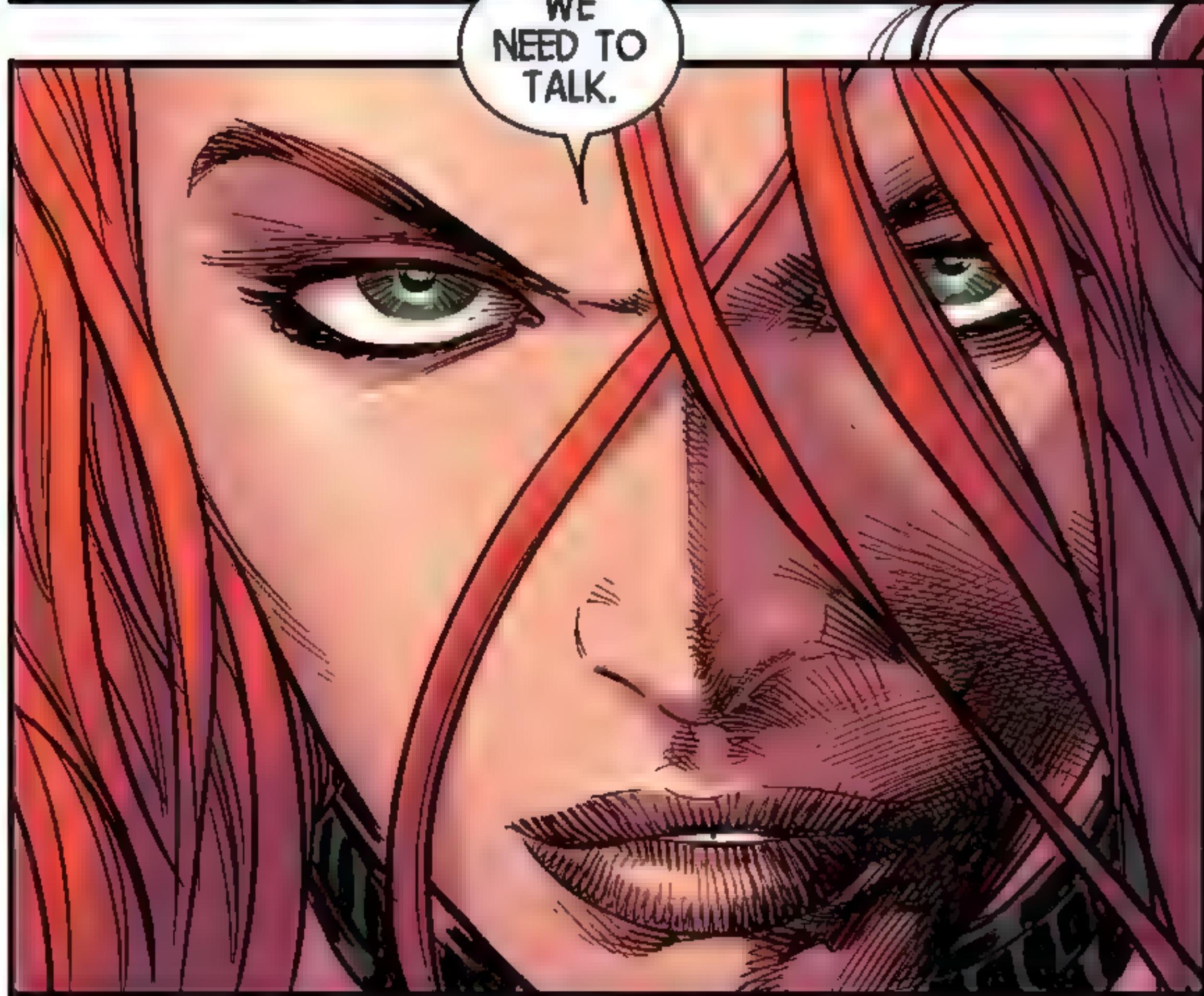
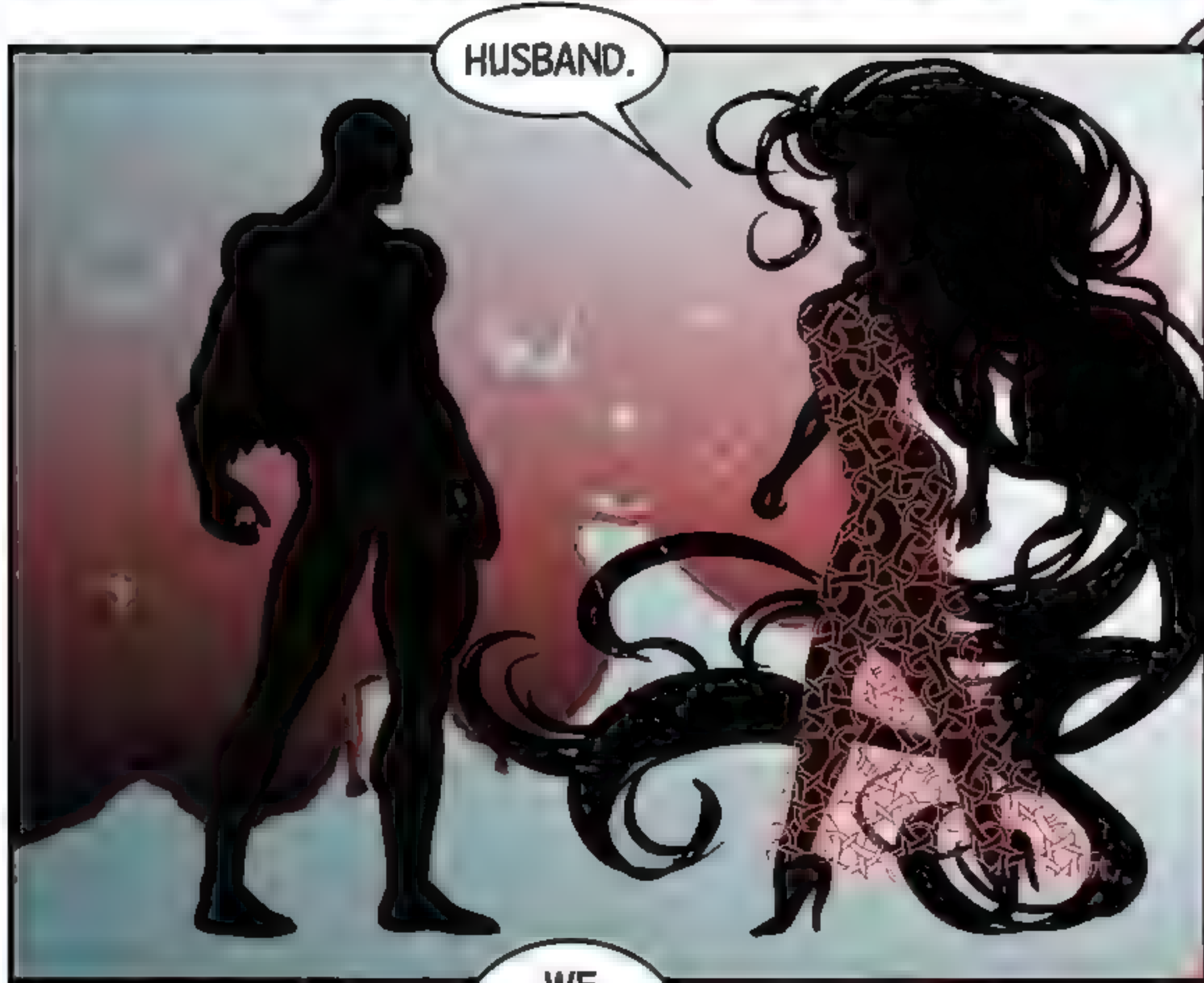
THANK YOU,
BROTHER.



YOU'RE
WELCOME!

AND NOW
YOU'RE FREE TO HAVE
YOUR SUPER-SECRET
MEETINGS THAT I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO KNOW
ABOUT BUT DO BECAUSE I
PUT A TRACKER IN
LOCKJA--

UH-OH.





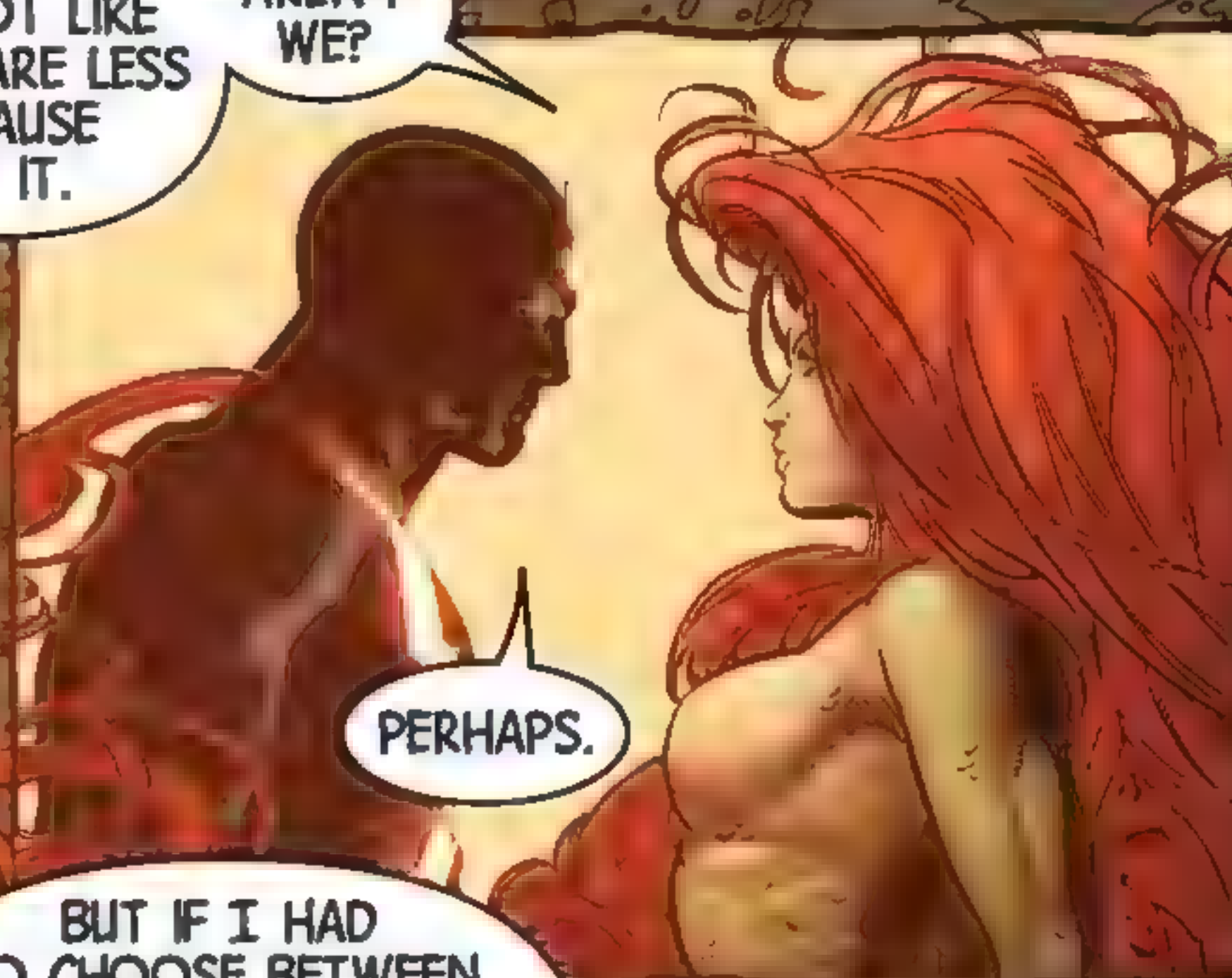
LOOK AT
WHAT WE'VE BUILT
TOGETHER WITH
OUR MINDS, MY
KING.

WE DO
NOT SPEND
ENOUGH TIME HERE,
SHARING OF
OURSELVES...

YOU HAVE
BEEN HIDING YOUR
THOUGHTS FROM
ME...

...AND I
DO NOT LIKE
IT. WE ARE LESS
BECAUSE
OF IT.

AREN'T
WE?



PERHAPS.

BUT IF I HAD
TO CHOOSE BETWEEN
COMPLETE HONESTY AND
THE LOSS OF THIS PLACE,
OR DENYING US THIS PLACE
AND MAINTAINING THE
MEMORY OF IT...

THEN I
CHOOSE THE
LATTER.

YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND
THAT, CAN'T YOU,
MY LOVE?



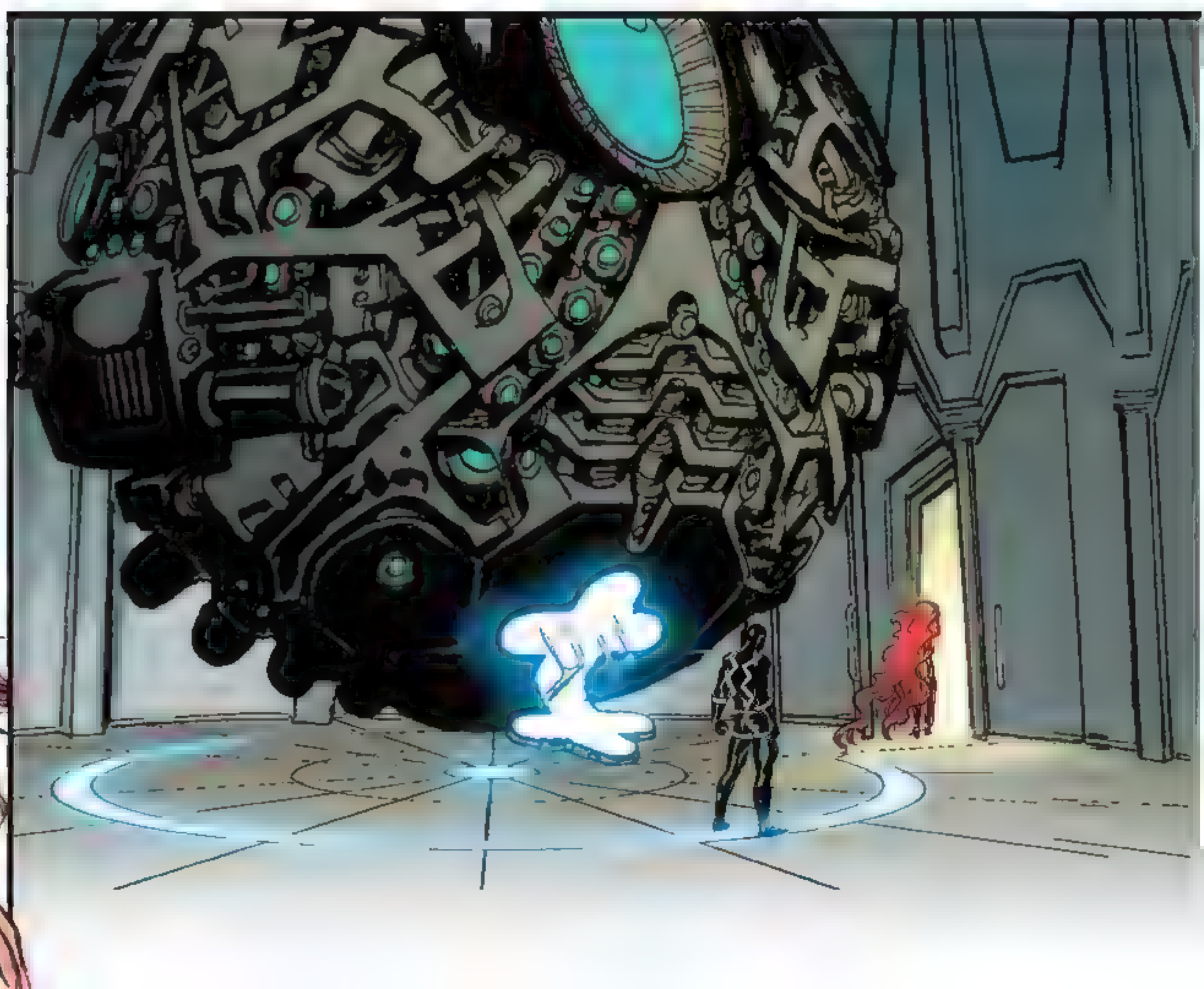
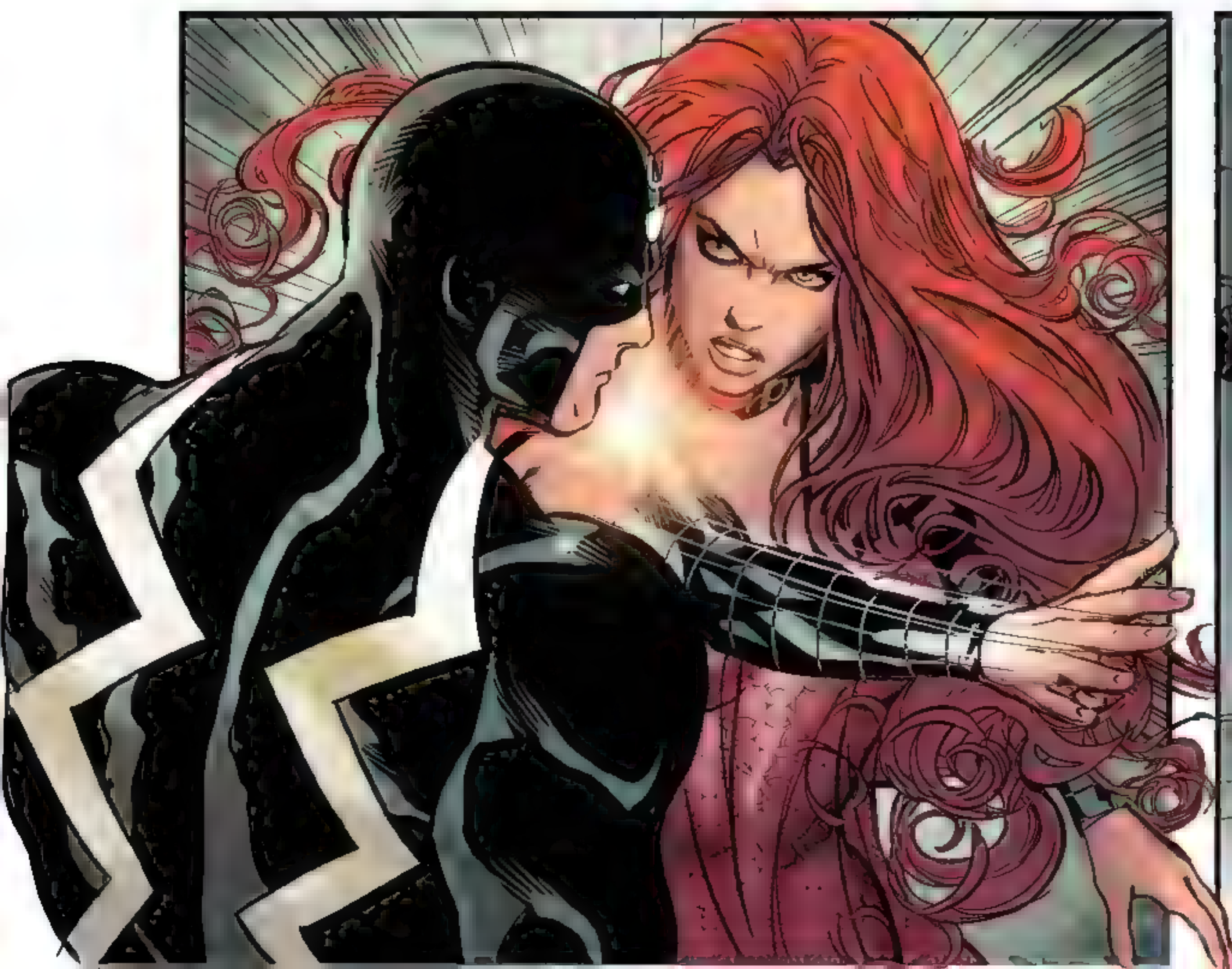
NO. NO, I
CANNOT.

WE
ARE ONE...
OR WE ARE
NOTHING.

TELL
ME WHAT
YOU ARE
HIDING.



THIS IS
HOW THE END
BEGINS...



NECROPOLIS.
CITY OF THE DEAD.
WAKANDA.



AND YOU
ARE PROPOSING
WHAT,
EXACTLY?



A
SOLUTION...



...TO YOUR
SITUATION, MOST
CERTAINLY. TO
OUR PROBLEM,
HOPEFULLY.

WE NEED
A NEW WAY OF
LOOKING AT
ALL THIS.

YOU
PROPOSE...A
PARTNERSHIP?

AN
UNDERSTANDING,
BLACK SWAN.
A COMMON
GOAL.

DOES
THIS INTEREST
YOU?

I
THINK IT
DOES.



PERHAPS.

PERHAPS
WHAT?

IS THERE
SOMETHING
I CAN HELP
YOU WITH,
T'CHALLA?

YES.
COME WITH
ME...

WE
NEED TO
TALK.

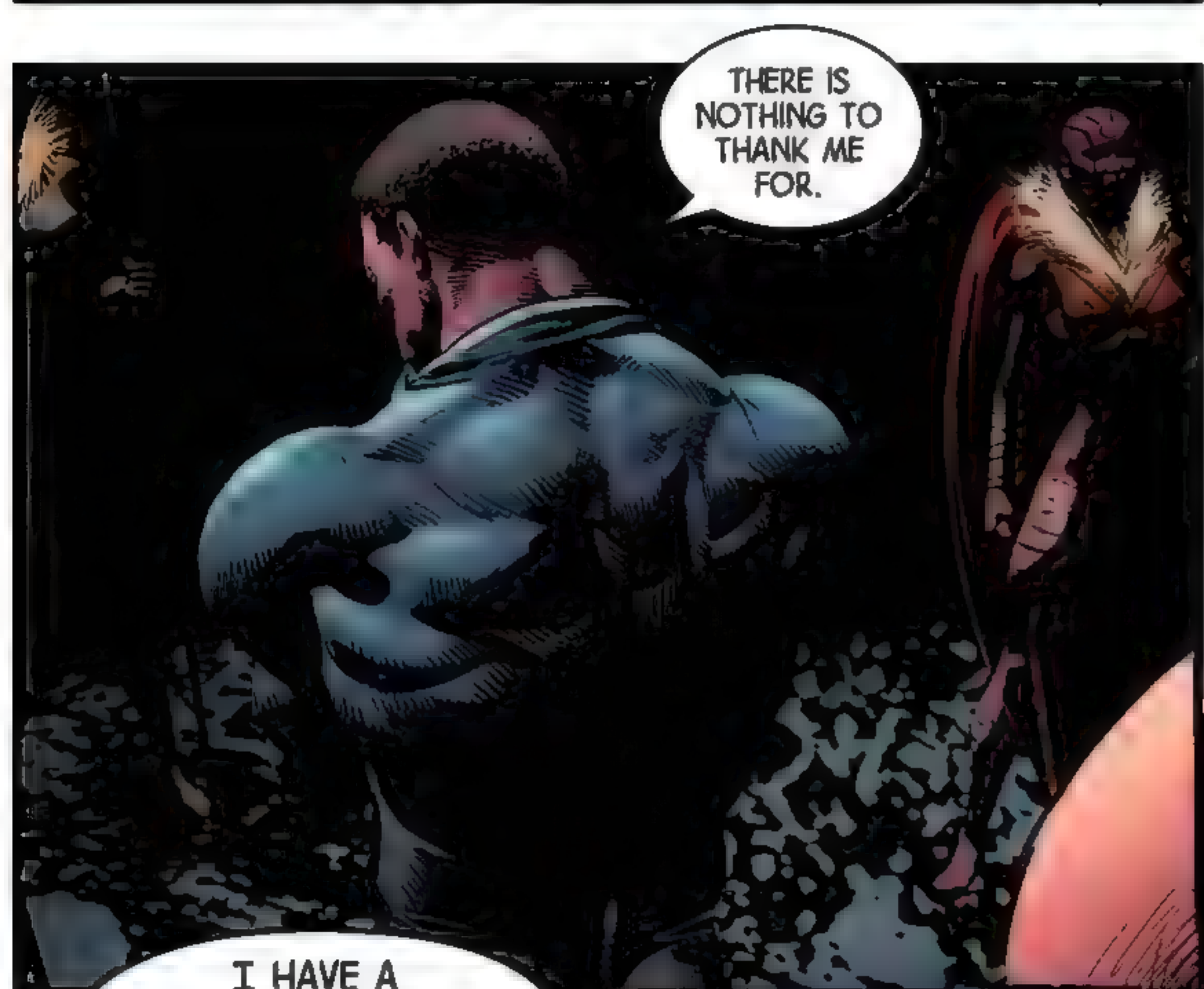
WELL...



IS THIS CONCERNING MY OFFER OF PEACE TO YOUR SISTER? IF SO, SHE HAS RESPONDED AND SAID SHE IS CONSIDERING IT. WHICH IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.

I SUPPOSE I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT. SO...

THERE. YOU HAVE MY THANKS.



THERE IS NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR.



I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THAT QUEEN SHURI WOULD CONSIDER MY OFFER IF SOMEONE HAD NOT ARGUED IT...

ARE YOU SAYING YOU DID NOT?



NO. I DID.

THEN WHAT ARE--

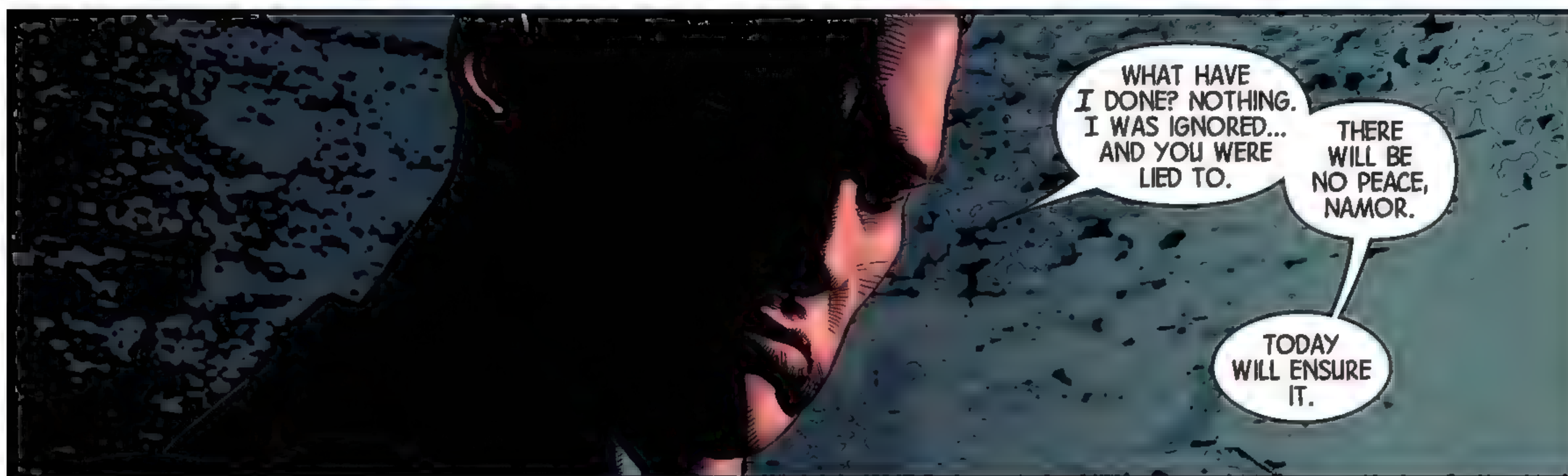
THIS THING YOU STARTED...THIS THING BETWEEN YOU AND I--IT'S POISON FOR OUR NATIONS.



TWO GIANTS BATTLING EACH OTHER, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF THE WORLD--THE LIVES--THEY ARE DESTROYING AROUND THEM.

YOU WERE RIGHT, OUR PEOPLE SHOULD BE SPARED...BUT THAT IS NOT THE WORLD. WE KNOW THEY ARE ALWAYS THE FIRST TO PAY A MUCH-TOO-COSTLY PRICE.

I REGRET THAT.



ATLANTIS.



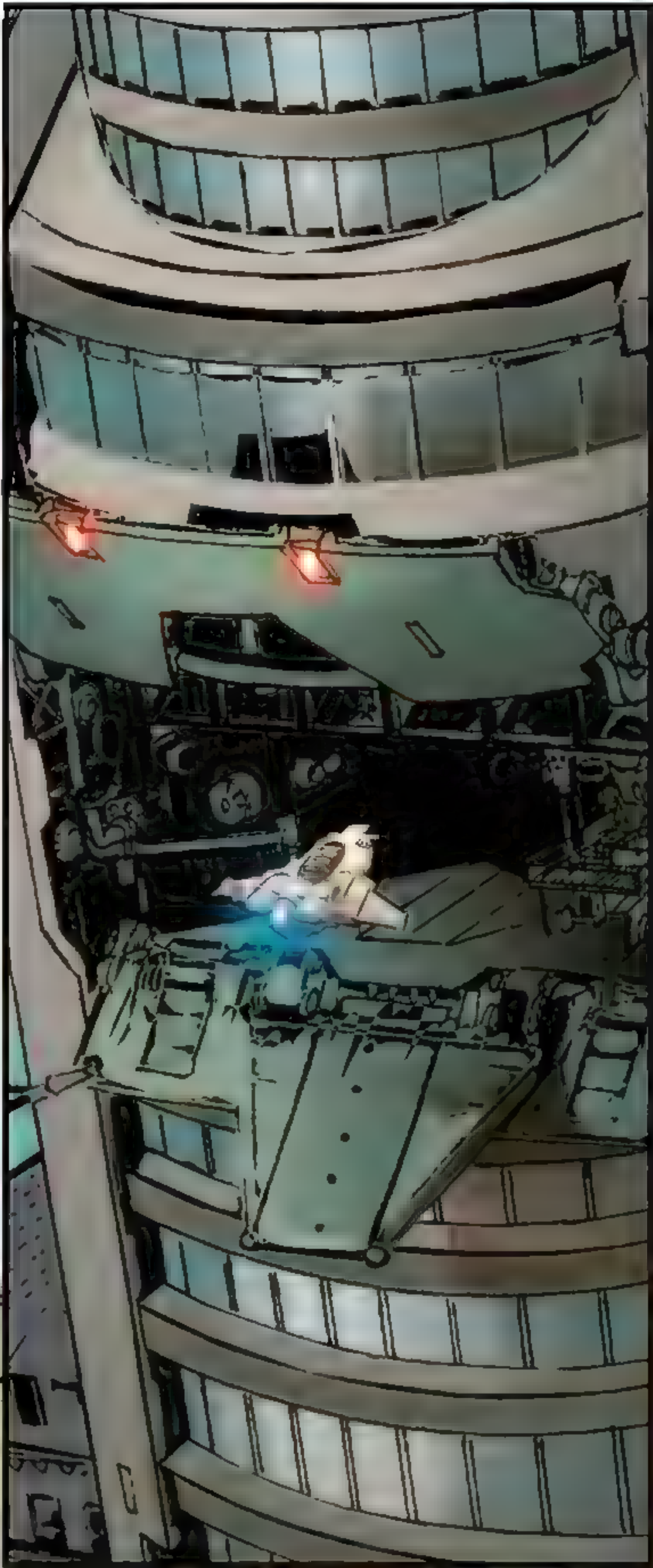
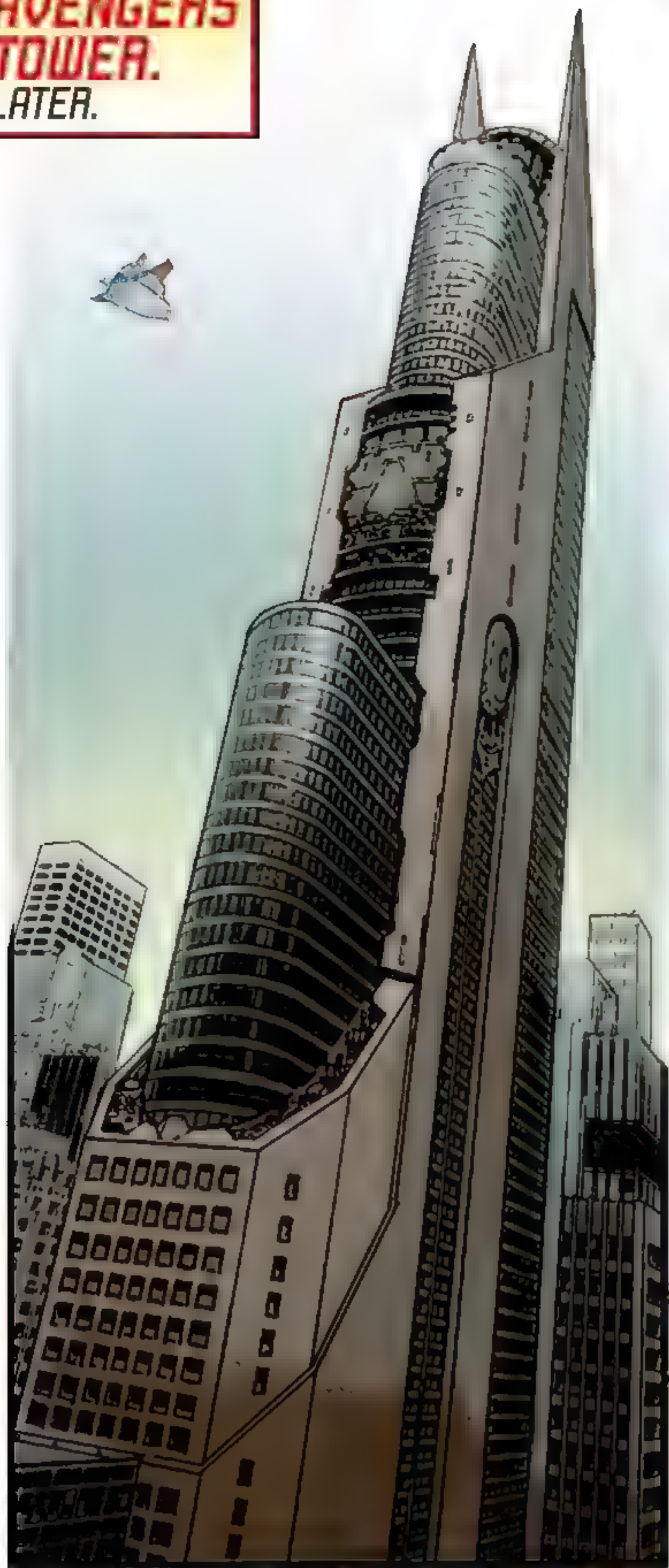
WHY?
WHY DID
YOU TELL ME
THIS?

YOU SHOULD
GO HOME AND HELP
YOUR PEOPLE HOWEVER
YOU CAN. THEY WILL
NEED THEIR KING.

THIS
IS NOT
DONE.

IT
NEVER
IS.

AVENGERS
TOWER.
LATER.



I THINK
THAT WENT
ALL RIGHT...

DO YOU
WORRY
THAT--

NO.
HE'LL
DO THE JOB
WELL...

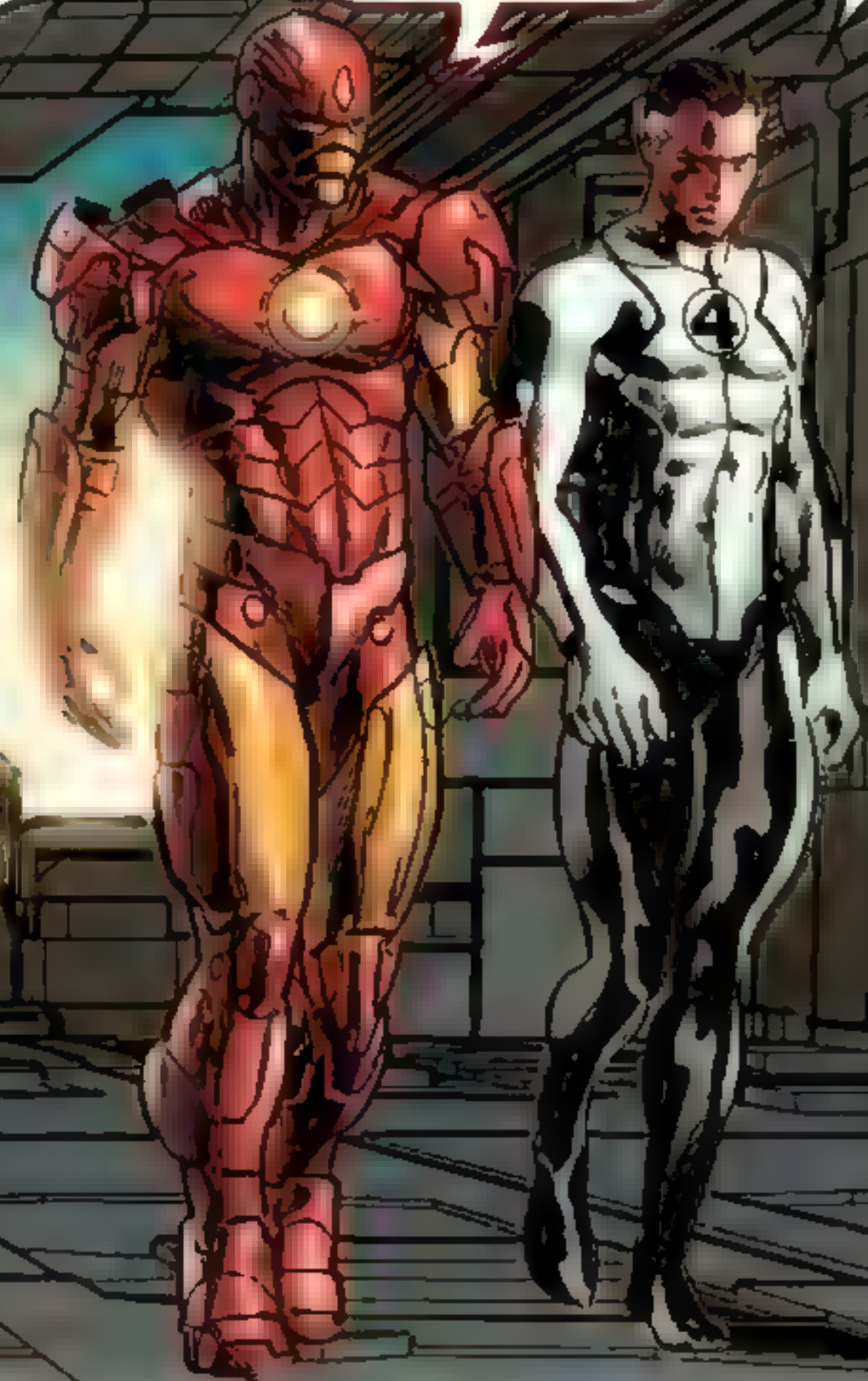
AS WELL
AS EITHER OF
US WOULD.

FIGURE THAT
THE LAST MONTH
HAS BEEN AN ANOMALY
AND WE'RE GOING TO
AVERAGE 3 TO 4
INCURSIONS A
MONTH.

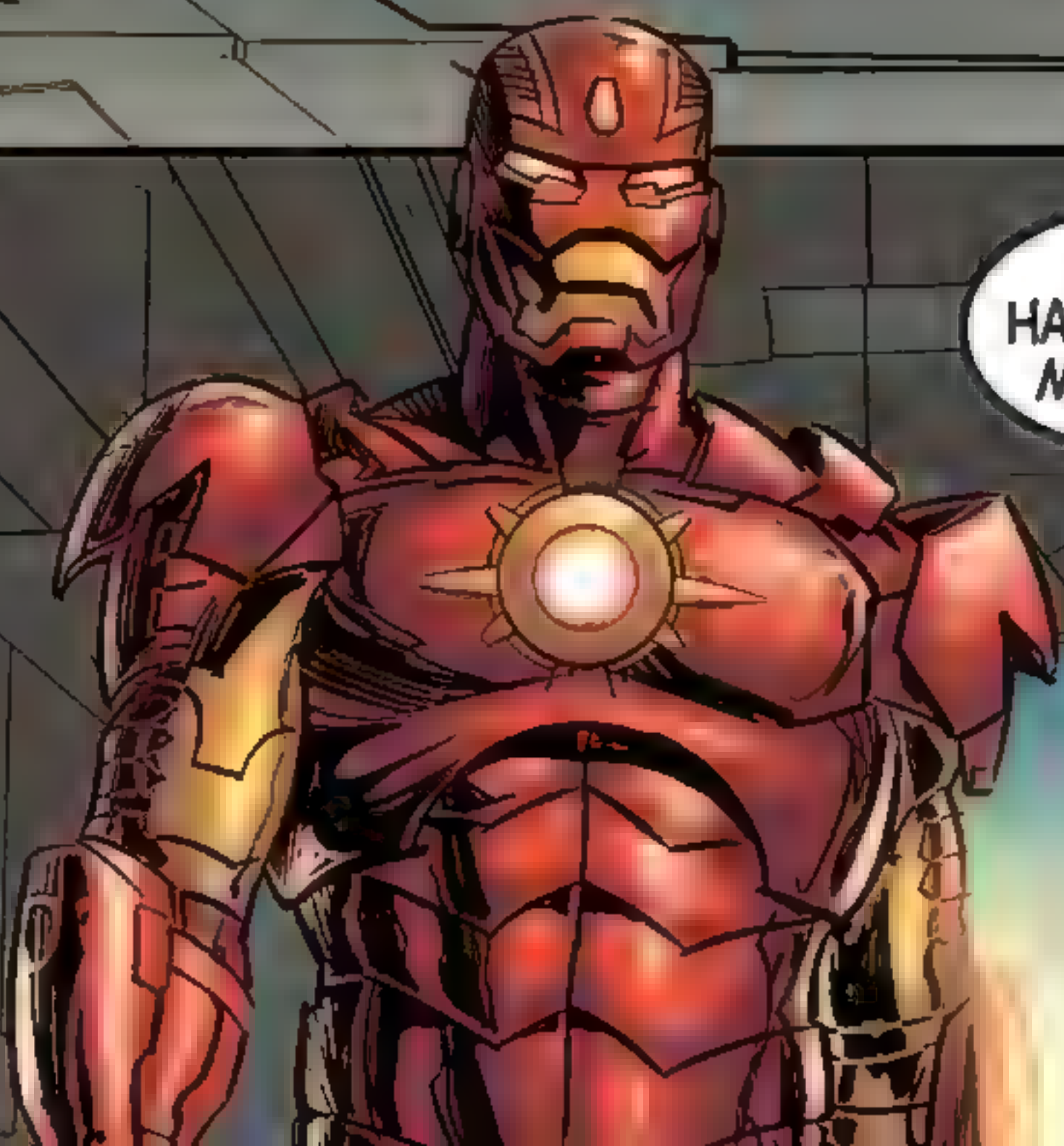
AT THAT
RATE...

REED,
THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE
THAT--

AHEM. AT
THAT RATE,
PLUS FACTORING IN
AN EXPONENTIAL
GROWTH
CURVE...



HE'LL
HAVE THREE
MONTHS.





AND THAT'S
OUR WORST
CASE SCENARIO.



THEY'RE ALL
WORST CASE
SCENARIOS.

WHAT'S
THAT?



PROXIMITY
ALERT.

TIED INTO
S.W.O.R.D.'S EARLY
WARNING SYSTEM.
BUT THAT MEANS...



MY
GOD.

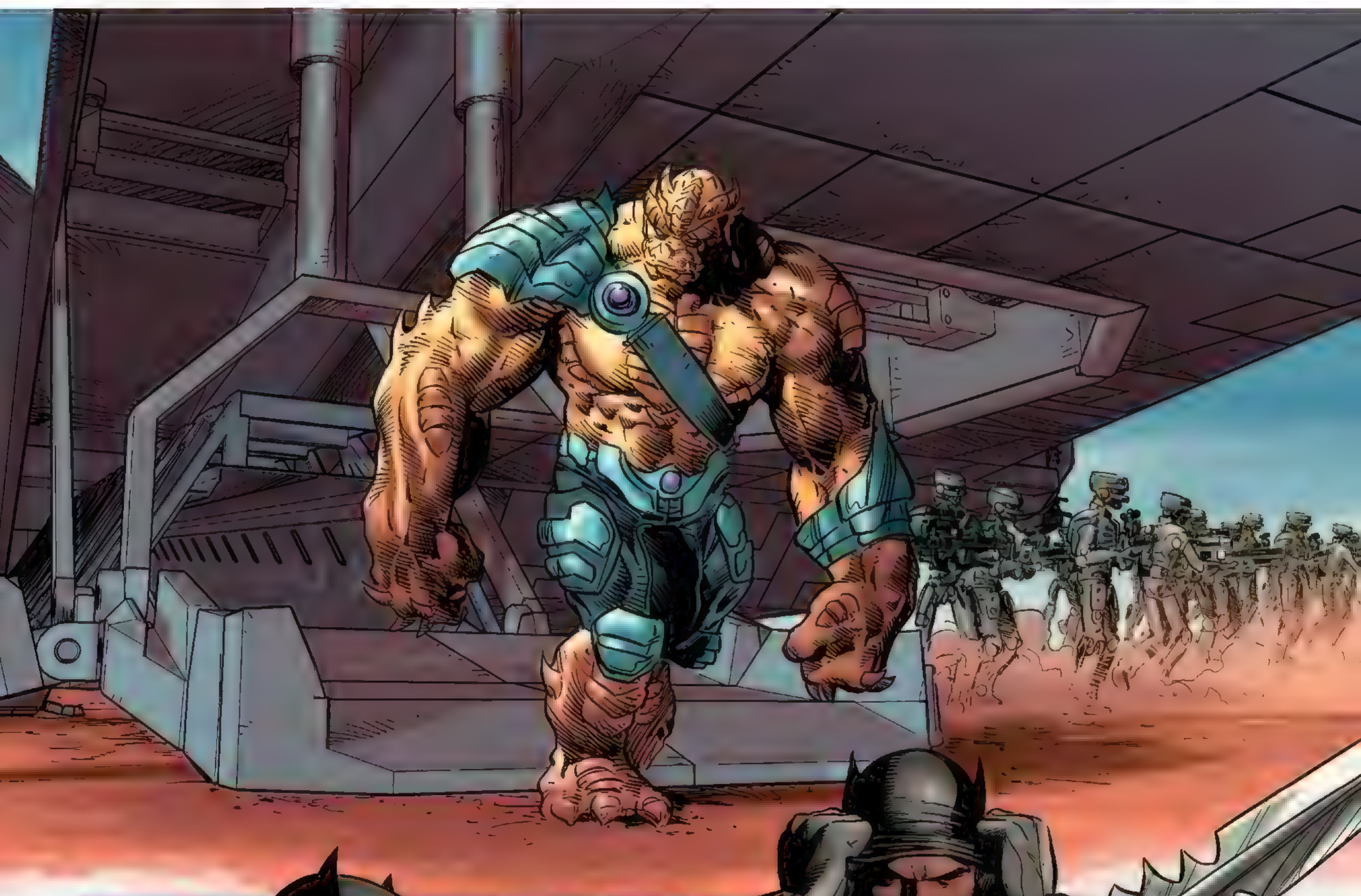
INVASION.



**DOCTOR
STRANGE'S
SANCTUM
SANCTORUM.**



WAKANDA.



THE
JEAN GREY
SCHOOL.

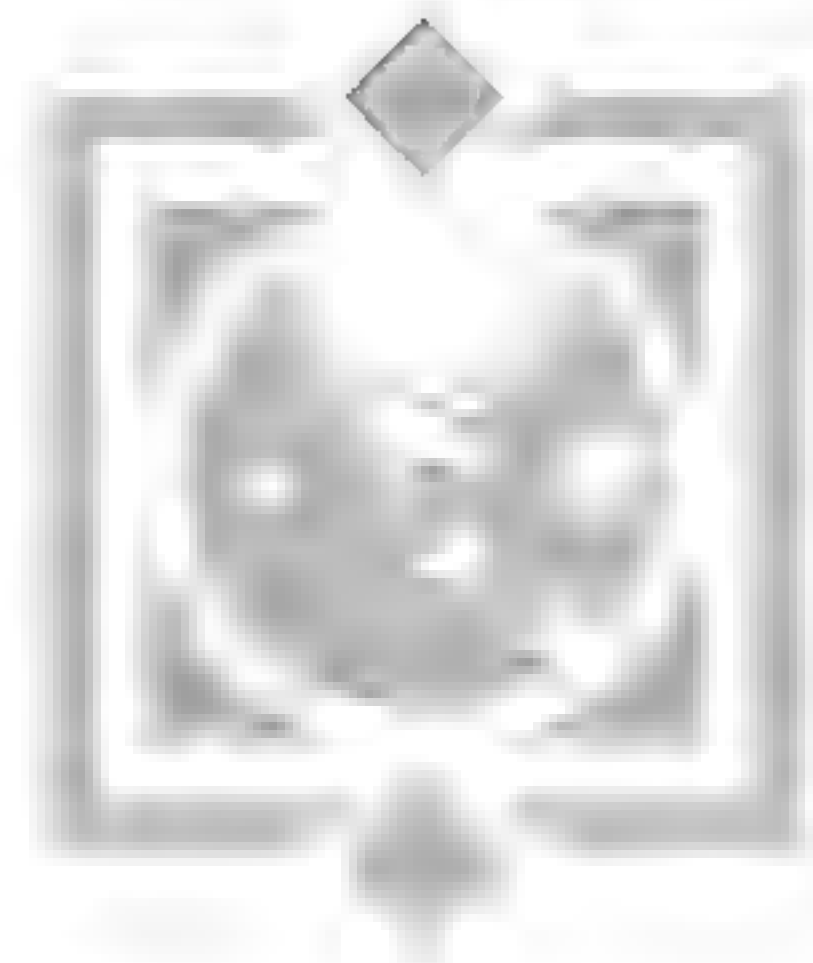


SNIKT!

SNIKT!

ATLANTIS.





THE STONES, SHATTERED



A ABOVE
TITAN.
THEN.

OUT THERE
IN THE COSMOS, A
SYMPHONY OF DYING
STARS AND BURNING
WORLDS.

ONCE
I WAS A
CONDUCTOR,
AND NOW...
LESS.

SHOW IT
TO ME AGAIN,
CORVUS.

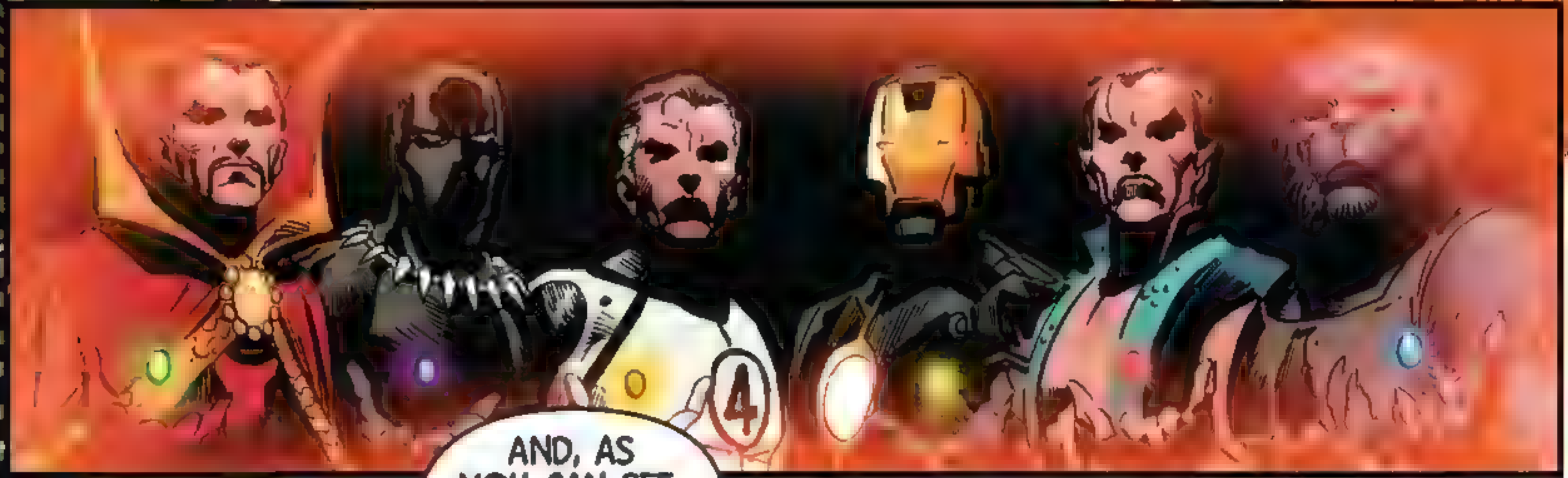


YES,
MASTER.

THE OUTRIDER
PULLED THE
MEMORIES FROM
THE INHUMAN
KING'S MIND.

TIME BECOMES
FLUID IN FORCED
RECOLLECTION,
BUT THESE HUMANS
ARE RECOGNIZABLE
TO US.

THEY HAVE...
**UNIVERSAL
SIGNIFICANCE.**



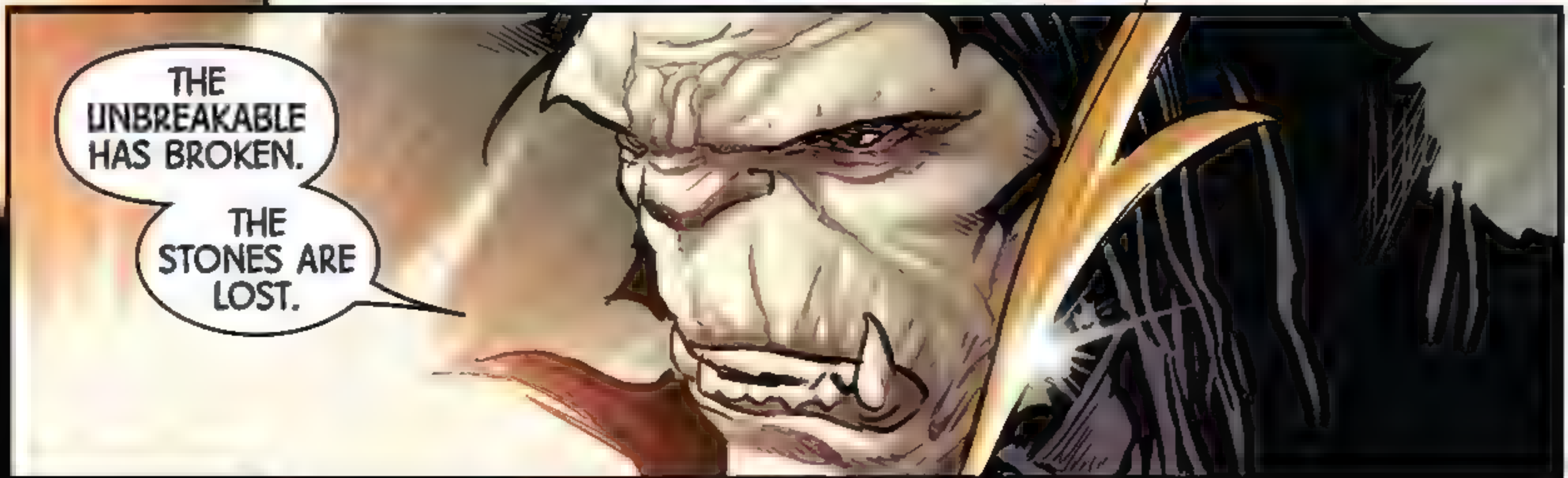
AND, AS
YOU CAN SEE,
THEY POSSESSED
THE INFINITY
GEMS.



**POSSESSED,
LORD THANOS.**

THE
UNBREAKABLE
HAS BROKEN.

THE
STONES ARE
LOST.

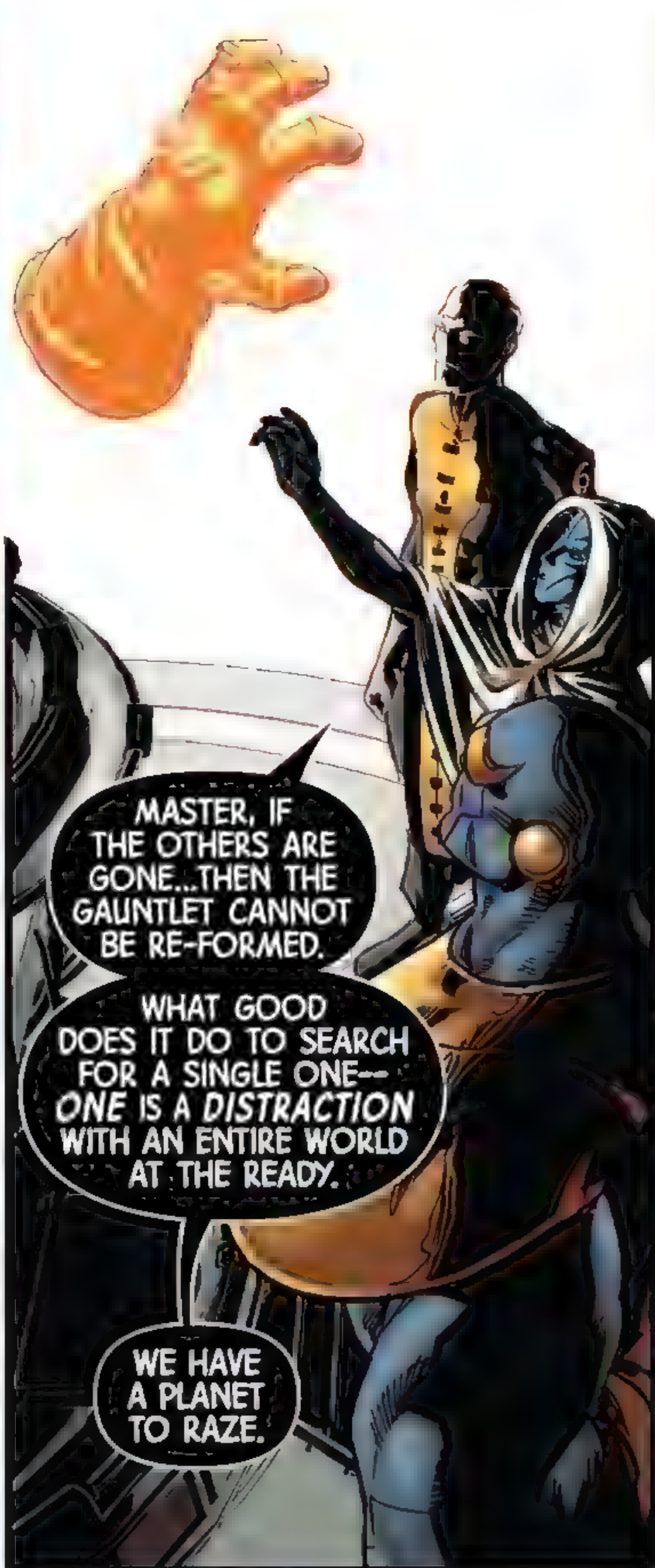




NOT ALL.

LOOK!
ONE DID NOT
FRACTURE. IT SIMPLY
DISAPPEARED.

IT HIDES
FROM ME...BUT
I NOW KNOW
WHERE TO START
THE SEARCH
FOR IT.



MASTER, IF
THE OTHERS ARE
GONE...THEN THE
GAUNTLET CANNOT
BE RE-FORMED.

WHAT GOOD
DOES IT DO TO SEARCH
FOR A SINGLE ONE--
ONE IS A DISTRACTION
WITH AN ENTIRE WORLD
AT THE READY.

WE HAVE
A PLANET
TO RAZE.



ONLY ONE,
SUPERGIANT?

WITH **ONLY**
ONE YOU BECOME A
GOD. DO YOU KNOW
WHAT IT IS LIKE TO
BE A GOD?

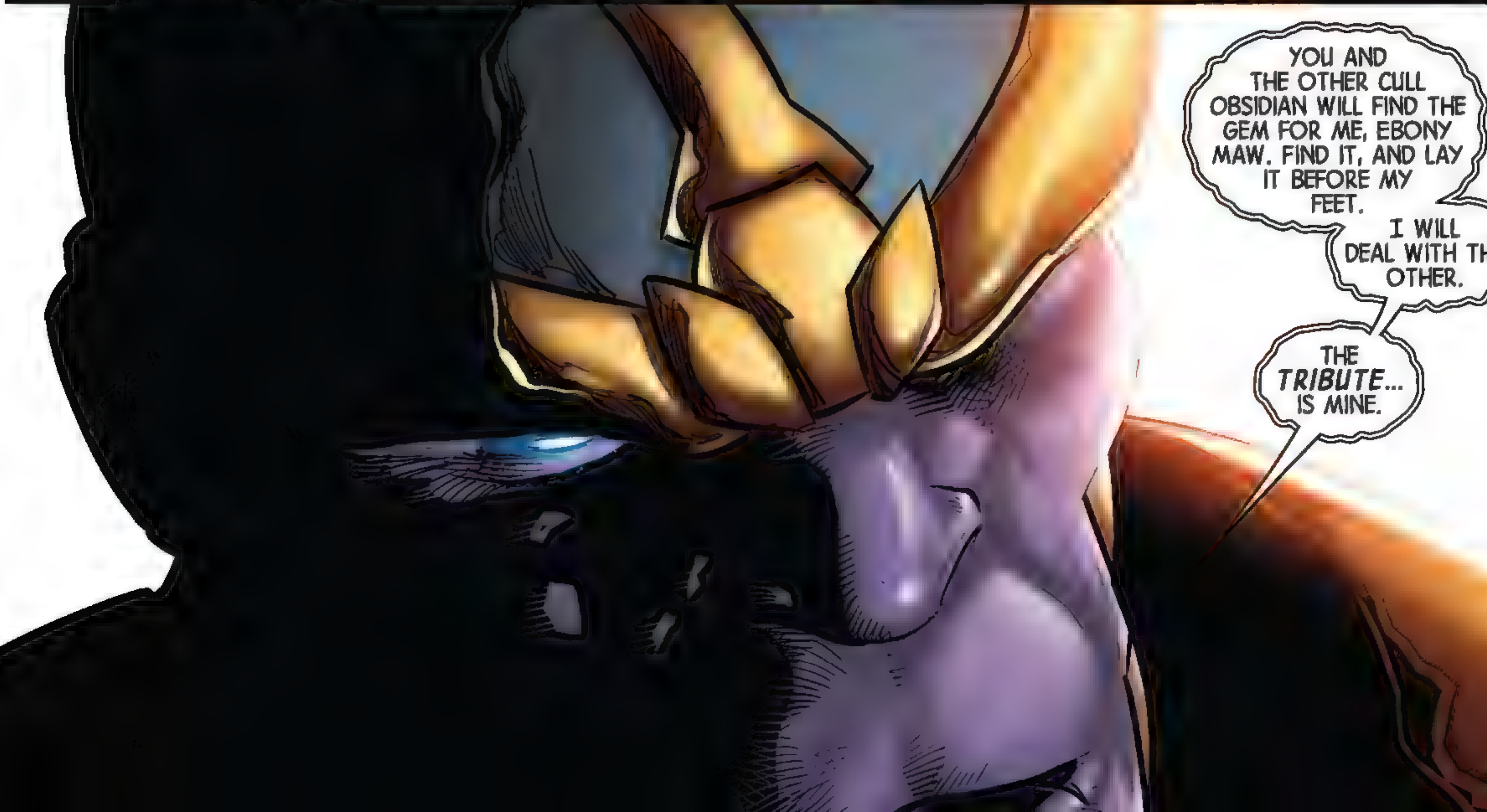
NOT
YET.

NOT YET,
BUT I KNOW
NOW...AND IT IS
WORTH MORE THAN
MANY, MANY
WORLDS.



AND WHAT
OF OUR OTHER
REASON FOR LOOKING
TOWARDS EARTH,
MASTER?

WHAT
OF THE
TRIBUTE?



YOU AND
THE OTHER CULL
OBSIDIAN WILL FIND THE
GEM FOR ME, EBONY
MAW. FIND IT, AND LAY
IT BEFORE MY
FEET.

I WILL
DEAL WITH THE
OTHER.

THE
TRIBUTE...
IS MINE.



THE CULL OBSIDIAN



**NEW YORK
CITY.
NOW.**

INVASION.

**QUICKLY
NOW, REED.**

**I'M SPINNING UP
THE ARC REACTOR
POWERING THE TOWER'S
NEW DEFENSE SYSTEM,
BUT WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE A SMALL WINDOW
IN WHICH TO ACT.**

**I COUNTED
OVER 50 VESSELS,
ANTHONY. WE'LL HAVE MAYBE
60 SECONDS BEFORE THEY
TRIANGULATE ON THE TOWER
AND WE BECOME THE FOCUS
OF THEIR FULL
ATTENTION...**

**SMALL
WINDOW,
INDEED.**

**SYSTEM
ACTIVATED...
BRINGING
THE BATTERIES
ONLINE.**

**I'VE GOT
A GREEN LIGHT
ON THE SECOND
STATION.**

**WHAT
NOW?**



WHAT DO YOU THINK, REED?



"FIRE."

BR-BR-BODDDOOM!



KILL RADIUS LOOKS TO BE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE.

EFFECTIVE, BUT WE'VE GOT THEIR ATTENTION NOW AS WELL...

THE ENTIRE WING IS VECTORING ON OUR POSITION. FIFTEEN SECONDS OUT.

GOOD. ALL EYES ARE ON US...

IF WE ARE LUCKY...WE'LL BUY EVERYONE ELSE MORE TIME.

WAKANDA.

WE ARE
WINNING,
BROTHER!

WE IMPROVED
OUR ALREADY
FORMIDABLE DEFENSES
BECAUSE WE KNEW WAR
WITH ATLANTIS WAS
INEVITABLE.

THANK
BAST FOR
PROVIDENCE,
SHURI.

"THE GOLDEN SHIELDS PROTECT
US FROM ORBITAL BOMBING,
AND ALMOST ALL OF THE
APPROACHING SHIPS ARE BEING
KNOCKED DOWN BEFORE THEY
REACH THE CITY PROPER..."

"OUR ONLY CONCERN
IS MAKING SURE NO
ONE REACHES
WAKANDA ON FOOT."

DONE.

NOW IF
ONLY WE
COULD FIND
OUT WHO--

THUNK!

LOOK!

BEHIND
YOU,
T'CHALLA.

WHERE
THE JUNGLE
MEETS THE
FIELDS...

"IT SEEMS
TODAY WE
HUNT...*LION*."

I SEE THAT
NOT ALL ON THIS WORLD
ARE WEAK. MEN DIE AND THE
FIELDS ARE BURNING...THE
WORLD, JUST AS THANOS
INTENDED.

I AM THE
BLACK DWARF,
AND I SEEK THE
GEM...AND THE
MAN WHO
HOLDS IT.

IS THERE
A GREAT WARRIOR
HERE WHO WOULD
FACE ME...OR DO
I HAVE TO HUNT
YOU DOWN?

I AM
WHO YOU
ARE LOOKING
FOR.

I AM
THE **BLACK
PANTHER**.

KING
OF THE
DEAD...

AND
SOON TO
BE YOUR NEW
LORD.

WHEN

ATLANTIS.

"THE ENTIRE CITY IS THIS WAY, GENERAL...READINGS OF LIFE-FORMS ARE SPORADIC..."

DID THANOS SEND THE OTHERS HERE FIRST?

NO. THIS WAS SOMEONE ELSE.

I CAME SEEKING A MAN OF CONSEQUENCE CAPABLE OF WIELDING AN INFINITY GEM...

INSTEAD I FIND A BROKEN PRINCE, RULER OF A BROKEN CITY.

THERE IS NO GEM HERE. NO ONE WHO HAD SUCH POWER WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, PRINCE?

BE WARNED... I WILL SUFFER NO FOOLS THIS DAY.

WHO ARE YOU...AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I AM
PROXIMA
MIDNIGHT OF THE
BLACK ORDER...AND
I AM HERE TO
KILL YOU.

BUT I SEE
NOW THAT YOU
ARE ALREADY
DEAD...



YOU
JUST HAVEN'T
REALIZED IT
YET.

YOUR
REPUTATION,
NAMOR...SEEMS
OVERSTATED.

YOU DO
NOT APPEAR TO BE
THE SPORT I WAS
SEEKING, BUT PERHAPS
YOU MAY YET HAVE
SOME VALUE.



LEAVE.
NOW.

I WILL
NOT ASK
AGAIN.

I CANNOT
DO THAT. THANOS HAS
DEMANDED CERTAIN THINGS
COME TO PASS...AND I OWE
MY TITHE, PRINCE.



SO I WILL
LEAVE--I WILL
HAVE MERCY ON
YOU AND LEAVE
WHAT'S LEFT OF
YOUR NATION
ALIVE...

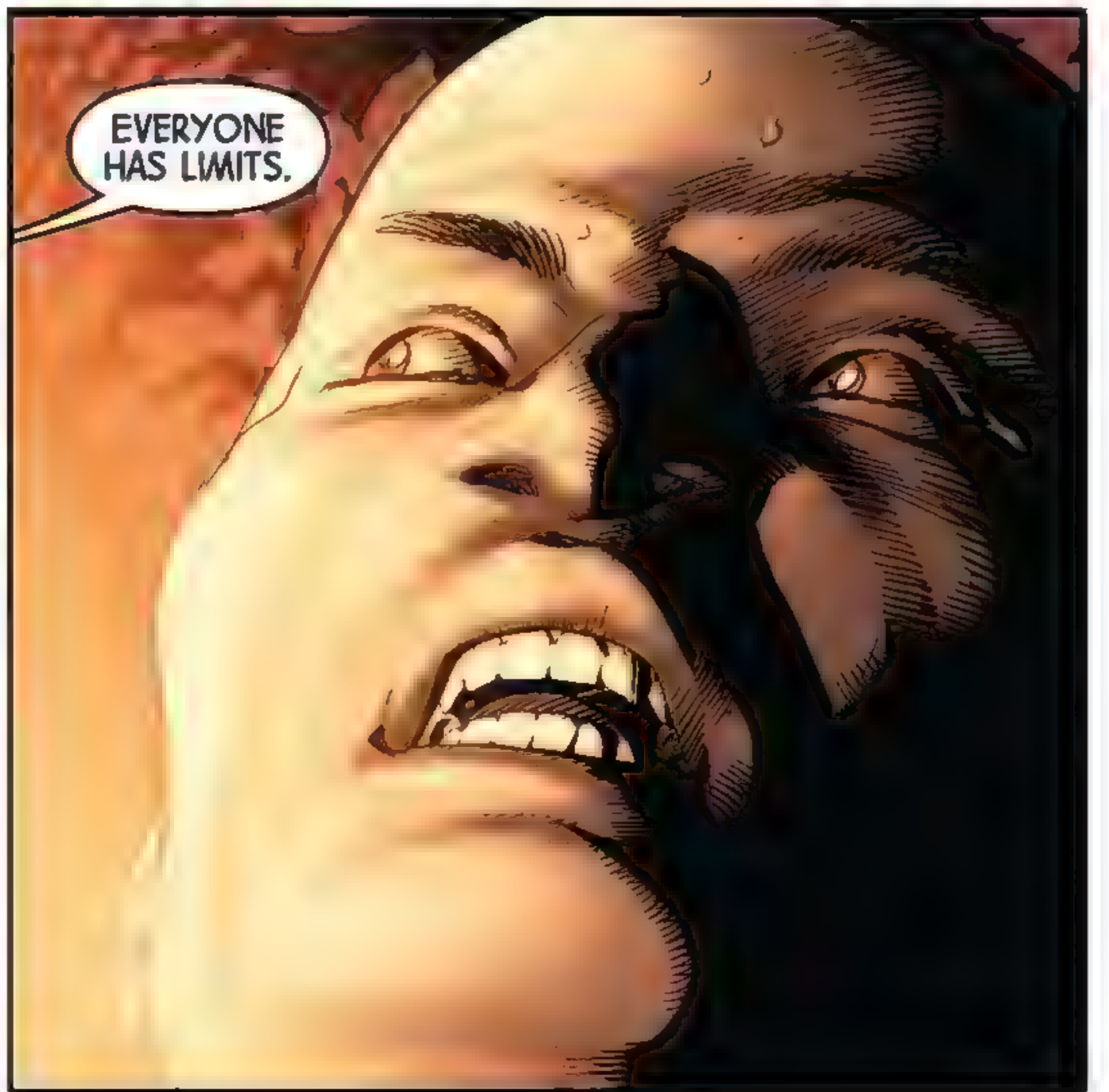
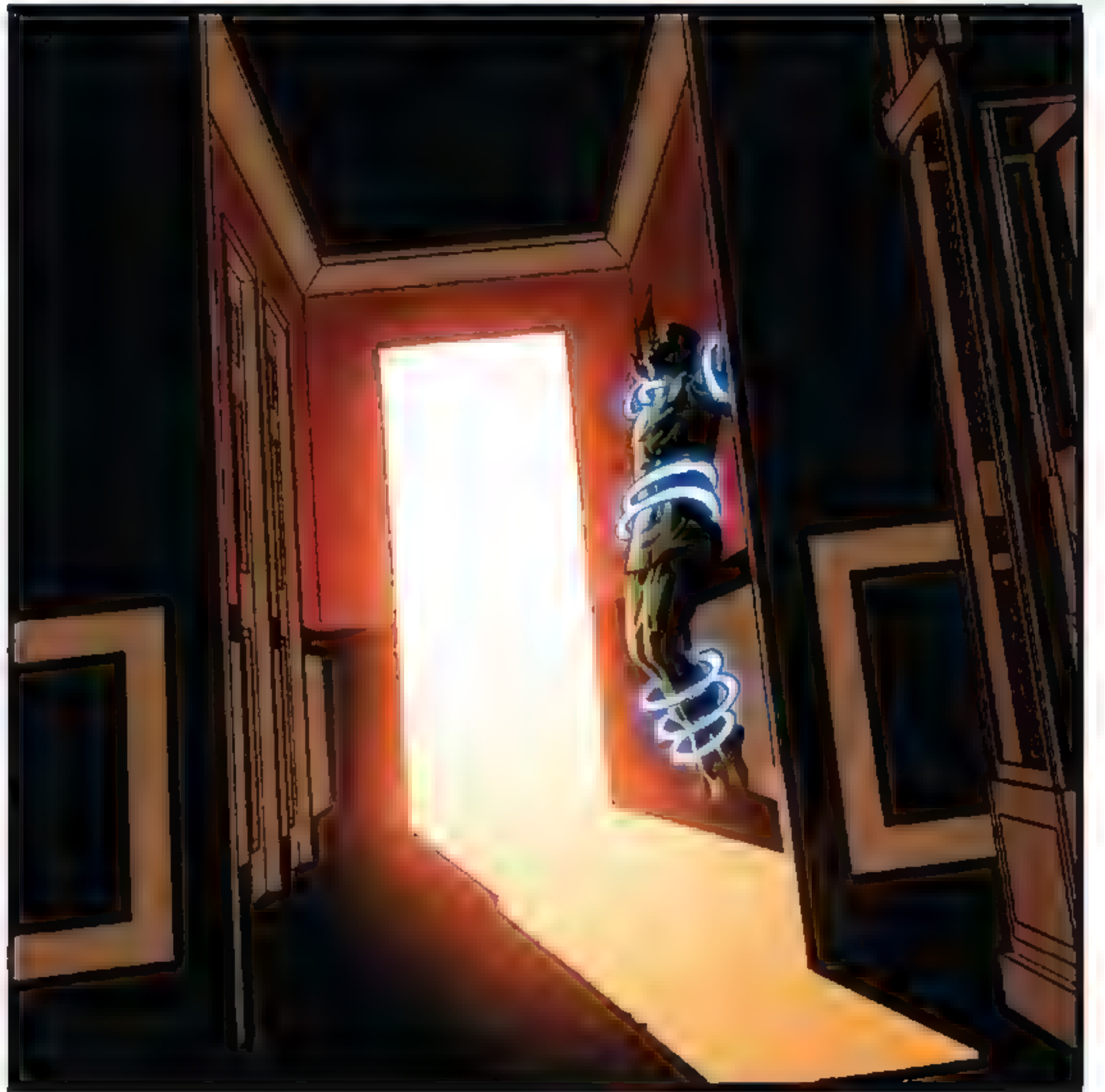
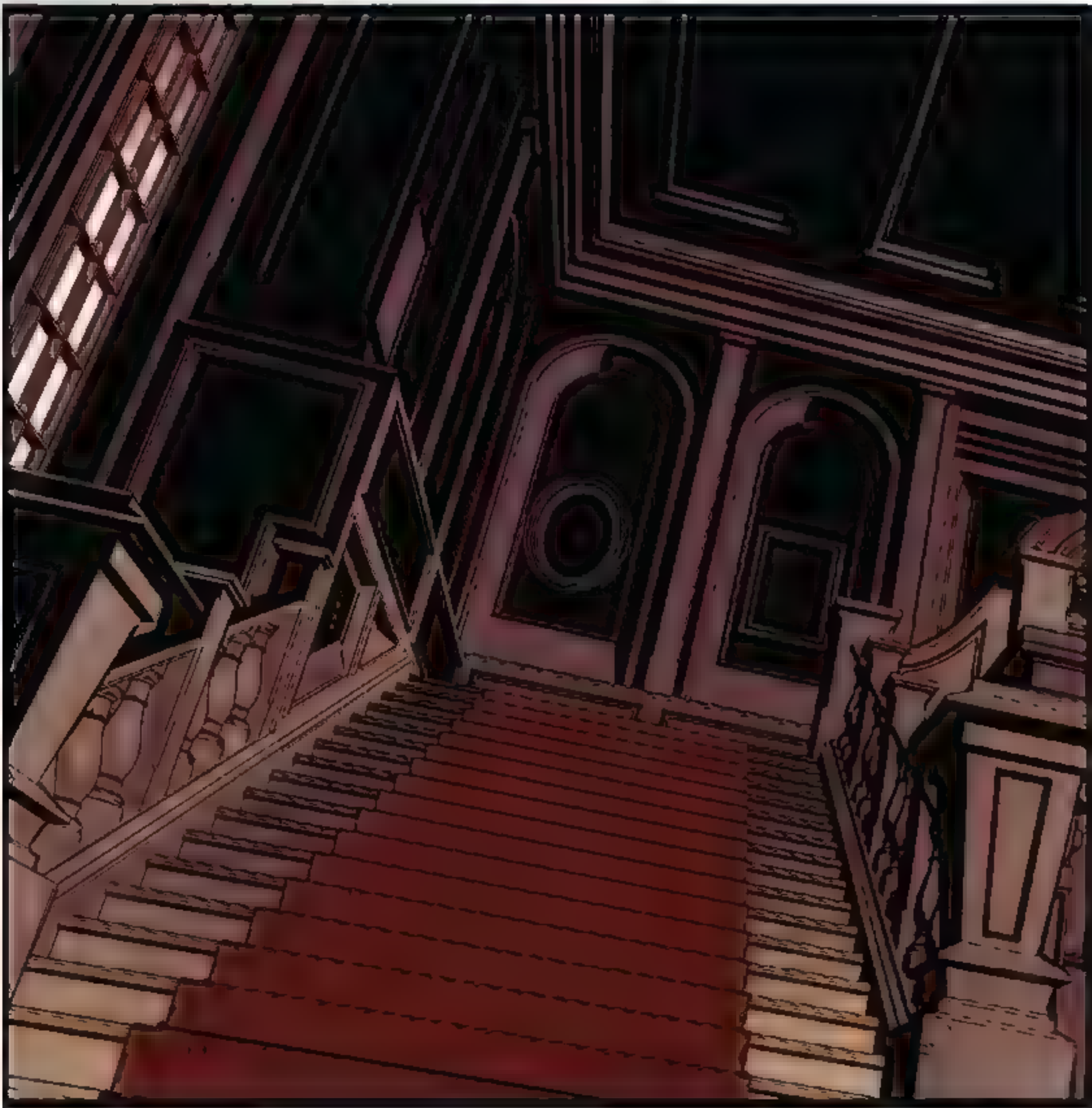
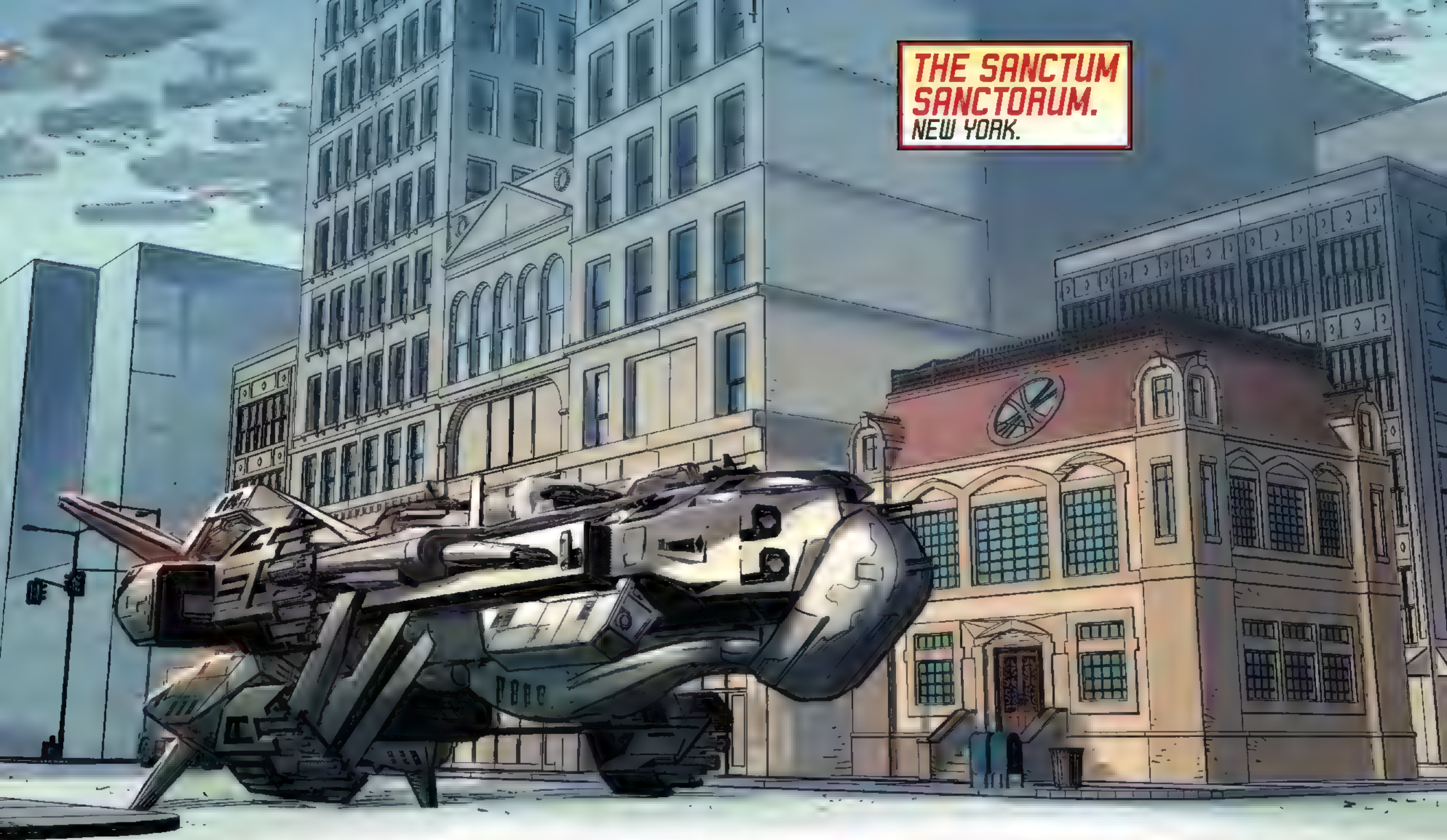
IF YOU
CAN TELL ME
WHERE I CAN FIND
THE REMAINING
INFINITY GEM.



"CAN YOU DO
THAT FOR ME,
PRINCE?"

"CAN YOU
SAVE WHAT
LITTLE REMAINS
OF ATLANTIS?"

**THE SANCTUM
SANCTORUM.
NEW YORK.**





...AN
END TO
WHAT THEY
ARE.

I, FOR
INSTANCE...I
OPERATE IN
INFORMATION,
GAINING INFLUENCE
AND SEEDING
DISCORD.

HOWEVER, I
CANNOT TEAR INTO
A MAN'S MIND AND
SEE WHAT MAKES THEM
WEAK...WHAT MAKES
THEM STRONG...



I HAVE
TO RELY ON
MY WORDS...

BUT WHAT
WORDS THEY
ARE.

SWEET
WHISPERS
OF SECRET
FEARS...



DOOHHHHH...

GO ON,
DOCTOR...TELL THE
EBONY MAW ALL THE
MYSTERIES YOU HAVE
HIDDEN IN YOUR
MIND.

I...I...
DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE
GEM IS...



CURSE THE
GEM, DOCTOR. A
FOOL'S QUEST IF
THERE EVER WAS
ONE...

I WANT
WHAT **THANOS**
WANTS.

THE JEAN
GREY SCHOOL.
NEW YORK.



GET
BEHIND
ME.



FORWARD!
FIND THE STONE!
FIND THE ONE WHO
HOLDS IT!

LOOK,
SUPERGIANT...

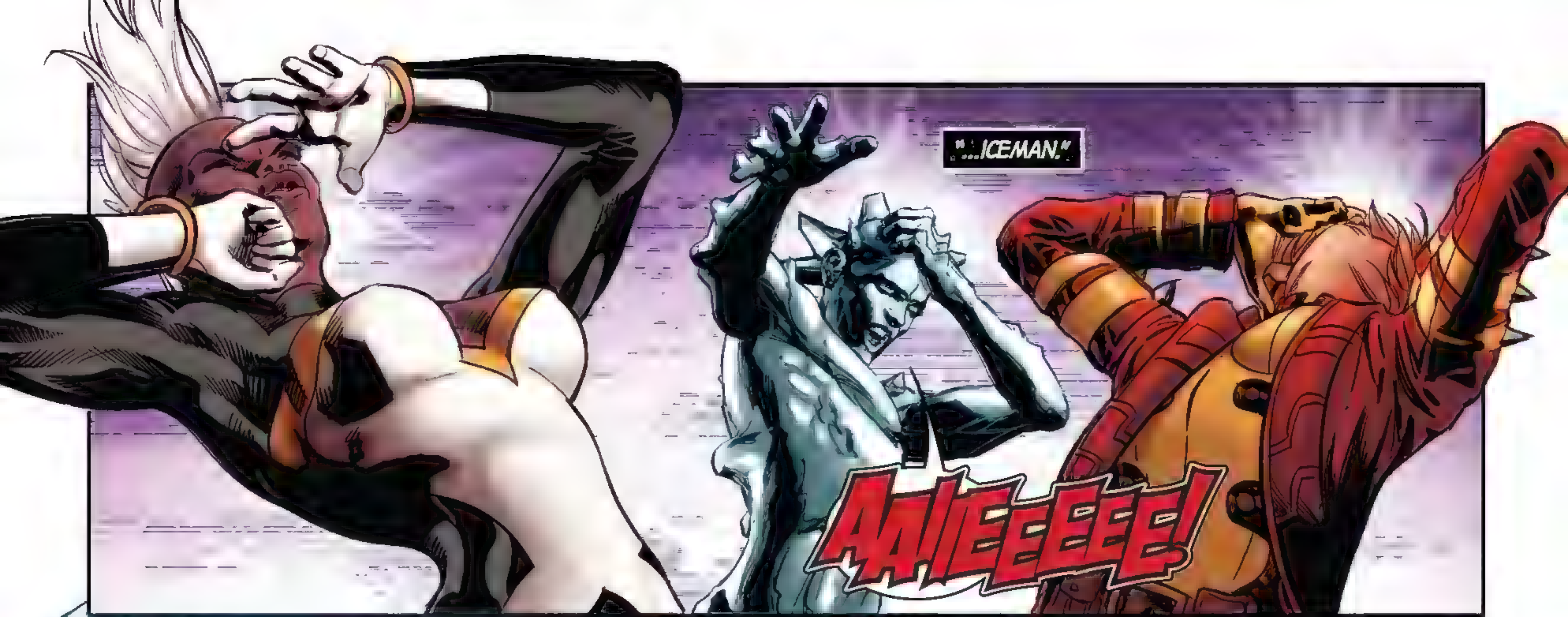
HEAVY
GAME.



FODDER
MOSTLY. AN ETERNAL
MAN. AN ELEMENTAL.
SOME MINOR MEMBERS
WITH MENTAL
ACUITY.

NO...
THE ONLY REAL
DANGER IS THE
OMEGA LEVEL
MUTATES...

I WILL
TAKE THE MIND
OF THE MEGAMORPH
NOW AND MAKE IT
MY OWN. I WILL
USE THIS...



...ICEMAN.

AWEEEEEE!



THERE.
MUCH
BETTER.

USEFUL.

LOOK
OUT!

BOBBY'S
LOST
HIS DAMN
MIND.

LESS
LOST THAN
STOLEN,
I THINK.

IT HAS
TO BE ONE OF
THE INVADERS,
LOGAN.

"YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP THEM TO STOP HIM."



START FIGURING OUT SOME WAY TO THAW EVERYONE OUT, HANK...

I'M GOING TO MAKE QUICK WORK OF--

HURK!

THUNK!



BRAVADO... IS GOOD.
ALL GREAT WARRIORS ARE MARKED BY IT...



AND THEN ONE DAY, IT PUTS THEM INTO THEIR GRAVE.

THIS IS THAT DAY, MUTANT.

POW!



NO.

AARGHHH!

KRAKKKK

I SEE
WHAT YOU
WERE DOING,
WITCH...

LET'S SEE
HOW YOU LIKE
IT WHEN THE
FAVOR IS
RETURNED.

I'VE
LOST THE
ICE SHAPER,
CORVUS.

NO
MATTER. I'M
DONE WITH
THIS ONE...

AARGHHH!

THUNK!

"TIME TO SHOW
THESE CREATURES
THE INEVITABLE AND
UNBENDING NATURE
OF THANOS.

"LET THEM
LEARN WE
CANNOT BE
BEATEN."

WAKANDA.

"VICTORY,
BROTHER...LOOK
AT HOW THEY
RUN!"

"WHEN WILL THE
WORLD LEARN THAT
WAKANDA IS NO
EASY MEAL?"



WE WERE
FORTUNATE, MY
QUEEN...

MUCH MORE
WITH THAT
MONSTER AND I THINK
HE WOULD HAVE
BEATEN ME...

I THINK
I BROKE MY
HAND.

WELL, IT
WAS WORTH
IT...

IT ALWAYS
IS WHEN YOU CAN
SEE YOUR ENEMIES
FLEEING FROM
YOU.

THEY WEREN'T
EXPECTING THIS KIND
OF RESISTANCE, SHURI.
IF THEY HAD, THEY WOULD
HAVE BROUGHT A
BIGGER ARMY.

YOU HEARD
THEM...THEY
WERE LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING. BEST NOW
TO PREPARE FOR
THEIR RETURN.

HRMPT! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
REGARDING A GEM, BUT DON'T DOUBT
THE LESSON OF THE WHIP, T'CHALLA...
WE BEAT THEM BADLY.

IT WAS
THE OLDEST
FORM OF
EDUCATION.

WHAT
REASON WOULD
THEY HAVE TO
RETURN?

ATLANTIS.

YOU HAVE
KNEELED, AND
SO ATLANTIS IS
SPARED.

I HAVE ACCEPTED YOUR
ALLEGIANCE IN EXCHANGE
FOR WHAT YOU
PROMISED. ARE WE
AGREED?



MY LIEGE, YOU
CANNOT DO THIS.
WHILE THERE IS ONE
PERSON WHO WOULD
FIGHT, ATLANTIS
MUST—

BE SILENT,
ANDROMEDA.

IT'S DONE,
PROXIMA.

YOU
HAVE MY
WORD.



EXCELLENT.

NOW...
WHERE IS THE
GEM?

WHERE DO
I SEND ALL THE
ARMIES OF THANOS?



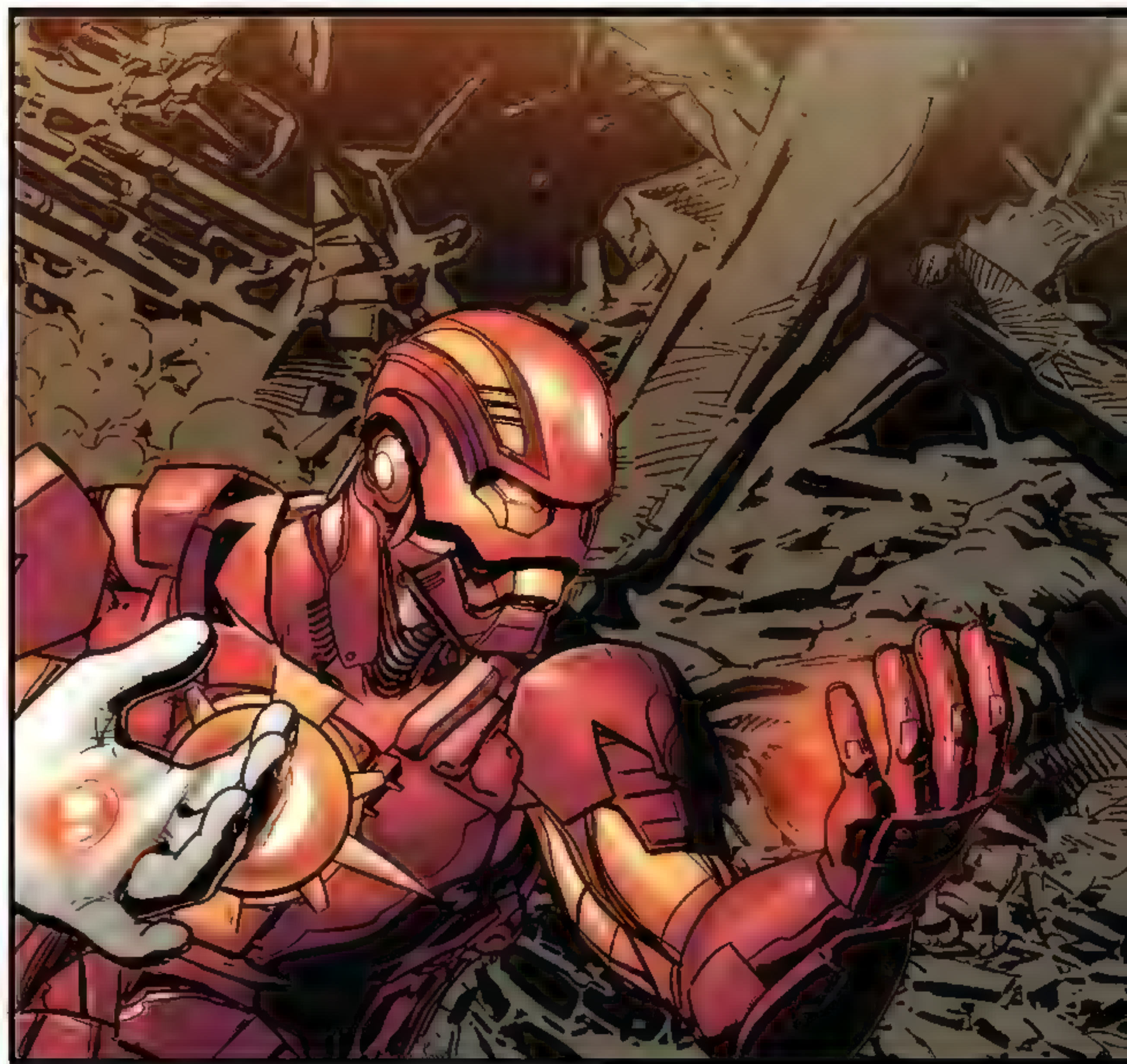
A
PLACE CALLED...
WAKANDA.

ATTILAN.





"IT'S TIME."



"TIME FOR SECRETS
TO BE REVEALED TO
YOUR SECRET
SOCIETY."



"TIME TO LET THEM
KNOW WHY ALL OF
THIS IS HAPPENING."



"TIME TO
USE THE
MACHINE."



"AND TIME FOR
PLANS WITHIN
GREATER PLANS TO
BE SET IN MOTION."





CORVUS GLAIVE: The first of the five. Thanos' most favored. Corvus is cruel, arrogant and the most loyal of the Black Order. A warrior who betrayed his people and sold his soul to Thanos to pursue a different kind of glory.

POWERS: Strength, speed...As long as his otherworldly blade remains whole, he cannot die.

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT: The cruelest of Thanos' generals. A predator in every sense of the word, Proxima Midnight is the greatest warrior in Thanos' army.

POWERS: Savage hand-to-hand fighter. Her spear, when thrown, transforms into three tracers of black light that never miss. These beams are lethal to most creatures.

BLACK DWARF: When compared to the others of the Black Order, Black Dwarf seems almost normal. Feigning joy and contentment, in reality this celestial nihilist is simply more at peace with the oblivion Thanos seeks than the others of the Black Order.

POWERS: Super-strength. Super-dense, unbreakable skin.

SUPERGIANT: History unknown. An mentally unstable omnipath and telepathic parasite, Supergiant seeks out intellect and devours it. What she knows, Thanos knows.

POWERS: Mental parasite. Controls, steals or devours the minds of her victims.

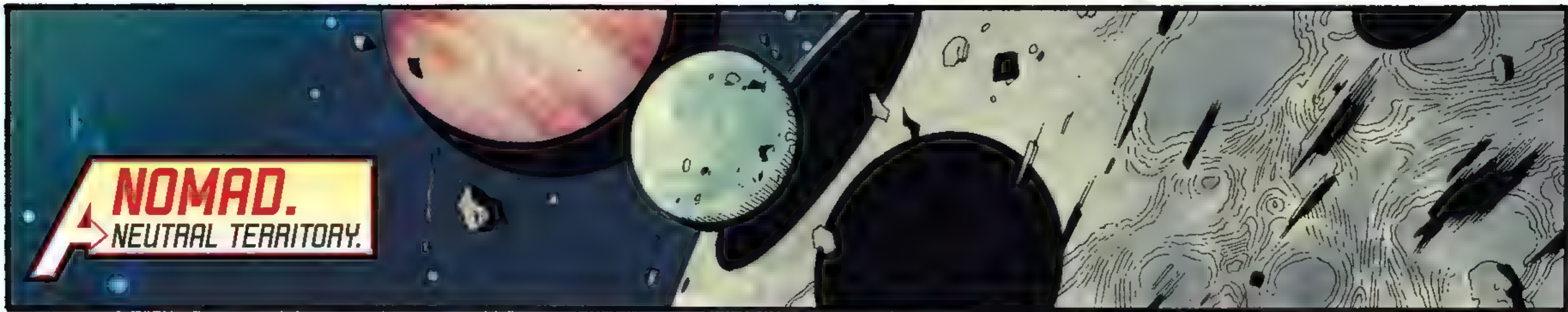
THE EBONY MAW: A thin razor of a man. Not a fighter, a thinker. A black tongue that spreads mischief and evil wherever he goes. He seems to be the weakest of the Black Order, but in truth, he is the most dangerous of them all.

POWERS: Believed to be none, but that, like most things about him could be a lie.

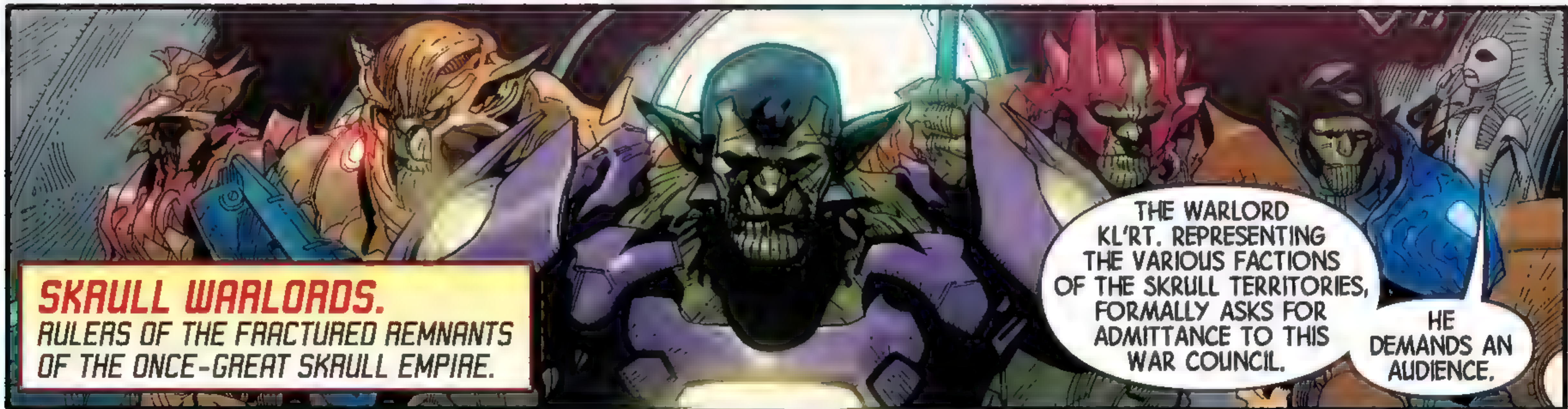
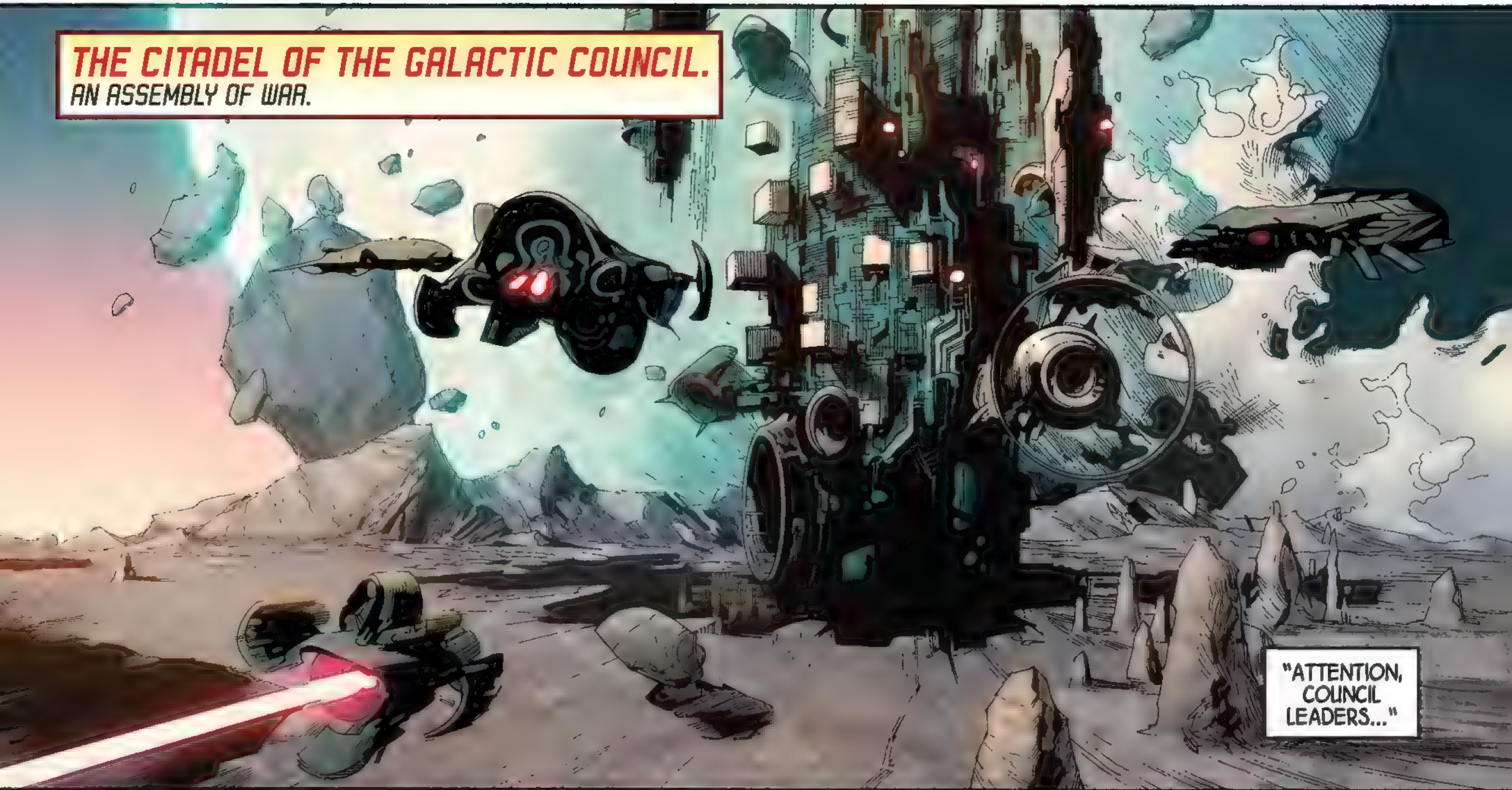


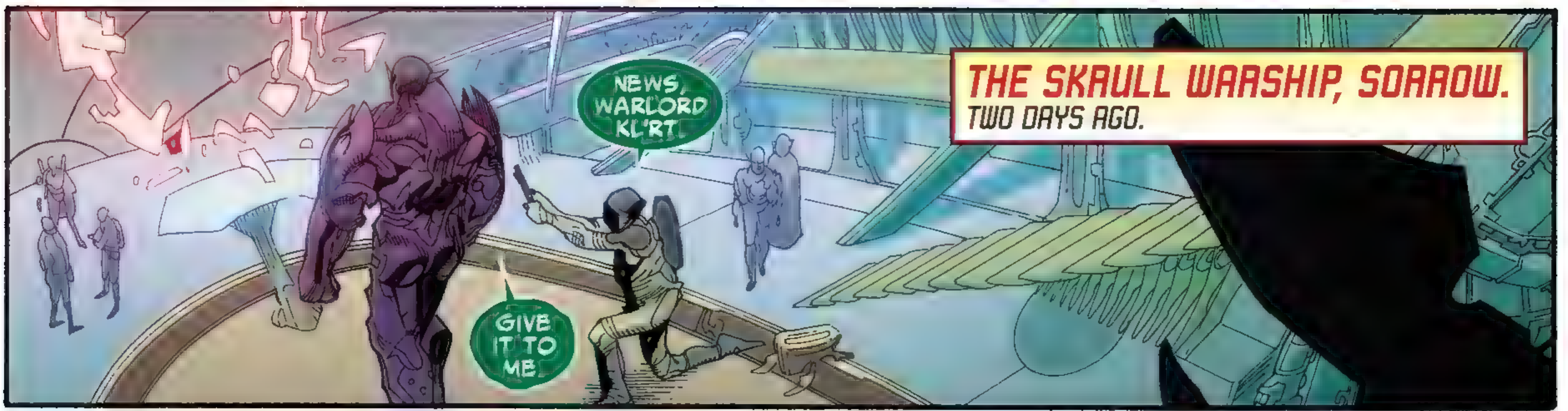
WORLDS RISE





THE CITADEL OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL.
AN ASSEMBLY OF WAR.





THE SKRULL WARSHIP, SORROW.
TWO DAYS AGO.





IT SURPRISES ME THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO CONCEDE DEFEAT, KL'RT.

PPFAH! WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED! IF WE DIE CLAIMING VICTORY, THEN WE DIE!

MAYBE THE UNIVERSE WOULD BE BETTER FOR IT.



REPORTS FROM OTHER SECTORS AND OUR OWN LONG-RANGE SCANS SHOW THAT THIS IS NOT THE BULK OF THE ENEMY FLEET.

THESE ARE SIMPLY THE FORERUNNERS.

WE MIGHT WIN ONE BATTLE, BUT IT WOULD COST US GREATLY. WHO THEN WOULD DEFEND WHAT REMAINS?

WE NEED HELP.



I WILL HUMBLE MYSELF FOR ALL OF US... BUT IT MUST BE DONE, AND QUICKLY.

NO.

YOUR PLAN IS SOUND, KL'RT, BUT WE BLEED AND THE WOUND MUST BE CAUTERIZED.

MY ARMIES WILL STAY AND ATTEMPT TO BUY US THE TIME YOU NEED.



GENERAL DM'YR, WE--

IS THIS THE EMPIRE, CHILD, OR THE SAD REMNANTS OF WHO WE USED TO BE?

I WAS A GENERAL...NOW I AM SIMPLY A WARLORD.

BUT BY THE GREAT MOTHER, I WILL FIND SOME WAY TO DIE LIKE THE MAN I USED TO BE.







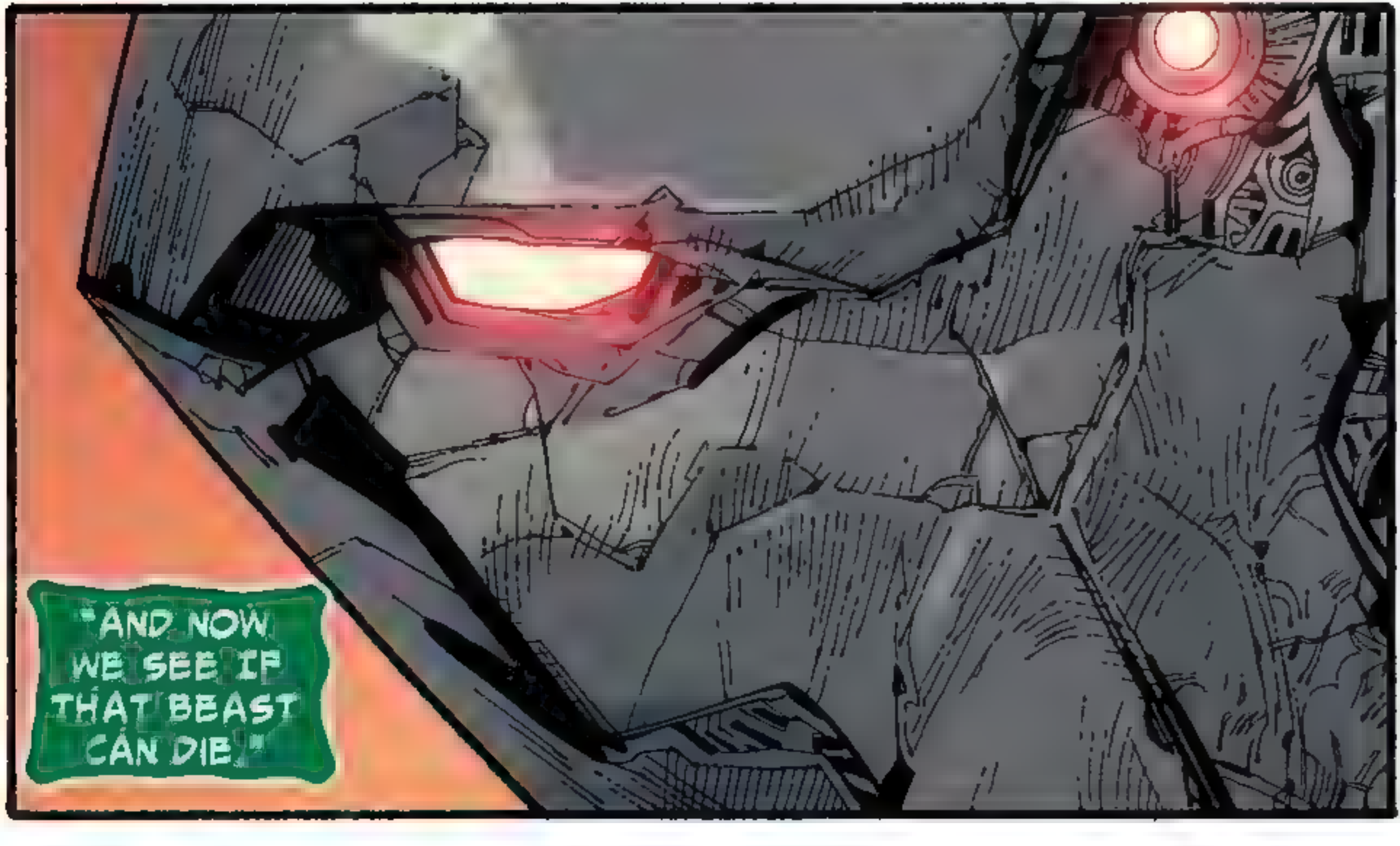
"HE SEDUCES THE PREDATOR WITH HIS OWN BLOOD."



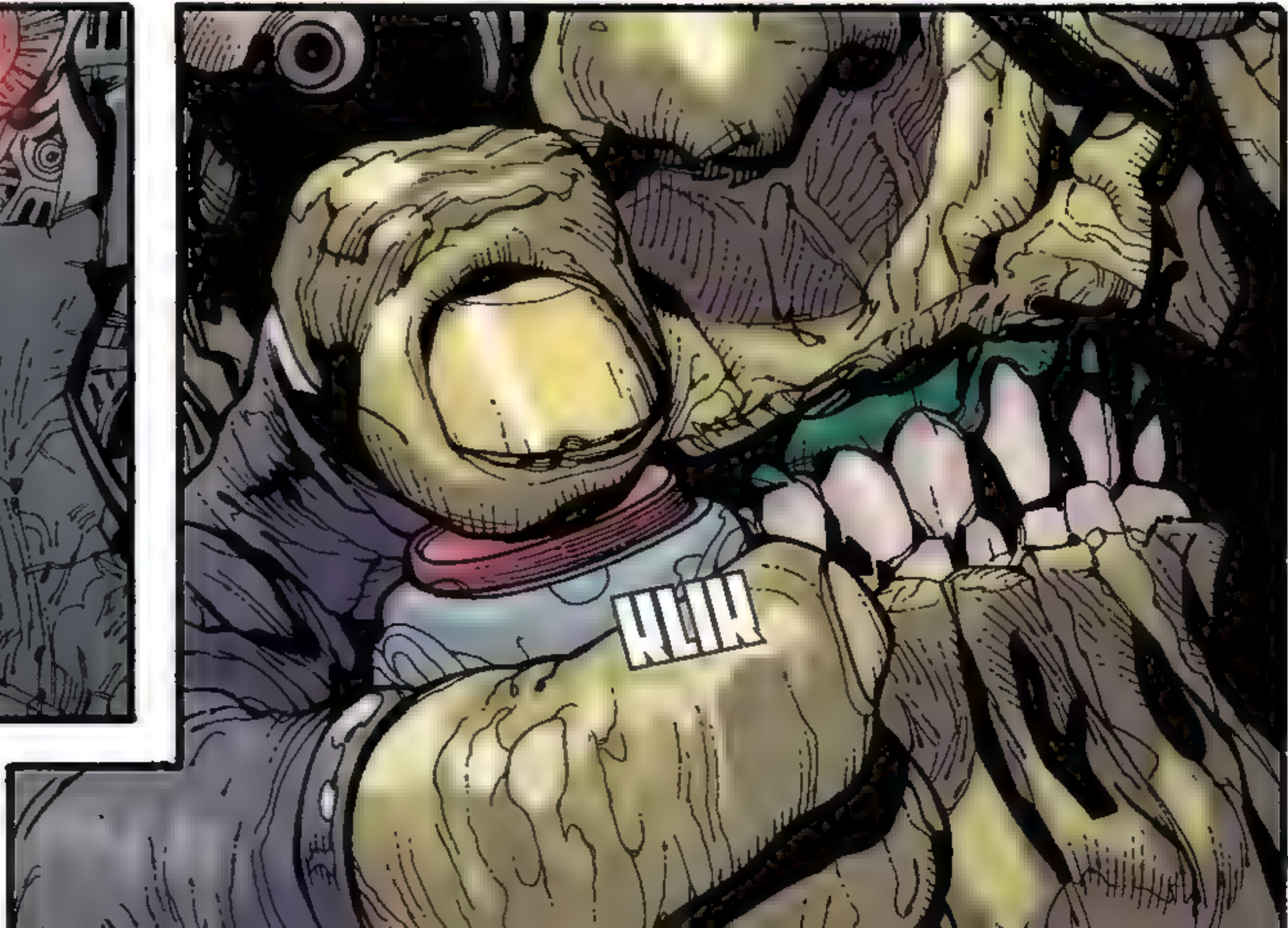
HE SETS A TRAP



"AND WHEN THE BEASTS HAVE ALL CLOSED IN, HE SPRINGS IT."



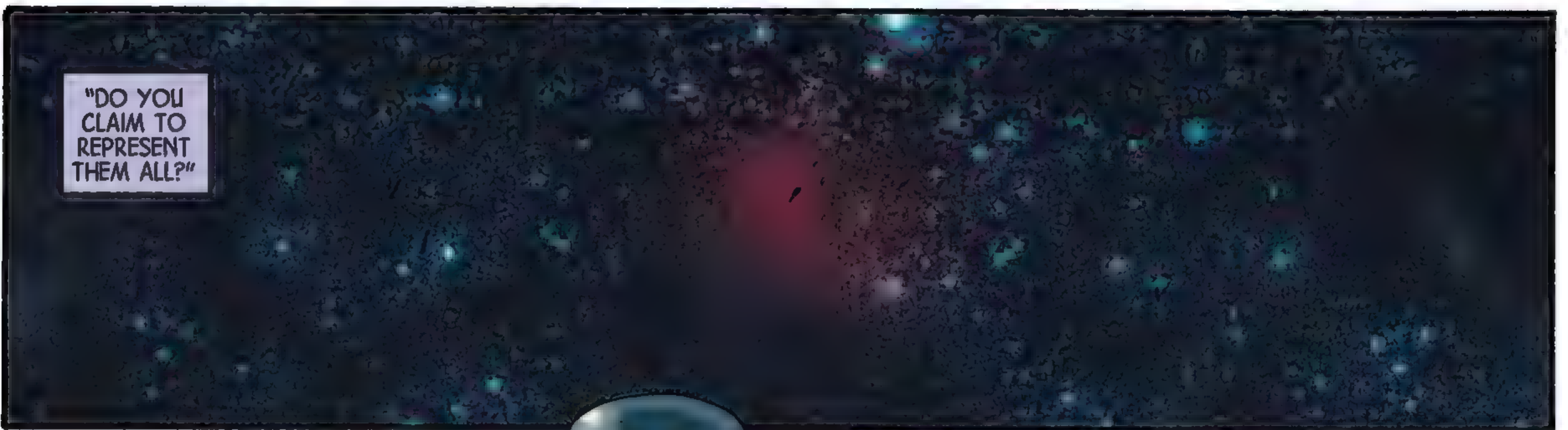
"AND NOW WE SEE IF THAT BEAST CAN DIE."



WLIK



"HAVE THEY
TRULY UNIFIED
UNDER YOUR
RULE?"



"DO YOU
CLAIM TO
REPRESENT
THEM ALL?"



ALL BUT
ONE



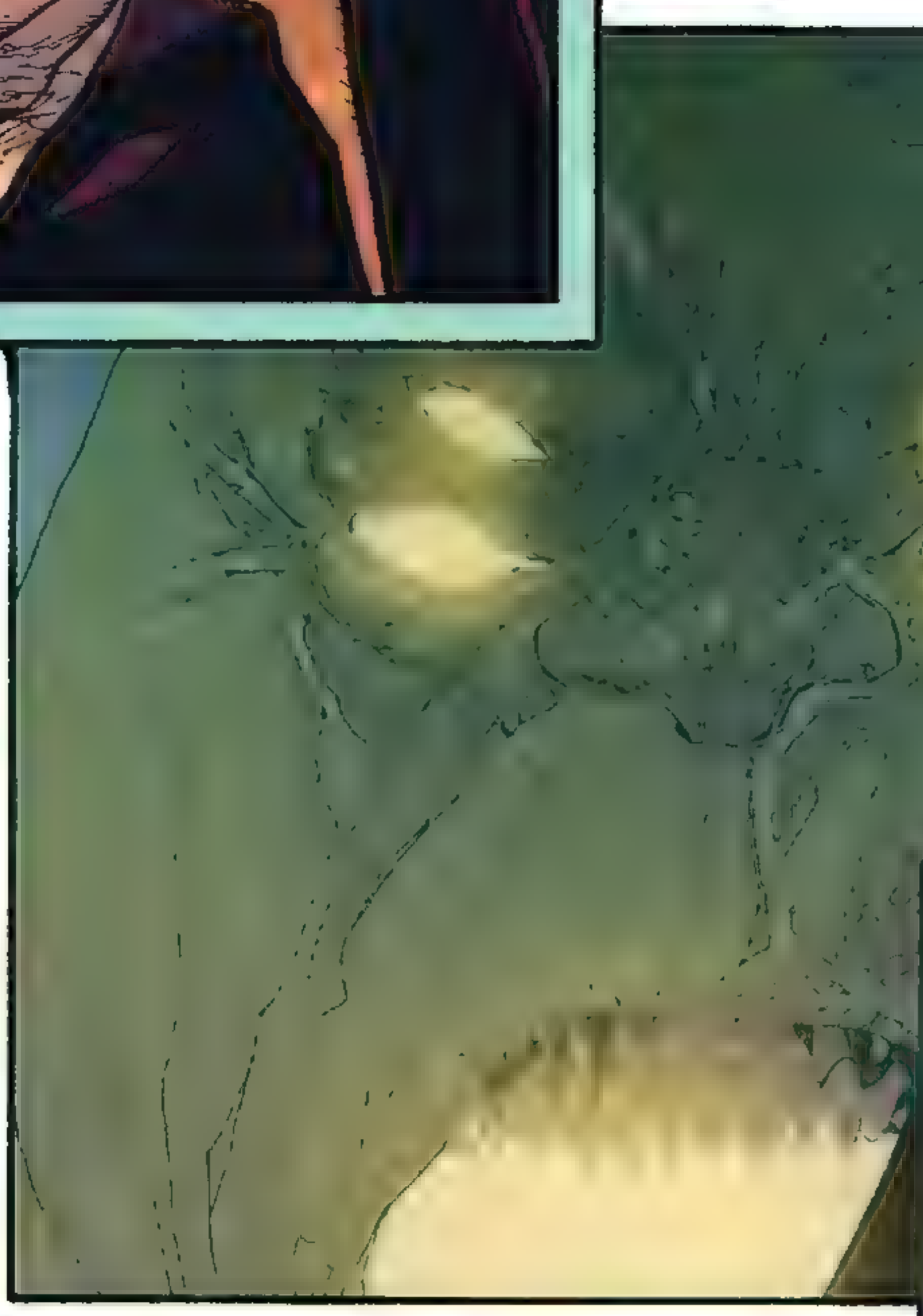
IT IS ENOUGH.
WE NEED BLADES,
SHARP ONES THIRSTY
FOR BUILDER
BLOOD.

SIT. JOIN
THIS COUNCIL. IF
YOU WILL FIGHT, I
WILL VOUCH FOR
YOU.



THANK YOU,
J-SON, KING OF
SPARTAX.

THE SPARTAX
EMPIRE IS LED BY
A PRACTICAL MAN.
ALWAYS AN ASSET
IN WARTIME.



AS ARE
SHIPS. AS ARE
SOLDIERS.

WHICH WE
KREE COUNT
IN THE TENS OF
MILLIONS.

AND IS
THERE ANY
FIGHTING FORCE
IN THE UNIVERSE
MORE ELITE THAN
RONAN AND
HIS ACCUSER
CORPS?



YES.

BUT WHY
SHOULD I JUST SPEAK
OF THE SHI'AR'S IMPERIAL
GUARD, WHEN THERE ARE
OTHER WORTHY
WARRIORS THAT HAVE
JOINED US
ALSO.



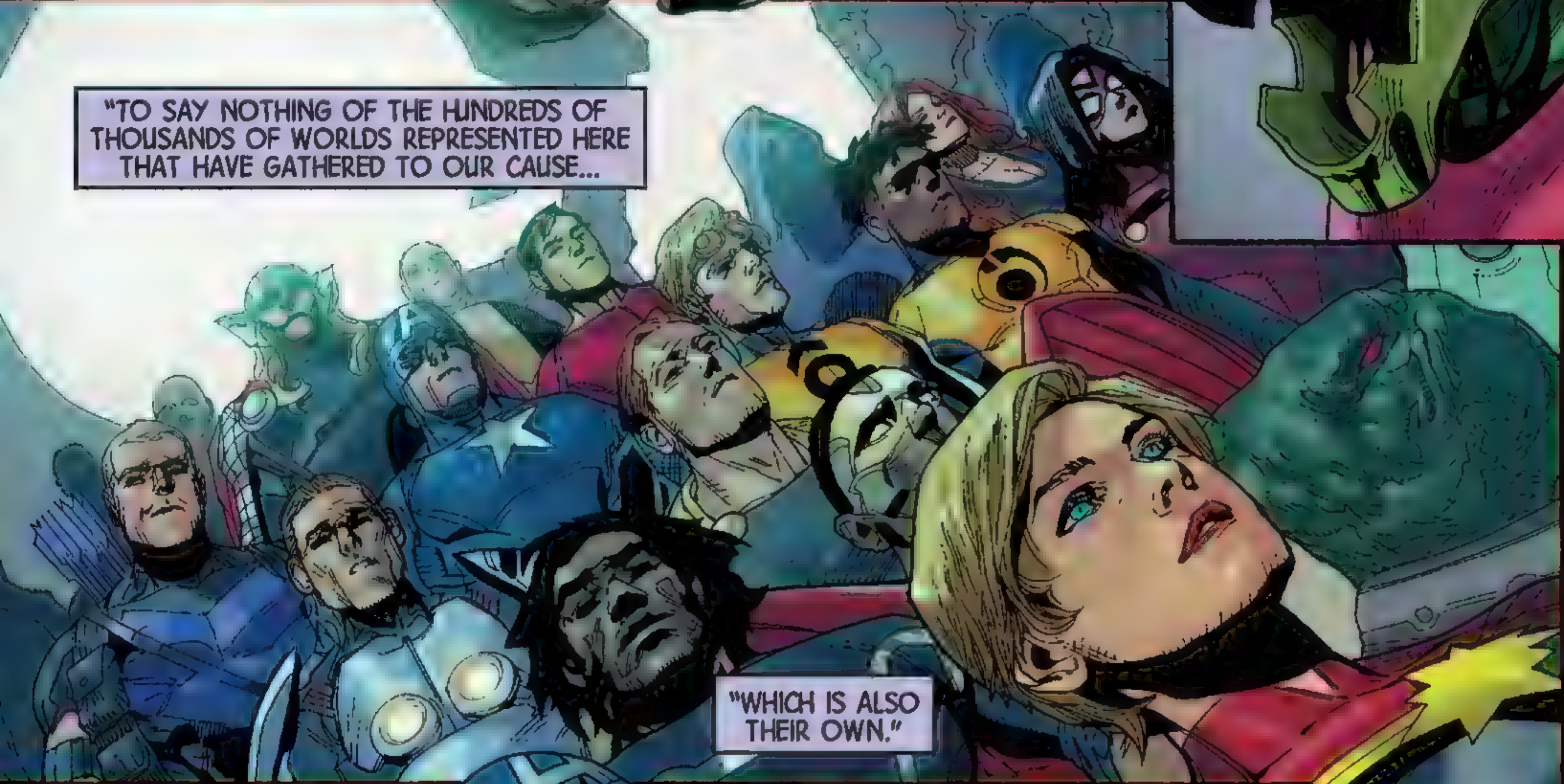


"THE LIVING ARMADA OF THE BROOD GROWS MORE FORMIDABLE WITH EACH PASSING YEAR...

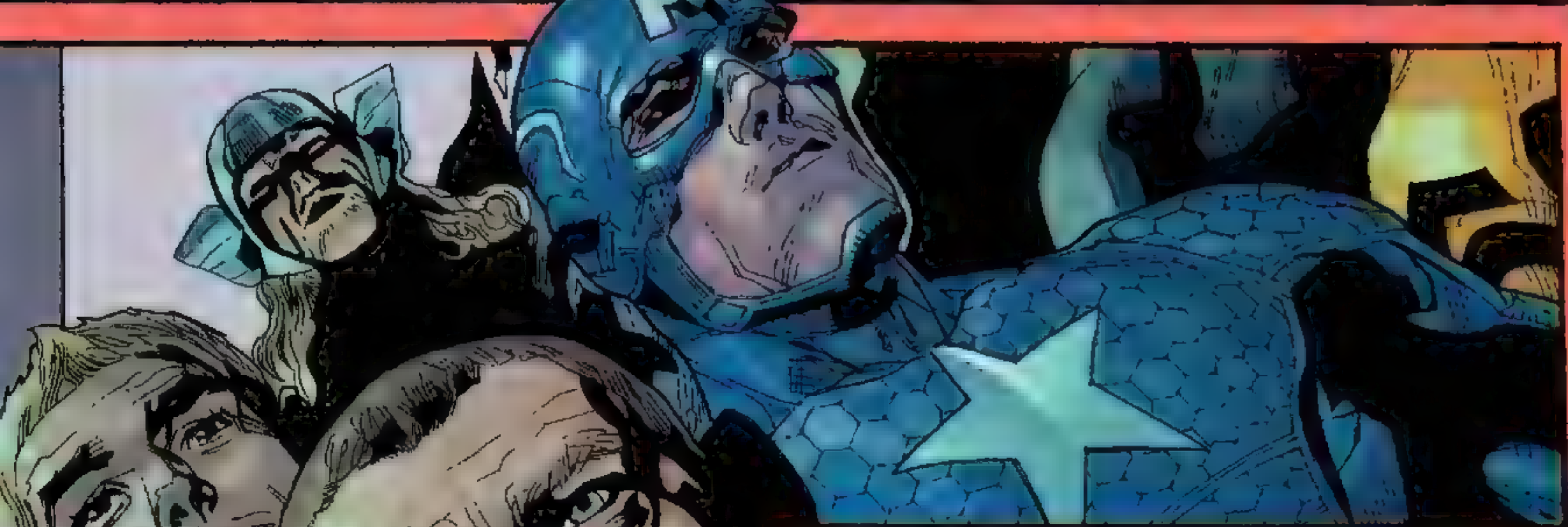
"AND WE HAVE ALL SEEN WHAT HAVOC THE ANNIHILATION WAVE OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE CAN CAUSE WHEN UNLEASHED.



"TO SAY NOTHING OF THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORLDS REPRESENTED HERE THAT HAVE GATHERED TO OUR CAUSE...



"WHICH IS ALSO THEIR OWN."

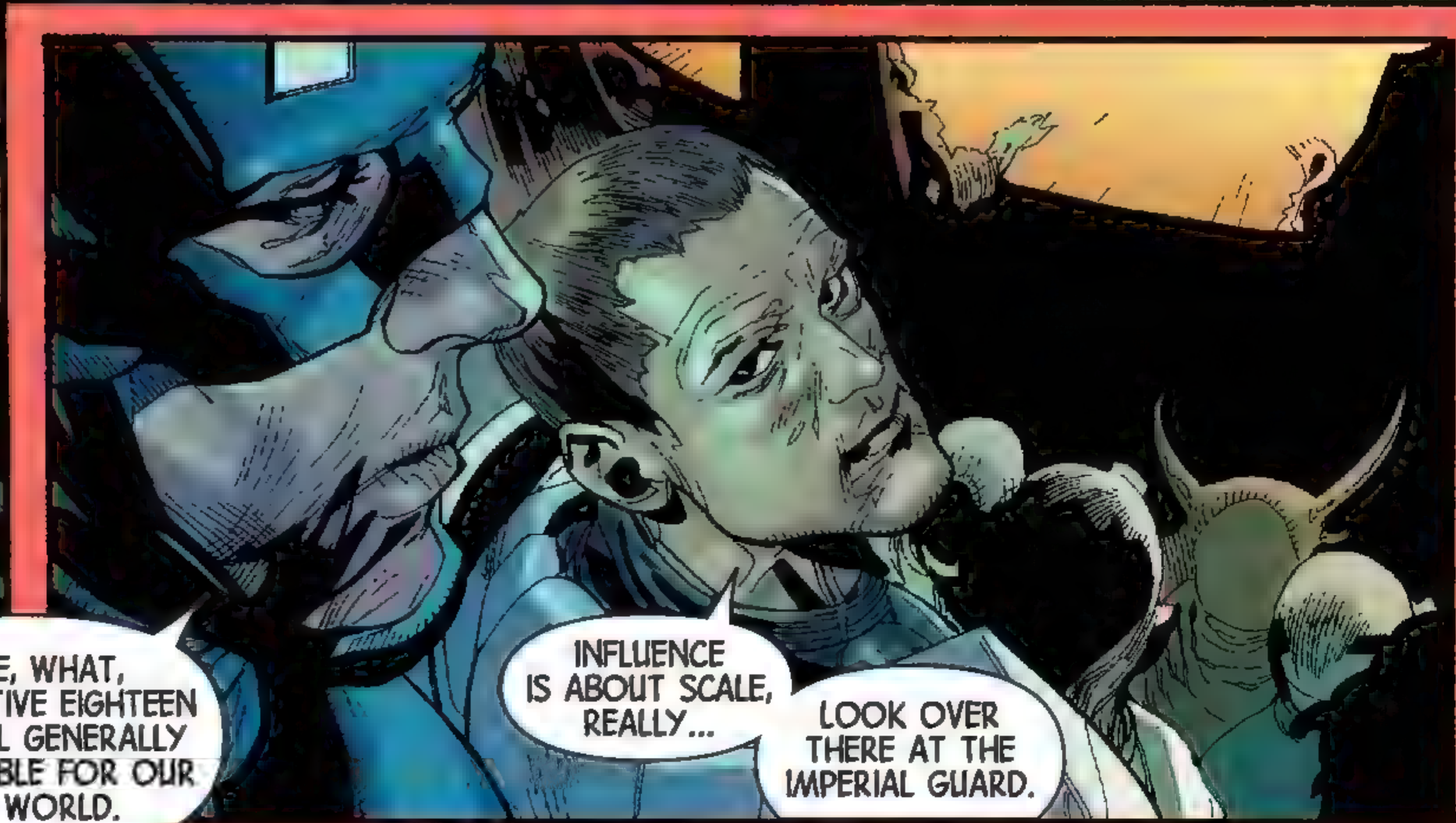


WELL, WELL... HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE YOU FOUND YOURSELF TAKING ORDERS, CAP?

YOU OKAY BEING A FOOT SOLDIER IN THIS?

LOOK AT EVERYONE HERE, CLINT. LOOK AT THE PLANETS THEY STAND FOR...

WE'RE, WHAT, A PROACTIVE EIGHTEEN WHO FEEL GENERALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN WORLD.



INFLUENCE IS ABOUT SCALE, REALLY...

LOOK OVER THERE AT THE IMPERIAL GUARD.



"THEY DRAW THEIR RECRUITS FROM HUNDREDS, SOMETIMES OVER A THOUSAND, WORLDS."

"WHEREAS WE'RE DOING PRETTY WELL TO COVER SIX CONTINENTS."



"WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON IS MAKING SURE THAT OUR INTERESTS ARE WELL REPRESENTED."

"AND WHEN THEY SEE US IN THE FIGHT, WE'LL BE COUNTED."



HEY, LISTEN, I'M STARVING.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SNACK ON, DO YOU, SPIDER-WOMAN?

SHUT UP.



YOU OKAY BEING ON THE SAME SIDE AS THE SKRULLS?

TEMPORARY ALLIANCES, NATASHA...

I CAN TOLERATE ANYTHING IF IT MEANS WE GET WHAT WE WANT.

AND WHEN IT'S OVER?

"I DON'T THINK IT'LL
EVER BE OVER."

THIS IS
FOOTAGE OF
OUR ENCOUNTER
WITH THE
BUILDERS.

AS YOU CAN
SEE, WARLORD
DM'YR WAS ABLE TO
WIPE OUT THE ADVANCE
FLEET BY CATCHING
THEM IN THE BLAST
RADIUS OF AN
EXPLODING SUN.

THEY CAN
BE BEATEN,
THEY CAN BE
KILLED.

YES, BUT
YOU SURPRISED
THEM...

PROJECTIONS
OF ALL AVAILABLE
INTEL SUGGEST A LOW
PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS
IF WE HAVE A HEAD-TO-
HEAD ENCOUNTER.

WHAT
WE NEED...IS
ANOTHER
TRAP.

YESSSSS...

TUNNELLING
WITHIN, ACCESSING
INTELLIGENCE
ARCHIVES...

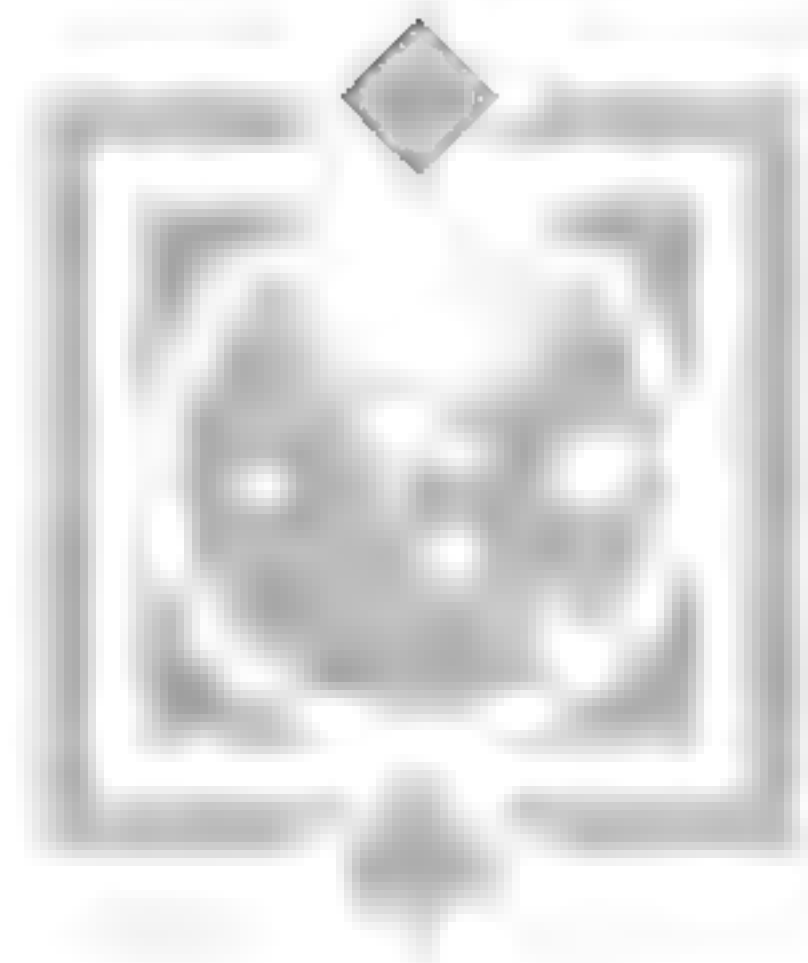
AND THAT
LOCATION LIES
IN THE PATH OF
THEIR FLEET.

MAJESTOR
GLADIATOR, DO
YOU REMEMBER
THIS BATTLE?

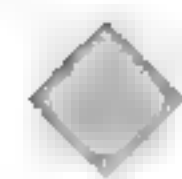
THE MULTITUDE
IS SCREAMING THE
**KONN-DAR
ENCOUNTER--A
KREE-SHI'AR
CONFLICT.**

YES...

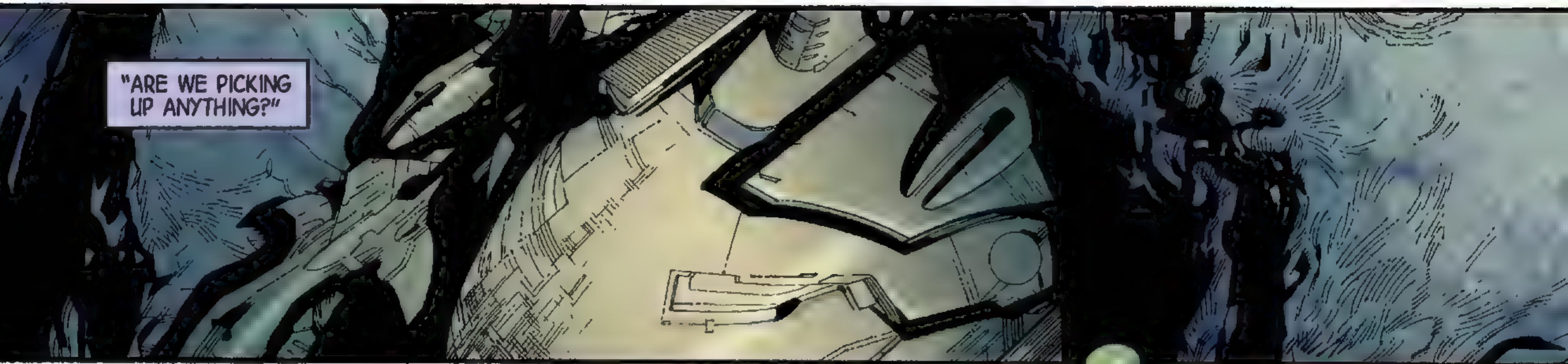
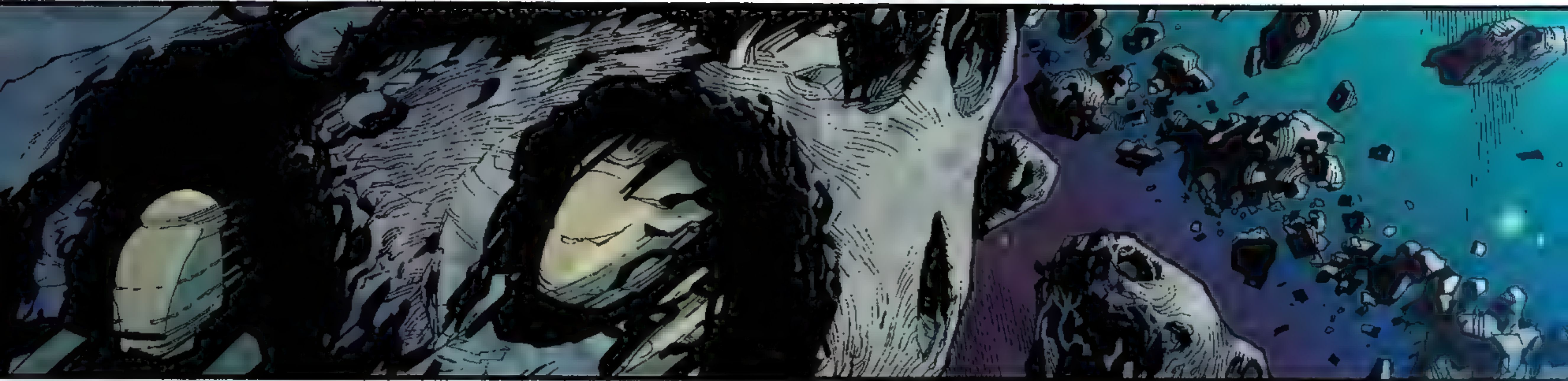
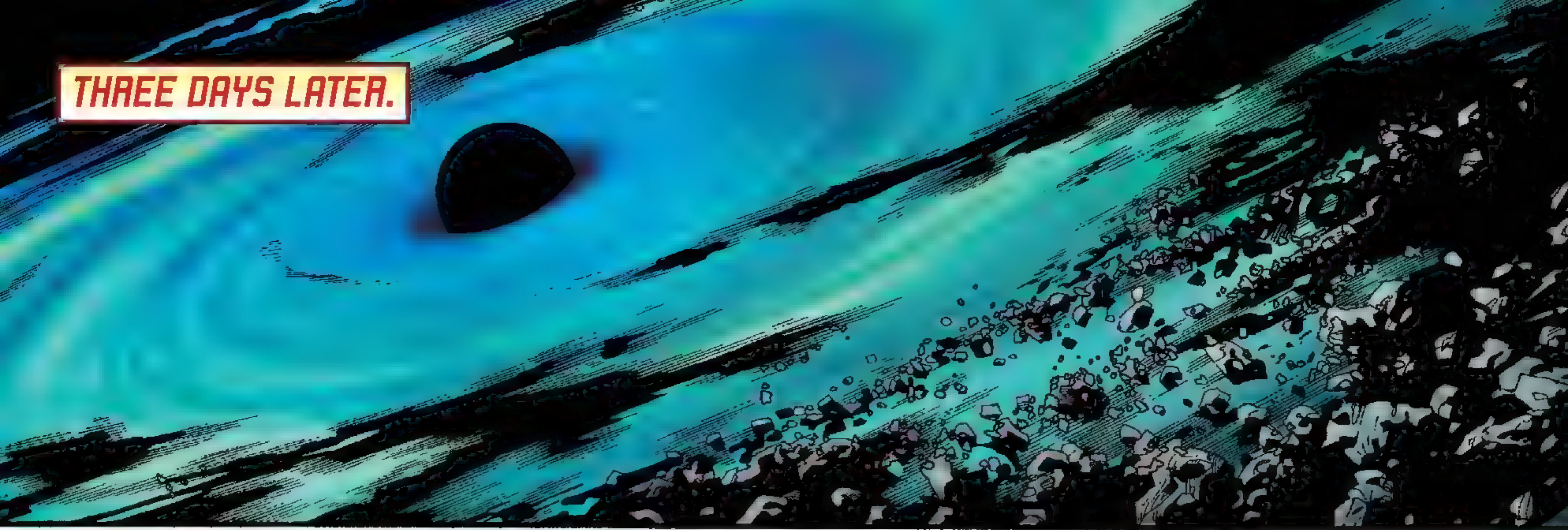
**THE
CORRIDOR.**



FALL INTO
SINGULARITY



THREE DAYS LATER.



"ARE WE PICKING UP ANYTHING?"

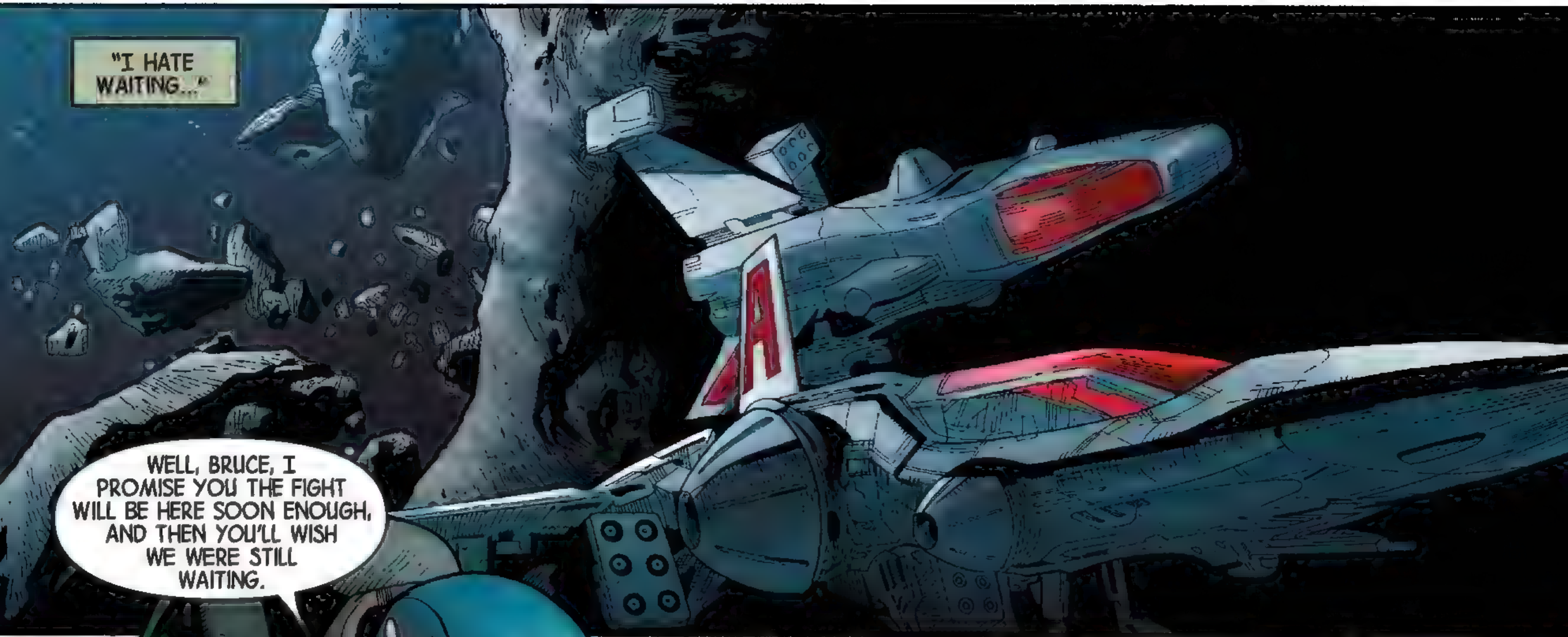


YES, MAJESTOR. READINGS AT THE EDGE OF THE CORRIDOR.

THE SINGULARITY AND THE DENSITY OF THE ASTEROID BELT SCATTER THE SIGNAL, BUT I BELIEVE OUR PREY HAVE ENTERED THE KILLING FIELDS.

GOOD. ALERT THE OTHERS ON LOWBAND...

TELL THEM ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS WAIT.



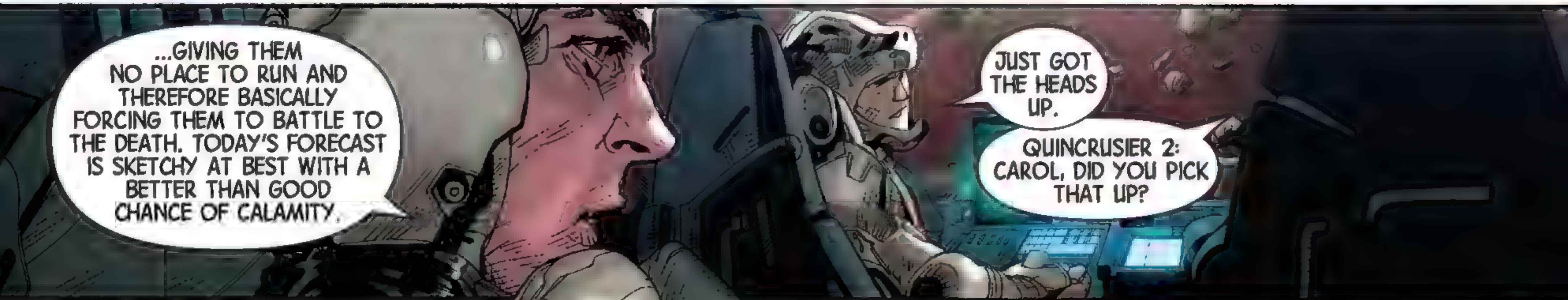
"I HATE WAITING..."

WELL, BRUCE, I PROMISE YOU THE FIGHT WILL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH, AND THEN YOU'LL WISH WE WERE STILL WAITING.



EXPECTATION OF DISASTER IS A POOR WAY TO PLAN FOR SUCCESS, CAPTAIN.

SHANG, THE PLAN IS TO LET THE ENEMY FLEET MANEUVER THEMSELVES IN BETWEEN US AND THE BLACK HOLE...



...GIVING THEM NO PLACE TO RUN AND THEREFORE BASICALLY FORCING THEM TO BATTLE TO THE DEATH. TODAY'S FORECAST IS SKETCHY AT BEST WITH A BETTER THAN GOOD CHANCE OF CALAMITY.

JUST GOT THE HEADS UP.

QUINCRUISER 2: CAROL, DID YOU PICK THAT UP?



GOT IT.

FLEET'S ENTERED THE KILL ZONE. WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE SIGNAL.

EVERYONE GET READY.



NOW,
COMMANDER
JORR...

THEY'RE
IN PLACE.

ALERT
THE FLEETS.

THHUMMK

THERE'S
THE SIGNAL.

LET'S
GO.



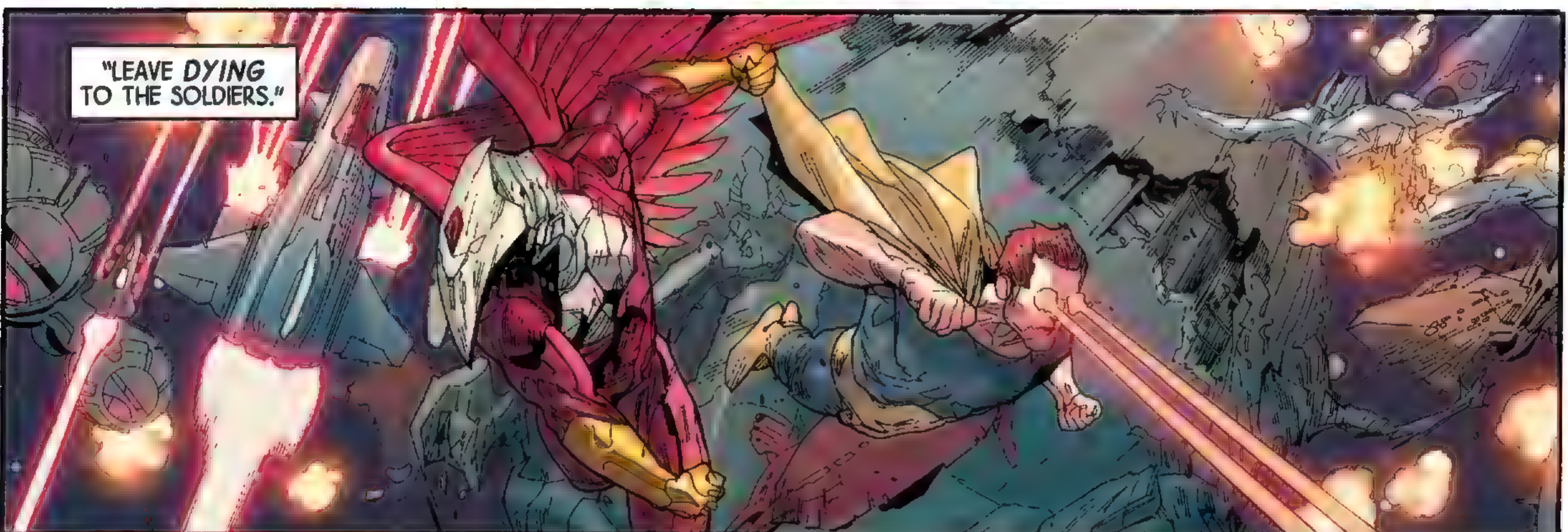


THE FLEETS HAVE ENGAGED. STARBOLT REPORTS STIFF RESISTANCE, BUT THE GUARD HAVE BREACHED THE FRONT LINE.



I SHOULD BE LEADING THEM, MENTOR, NOT WATCHING THIS ON A DAMNED MONITOR.

HEAVY IS THE HEAD, MAJESTOR...



"LEAVE DYING TO THE SOLDIERS."



HEAVY FIRE, CAPTAIN.

KEEP PUSHING. PLAN IS TO SPLIT THEIR FLEET.

THE COMMAND VESSELS WILL LET US KNOW IF--

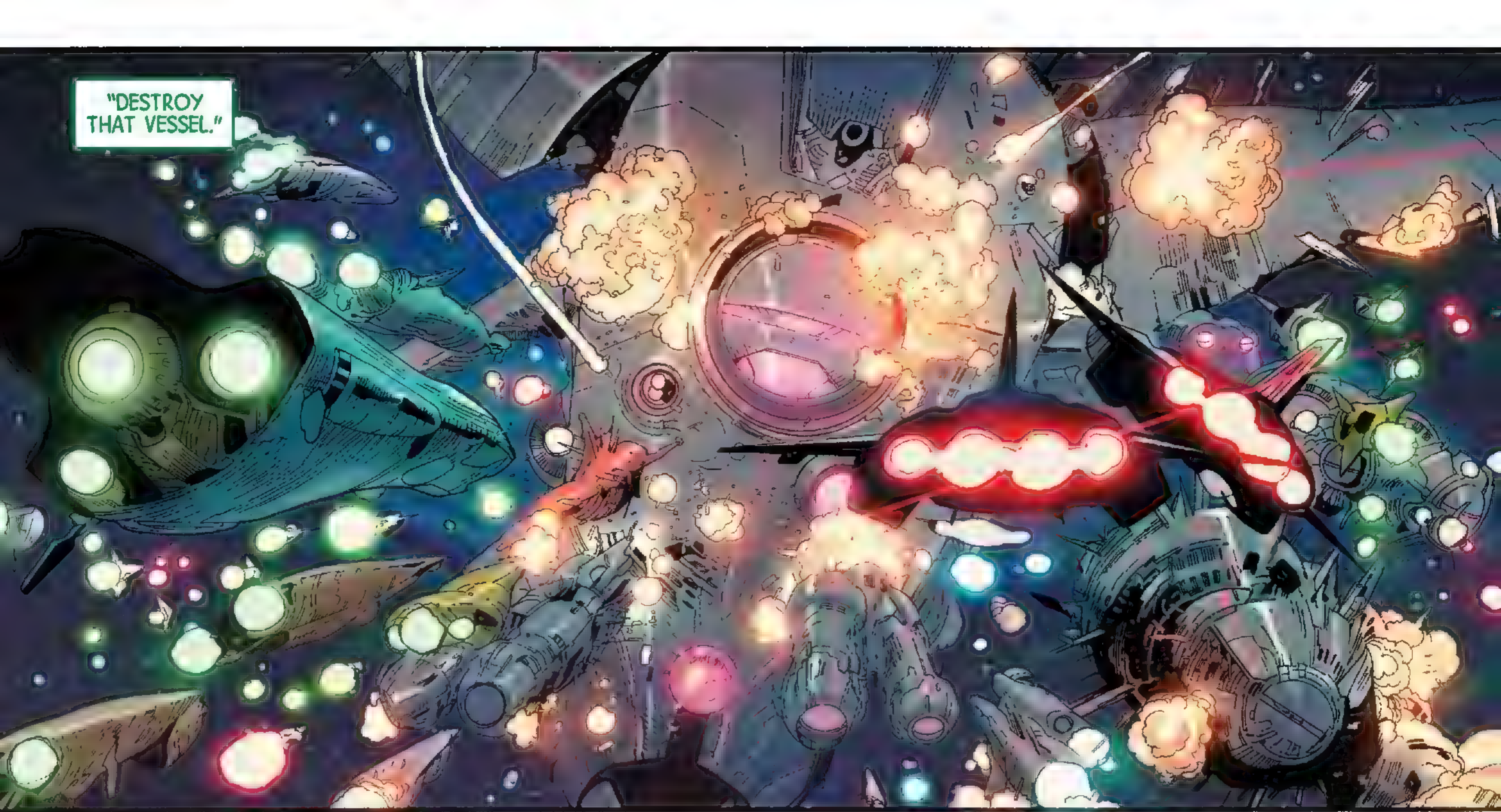
ALLIED ARMADA...



BASED ON THE MOVEMENT OF THE SHIPS WITHIN THE BUILDER FLEET, THE SUPREMACY HAS CALCULATED A 90 PERCENT CHANCE THAT THEIR COMMAND VESSEL IS AT THE COORDINATES WE ARE SENDING YOU...

RETASK ALL OPERATIONS.

REPRIORITIZE YOUR OBJECTIVES.



BUILDER COMMAND VESSEL.

WING 7: PAWN
SACRIFICE. WINGS 9-26:
IN POSITION, HIDDEN.

RUSE SUCCESSFUL...
THE ENEMY FLEET IS
FULLY COMMITTED.
BUILDERS.

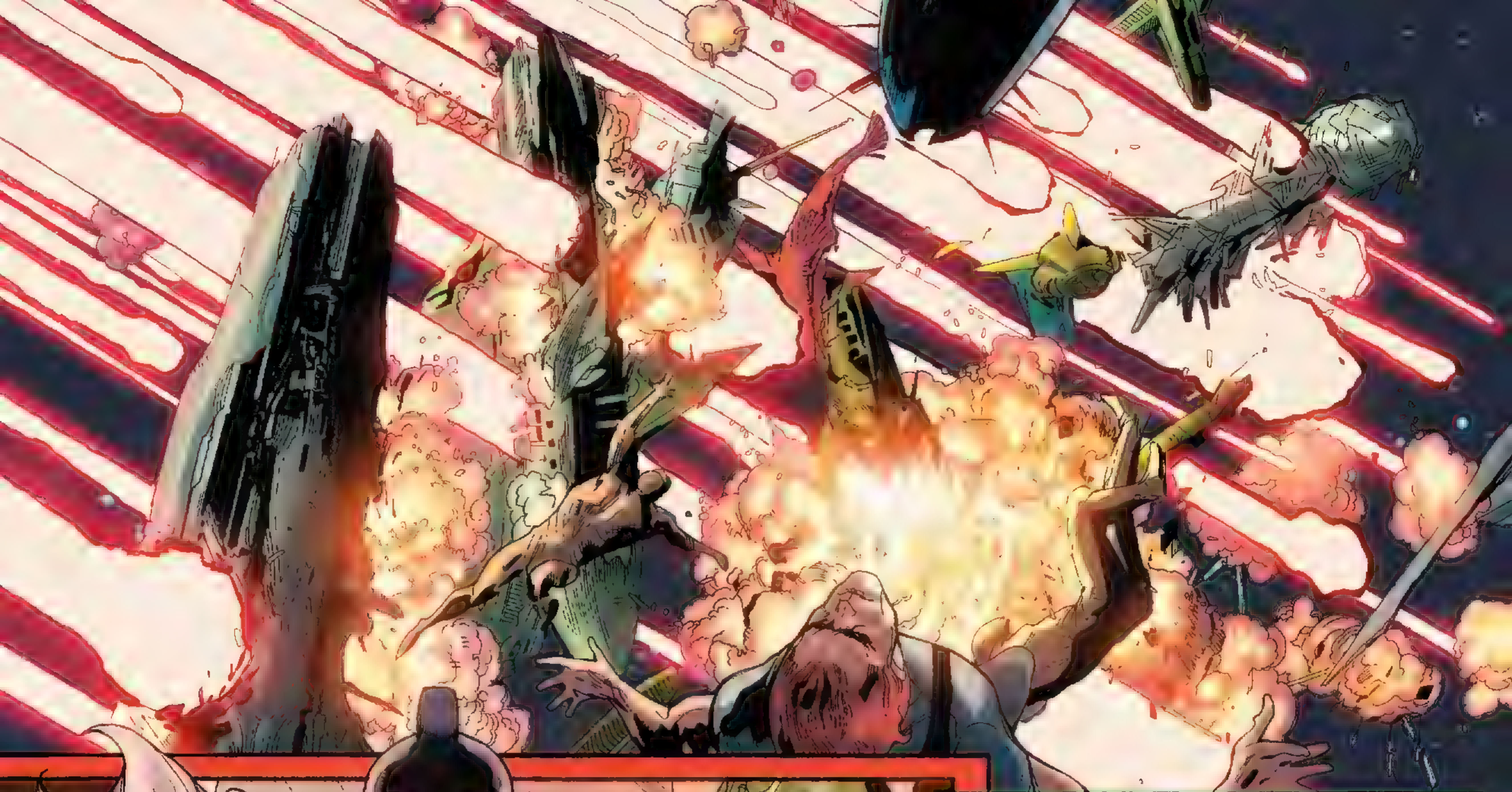
YOU HAVE
TO MARVEL AT
THEIR DEDICATION.
THE VIGOR WITH
WHICH THEY THROW
THEIR LIVES
AWAY.

REALIZATION
IS WHAT SEPARATES
DREAMERS FROM
FRAUDS, ENGINEER.

LET'S GIVE
THEM WHAT
THEY WANT.

"DE-CLOAK
THE FLEET.

"LEAVE
NO ONE."



PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL
APPROACHING ZERO IF WE DO
NOT WITHDRAW FROM
THIS THEATER.

WE'VE LOST
A THIRD OF THE
FLEET IN UNDER
A MINUTE.

WE HAVE
TO RETREAT.
NOW!

RUN!



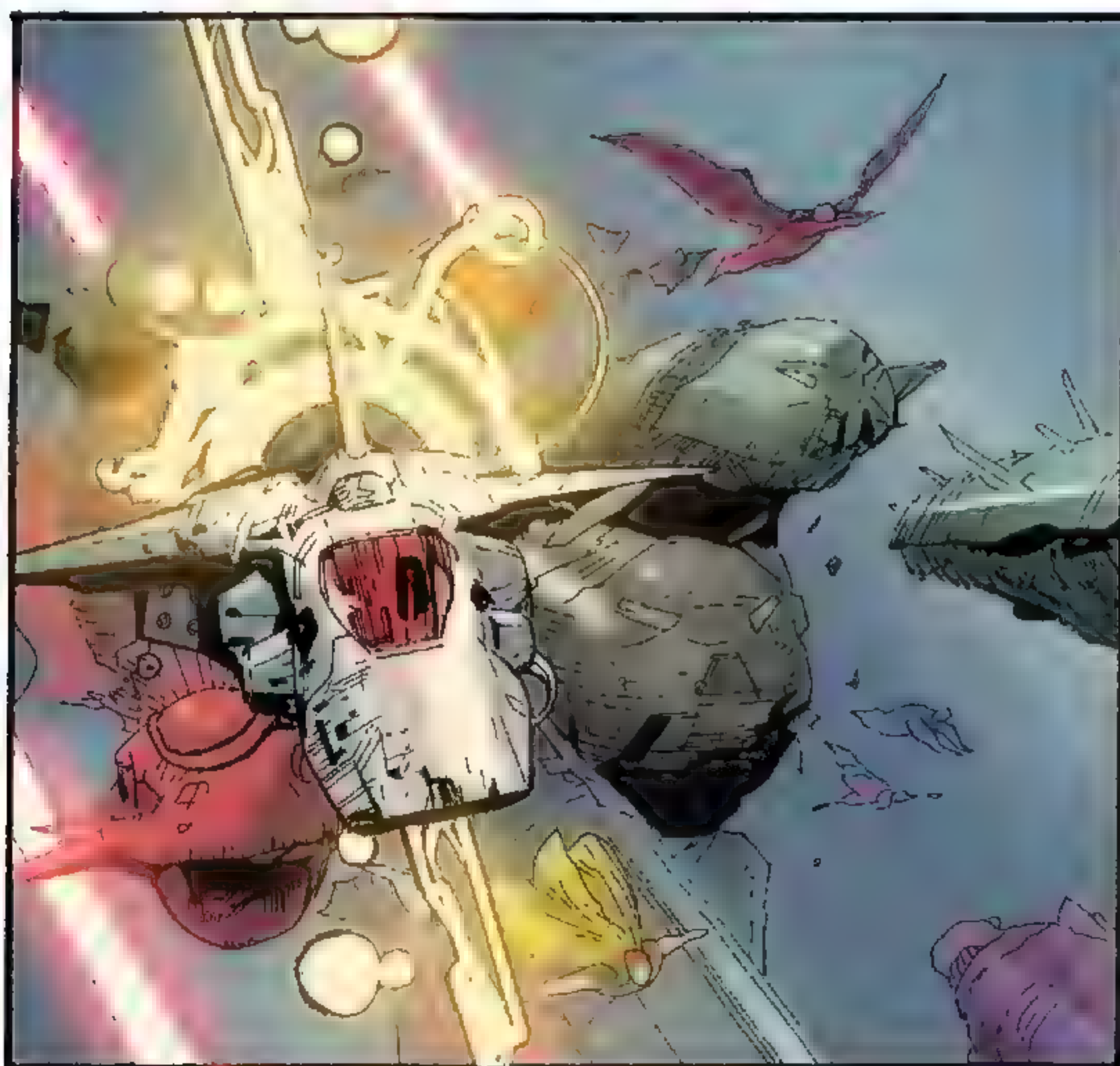
"RUN!"

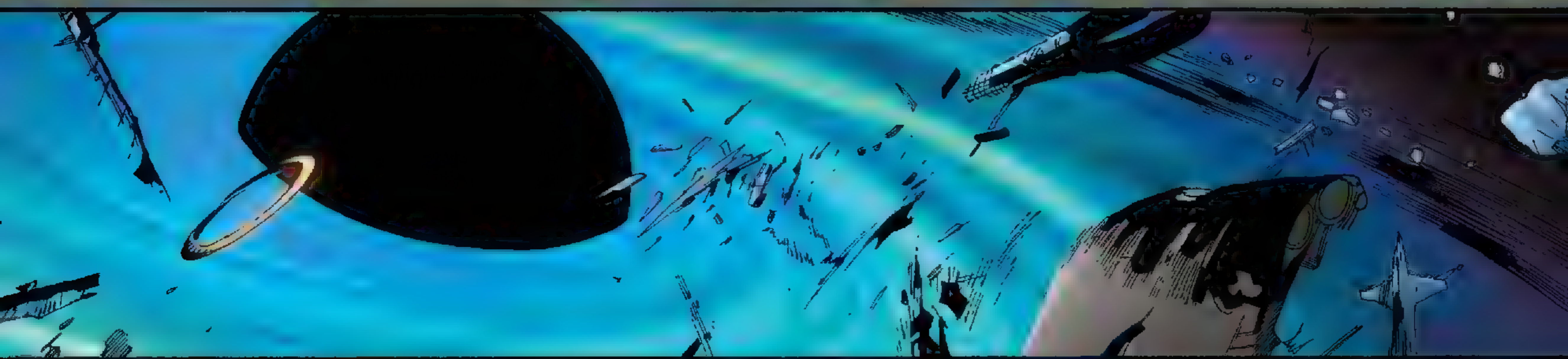
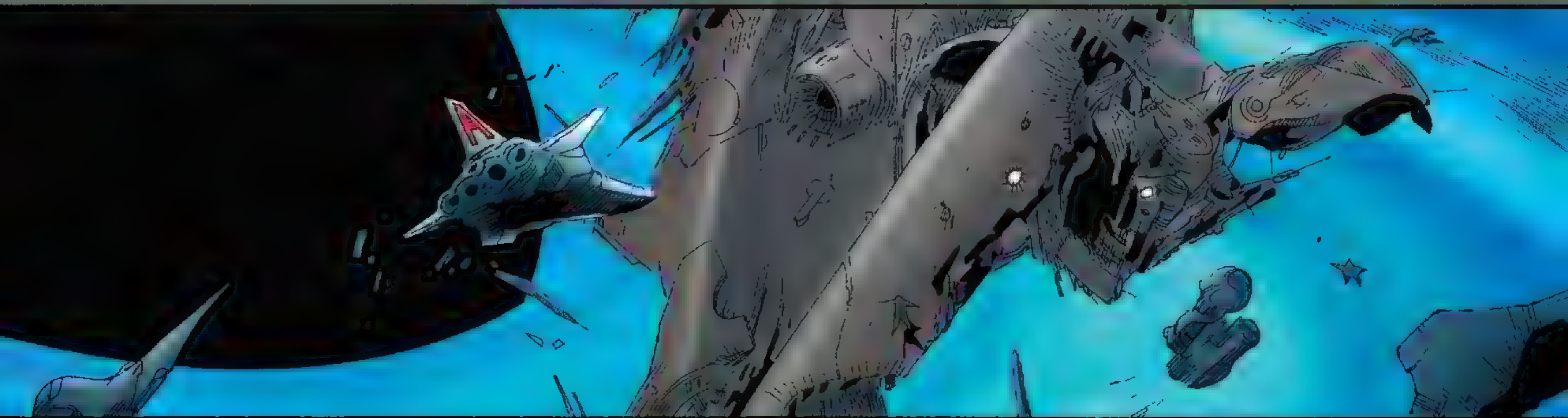
"RUN!"

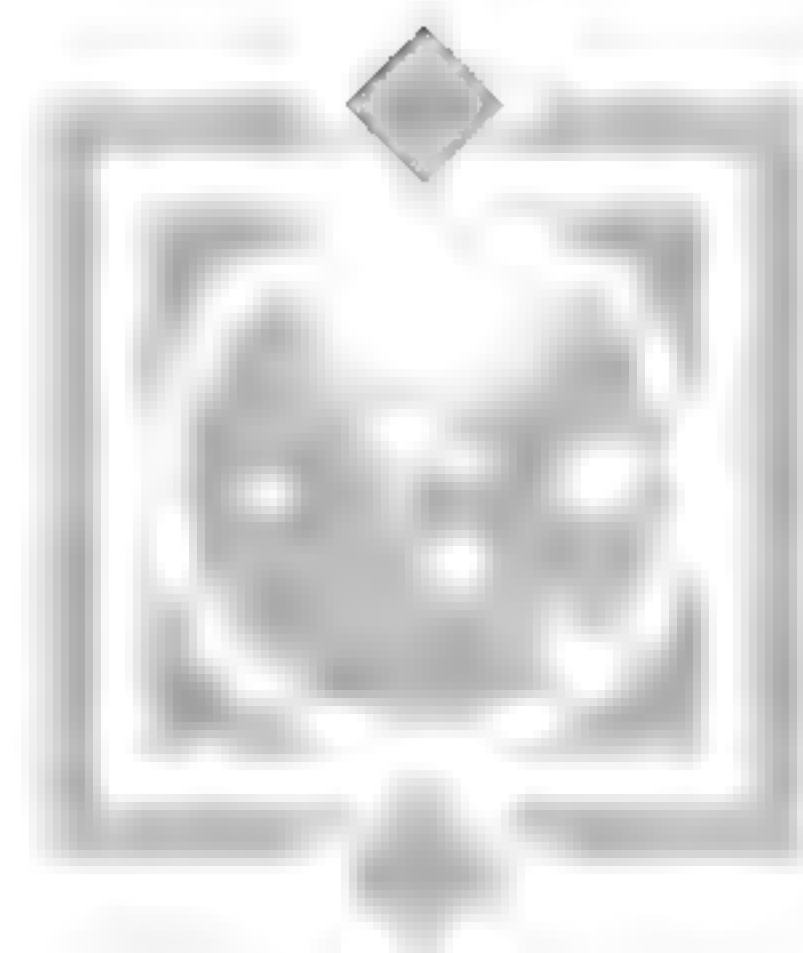
THEY'VE
SOUNDED THE
FULL RETREAT.

CAROL,
WE'RE PRETTY
BANGED UP...NOT
SURE IF WE CAN GET
CLEAR UNAIDED WITHOUT
MANIFOLD JUMPING
US STRAIGHT TO THE
RENDEZVOUS
SITE.

CAN
YOU GET
CLEAR?

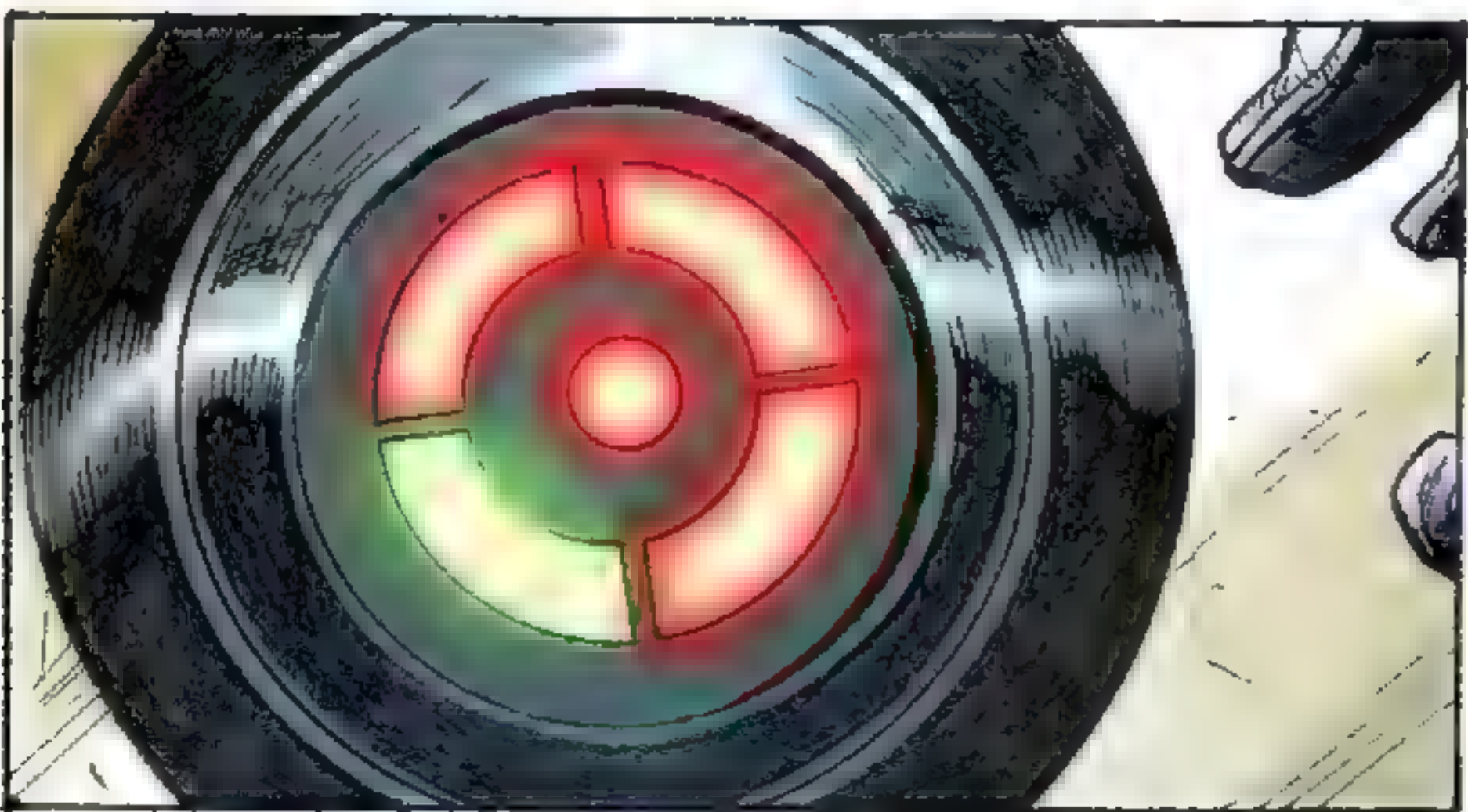


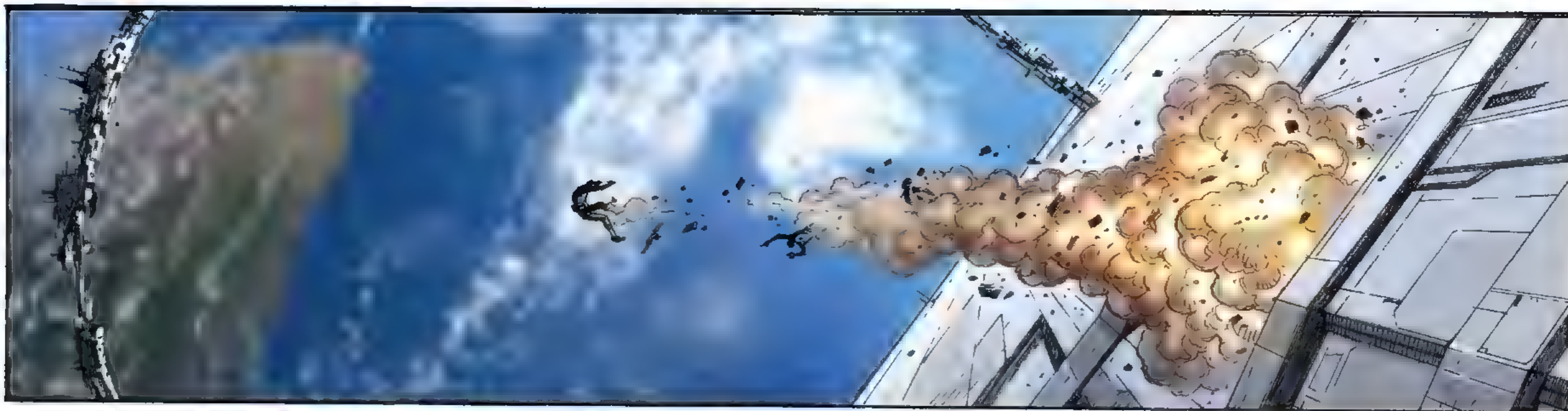




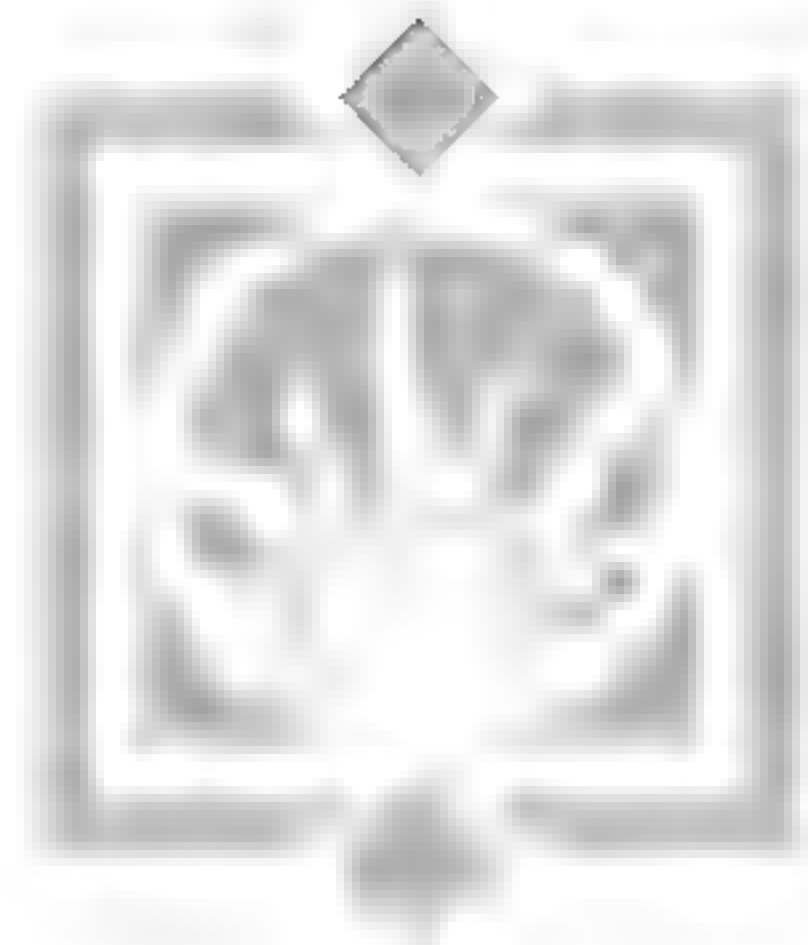
FROM TITAN,
THE HORDE











THE GAUNTLET





THE GAUNTLET AND THE GREAT HUNT CLAIMED THE WORLD. EARTH FELL QUICKLY TO THE BLACK ORDER OF THANOS.

CORVUS GLAIVE AND SUPERGIANT PUT THE MUTANT JEAN GREY SCHOOL UNDERFOOT



ATLANTIS, ALREADY FRACTURED AND BROKEN BY WAR, OFFERED LITTLE OPPOSITION TO PROXIMA MIDNIGHT.



AND IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, THE EBONY MAW WON A STRATEGIC WAR WHISPERING SWEET WORDS OF BETRAYAL TO EARTH'S SORCEROR SUPREME.

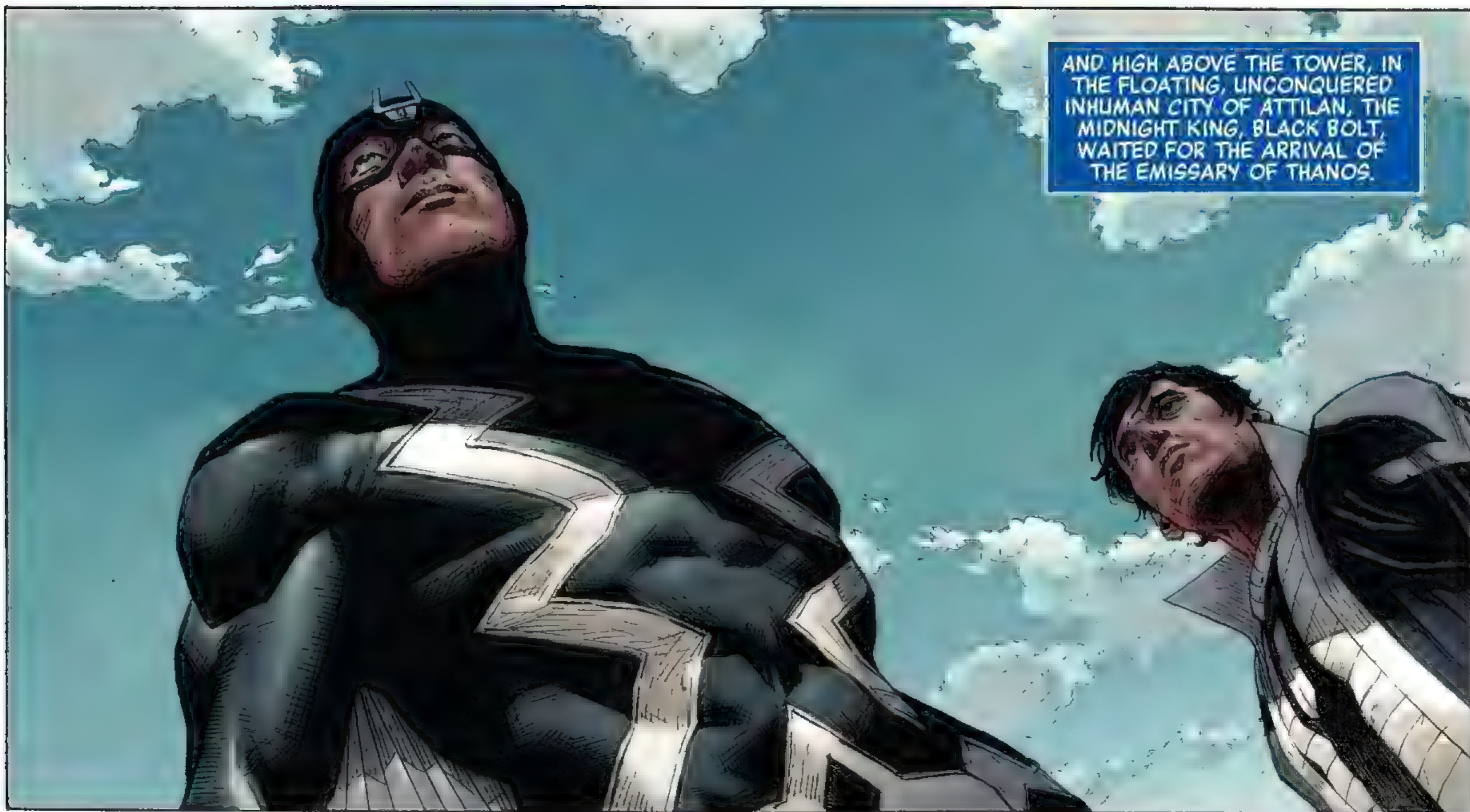
I WANT WHAT THANOS WANTS.



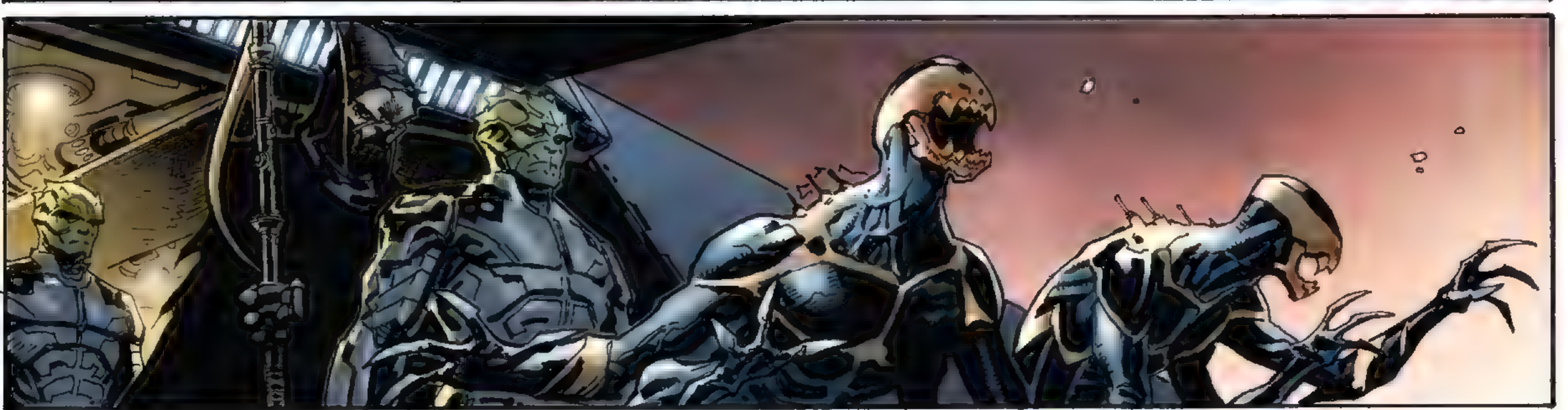
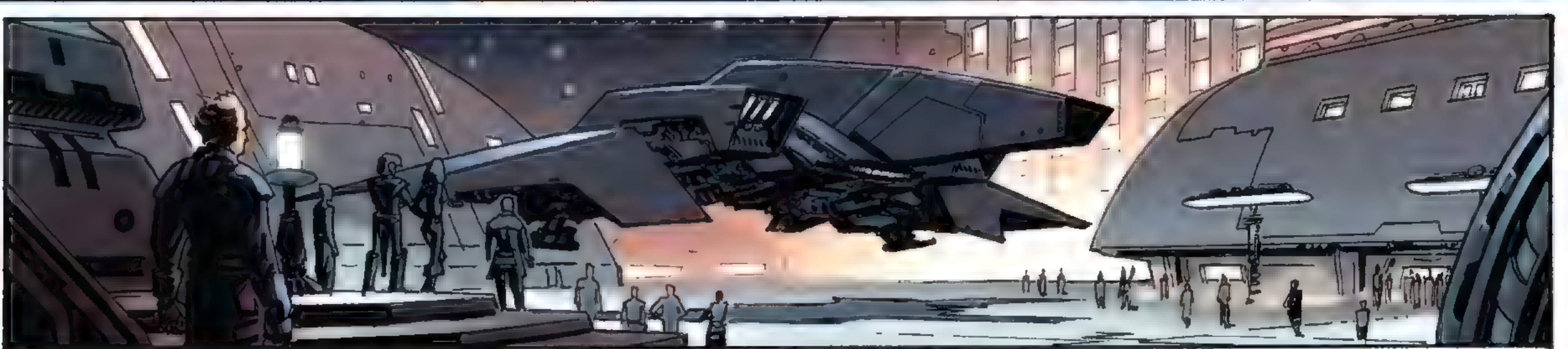
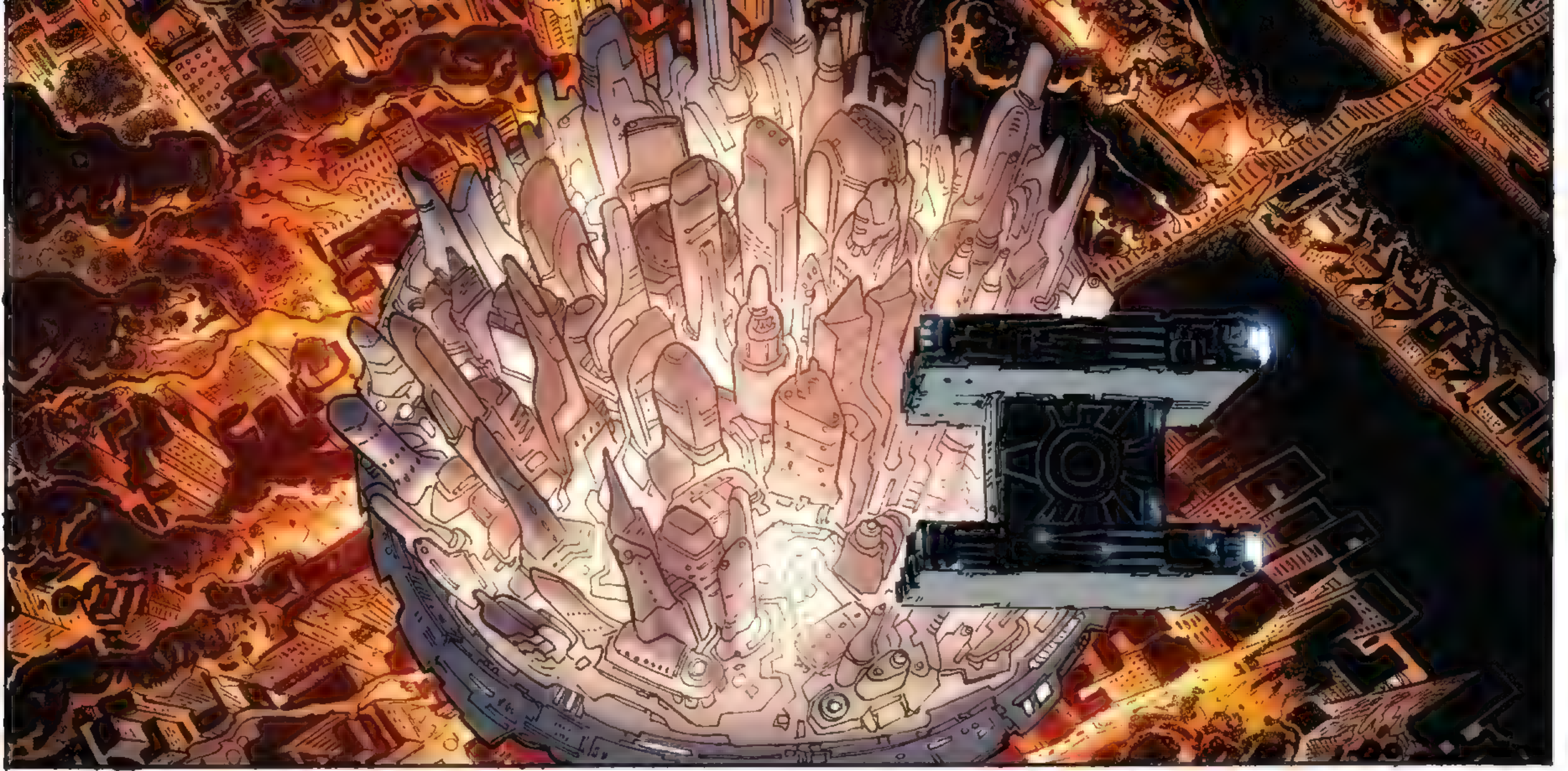
BUT OTHERS HELD, LIKE WAKANDA. THEY WERE WAR READY, AND RESISTED INVASION. THE SHINING CITY REPELLING THE BLACK DWARF AND THE ARMIES OF THE SPACE TYRANT.



WHILE IN THE BURNING METROPOLIS OF HEROES, AVENGERS TOWER STOOD AS THE CENTER POINT OF THE CITY'S DEFENSE...



AND HIGH ABOVE THE TOWER, IN THE FLOATING, UNCONQUERED INHUMAN CITY OF ATTILAN, THE MIDNIGHT KING, BLACK BOLT, WAITED FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE EMISSARY OF THANOS.







I AM A SERVANT OF MY MASTER, THANOS-- A DESTROYER OF WORLDS, A BREAKER OF KINGS.

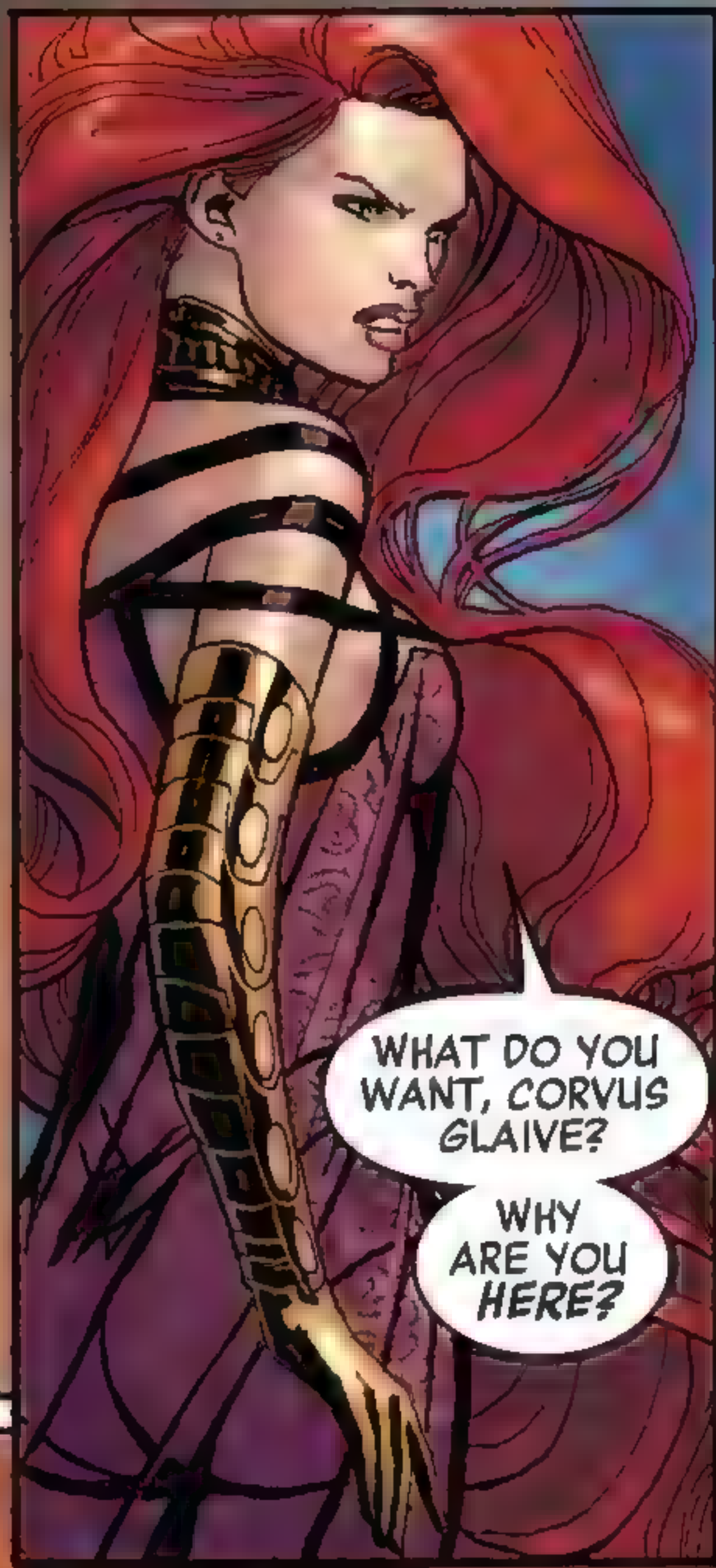
I AM ONE OF THE FIVE, CORVUS GLAIVE.



THANOS NAMED HIS GENERALS THE CULL OBSIDIAN, MEANING MIDNIGHT SLAUGHTER. BUT WE PREFER THE BLACK ORDER.

IT'S...LESS FOREBODING.

OUR MASTER, HE DOES ALLOW US *SOME* INDULGENCES.



WHAT DO YOU WANT, CORVUS GLAIVE?

WHY ARE YOU HERE?



YOU HAVE ALL SEEN WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO THIS WORLD. IT IS THE *GAUNTLET*, A PURGE...A CLEANSING FIRE TO SEPARATE THE WEAK FROM THE STRONG.

IT IS WHAT WE DO--IT IS OUR PURPOSE.

WE KILL.

SO IT IS NO SMALL MIRACLE THAT THANOS SENT ME FOR ANOTHER REASON: TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO THE INHUMAN KING.

THANOS KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE HIDING--*YOUR SECRET*. THIS KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE, THE RESULT OF WHICH IS INFLUENCE.

MY MASTER...HAS DEMANDS.

A WARNING FOR YOU, CORVUS GLAIVE. PEOPLE HAVE COME BEFORE THIS THRONE BEFORE WITH DEMANDS.

MANY TIMES IT HAS COST THEM THEIR LIVES.



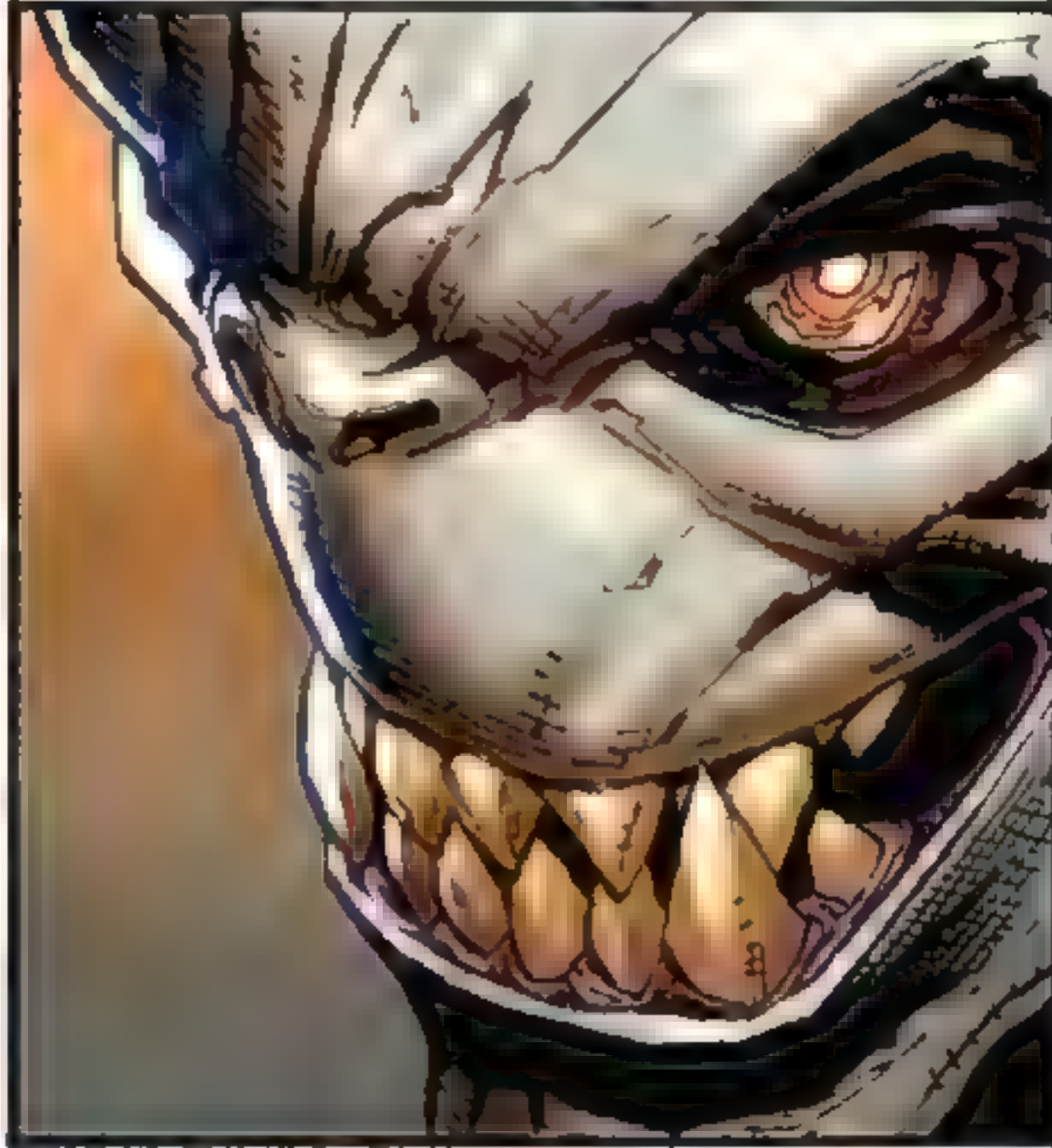
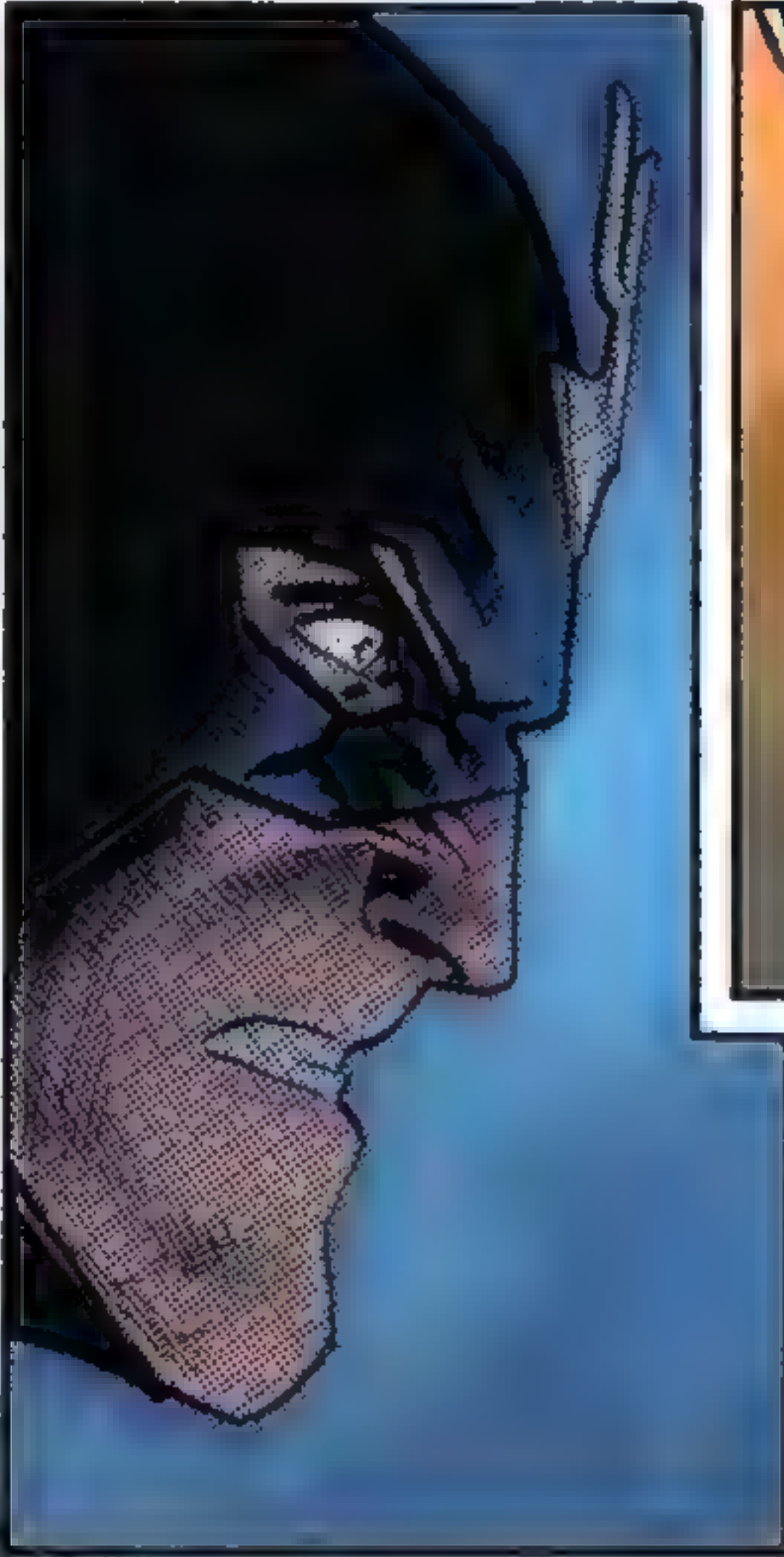
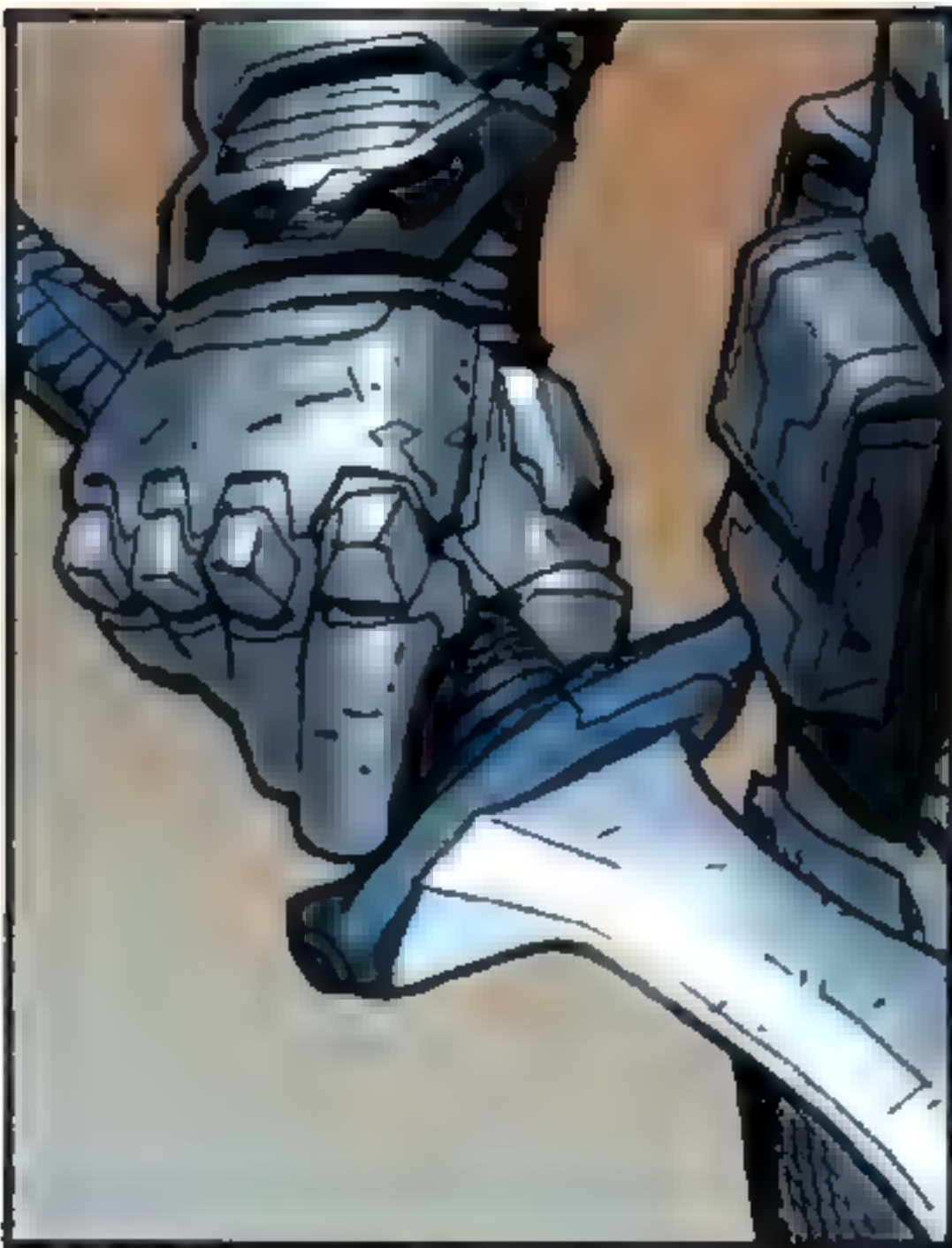
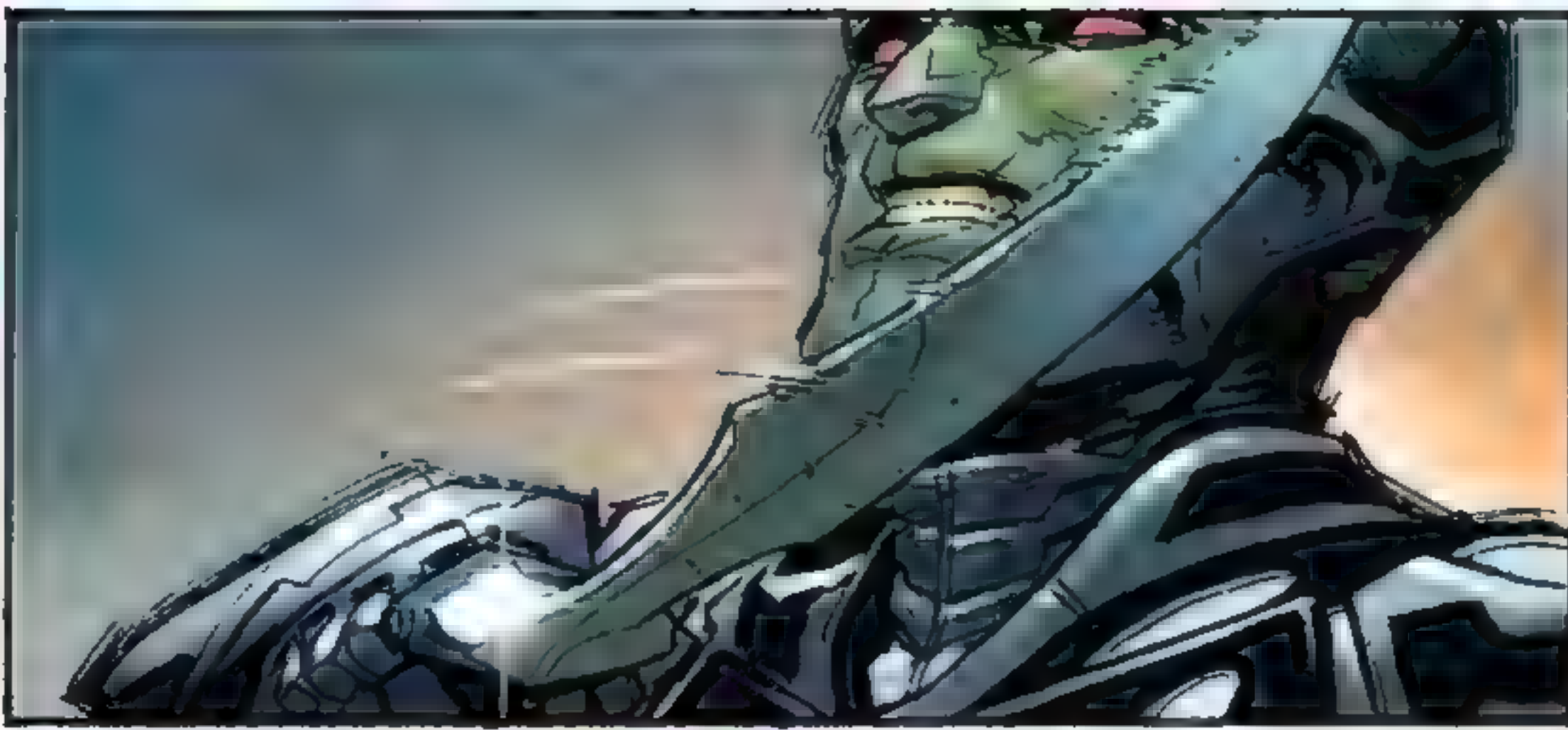
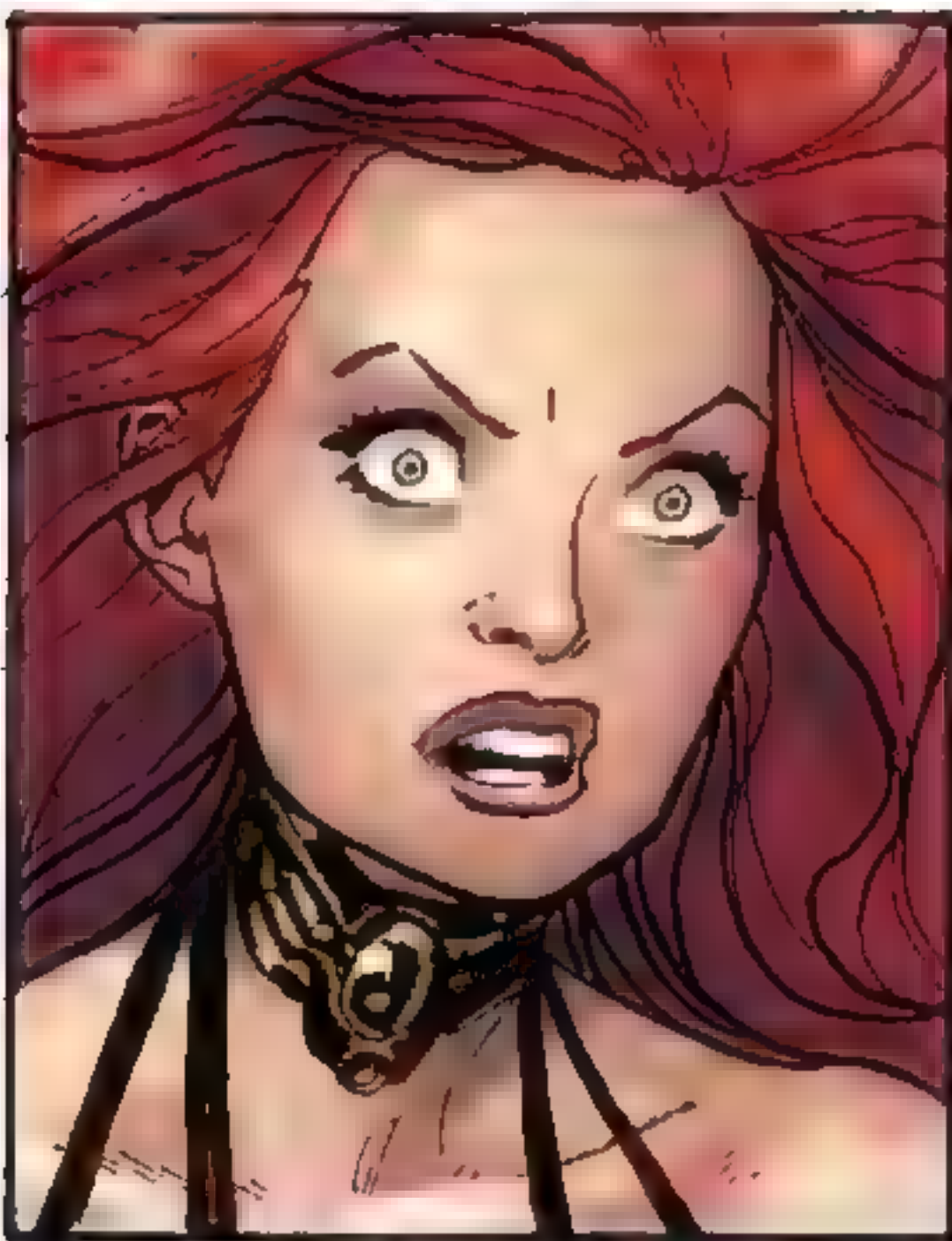
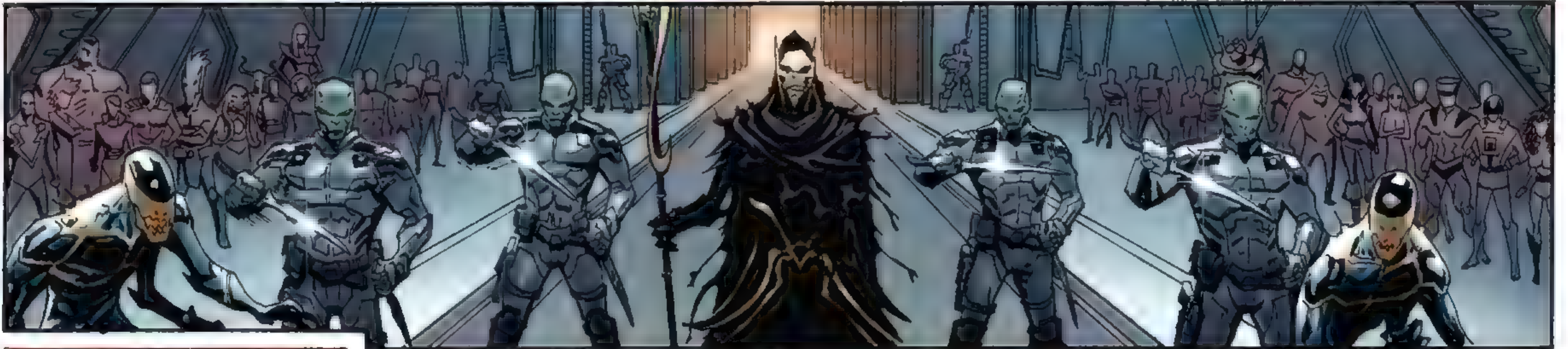
I WONDER, WHEN YOU CORRECT YOUR CHILDREN, DO YOU THREATEN THEM WITH CANDY IF THEY MISBEHAVE?

EXCUSE ME?



YOU CANNOT
THREATEN SOMEONE
WITH WHAT THEY
WANT.

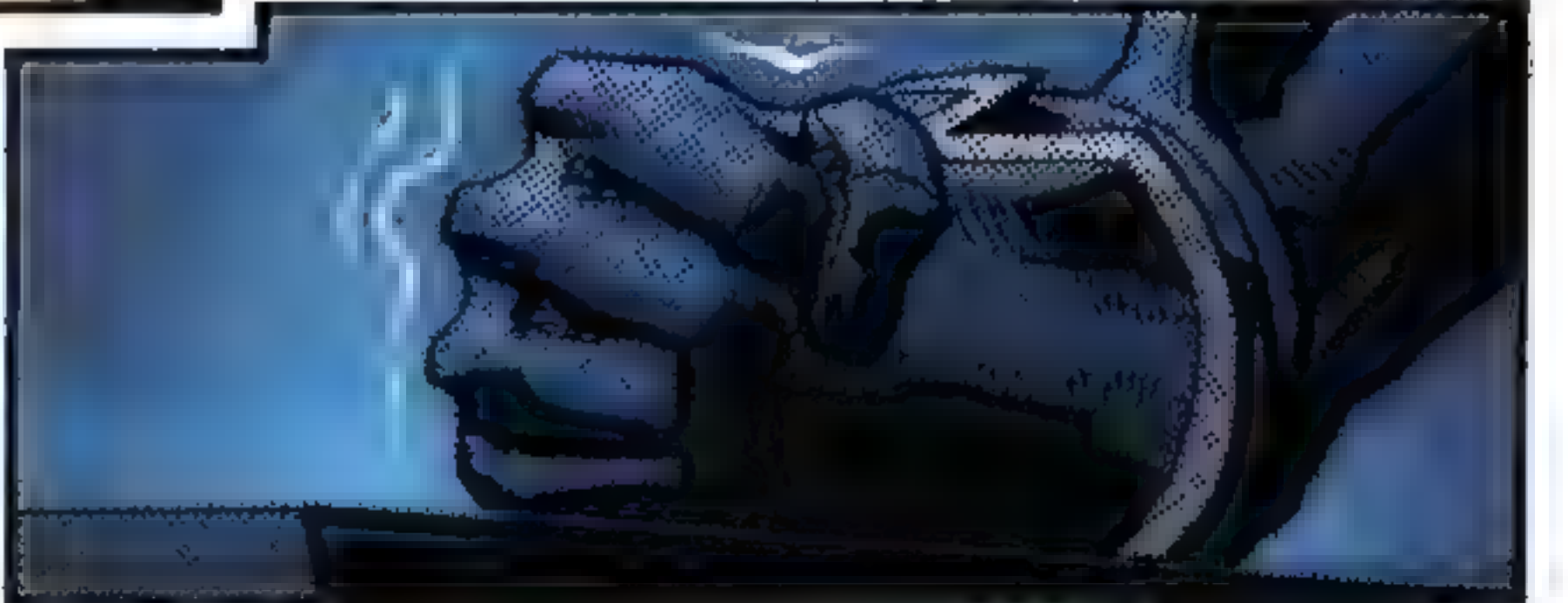
SHOW
THIS QUEEN
HOW MUCH WE
FEAR DEATH.



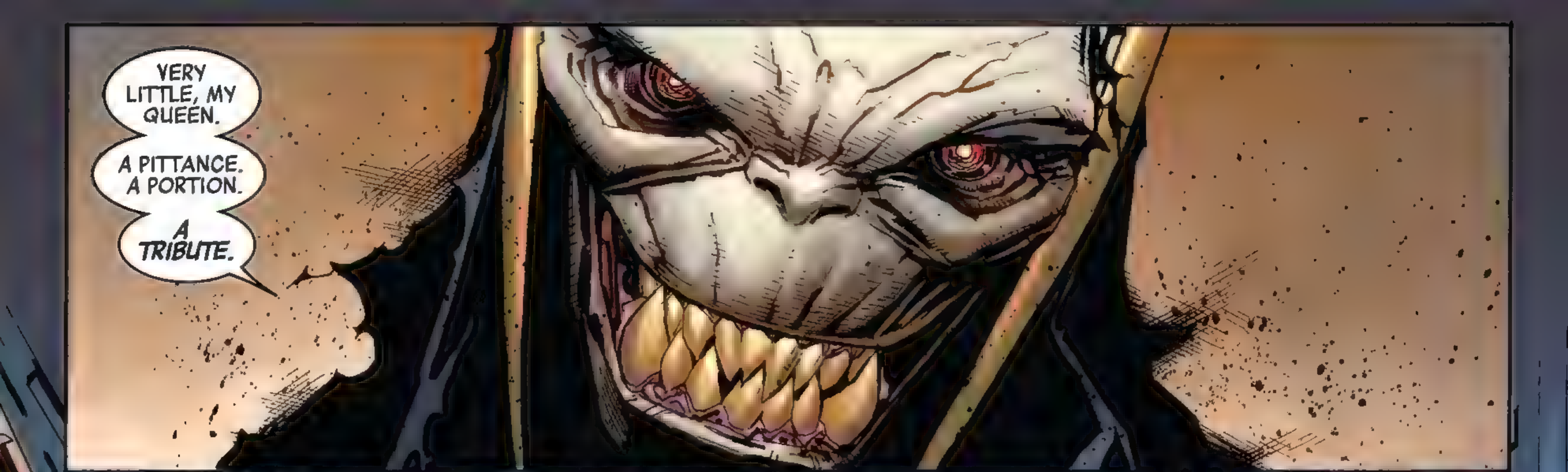
I AM ONE
OF THE FIVE...
I DO NOT
FRIGHTEN.

YES, YOU COULD
ATTEMPT TO KILL
ME, BUT SUCCESS
WOULD ONLY MEAN
ANOTHER WOULD
FOLLOW WITH THE
SAME DEMANDS.

MY MASTER
WILL GET
WHATEVER HE
DESIRES.



AND
WHAT IS
THAT?



VERY
LITTLE, MY
QUEEN.

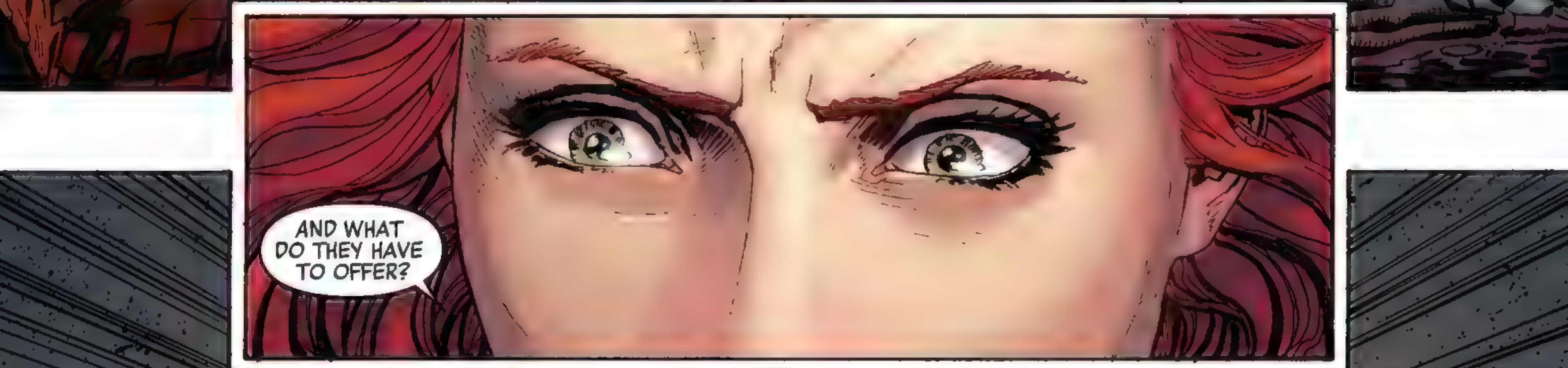
A PITTANCE.
A PORTION.

A
TRIBUTE.



SPEAK
PLAINLY,
MONSTER.

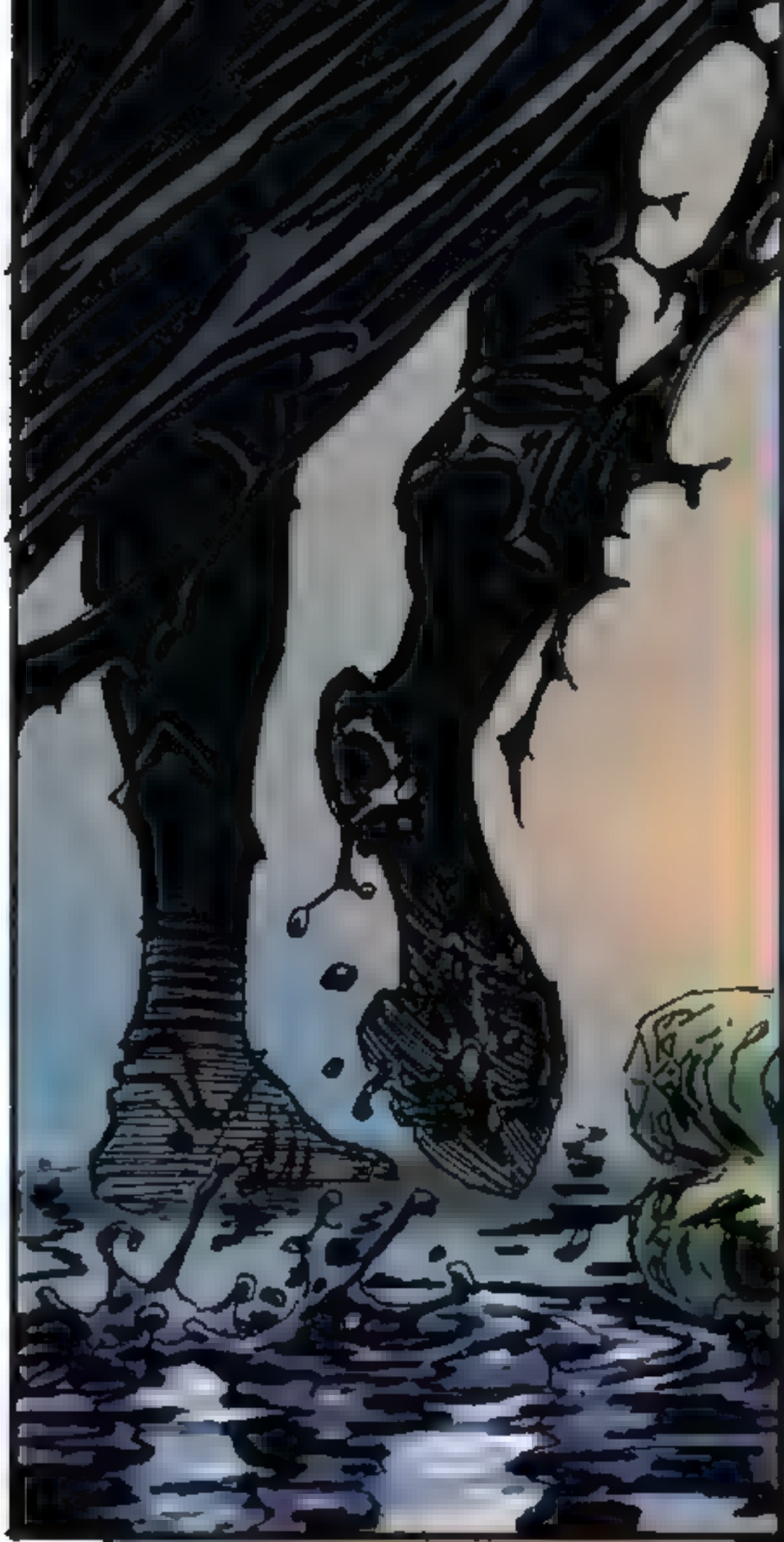
THE TRIBUTE IS A
SHOW OF ACQUIESCENCE.
THANOS DEMANDS AN
OFFERING OF ALL
INHUMANS BETWEEN THE
STANDARD AGES OF
SIXTEEN AND TWENTY-
TWO.



AND WHAT
DO THEY HAVE
TO OFFER?

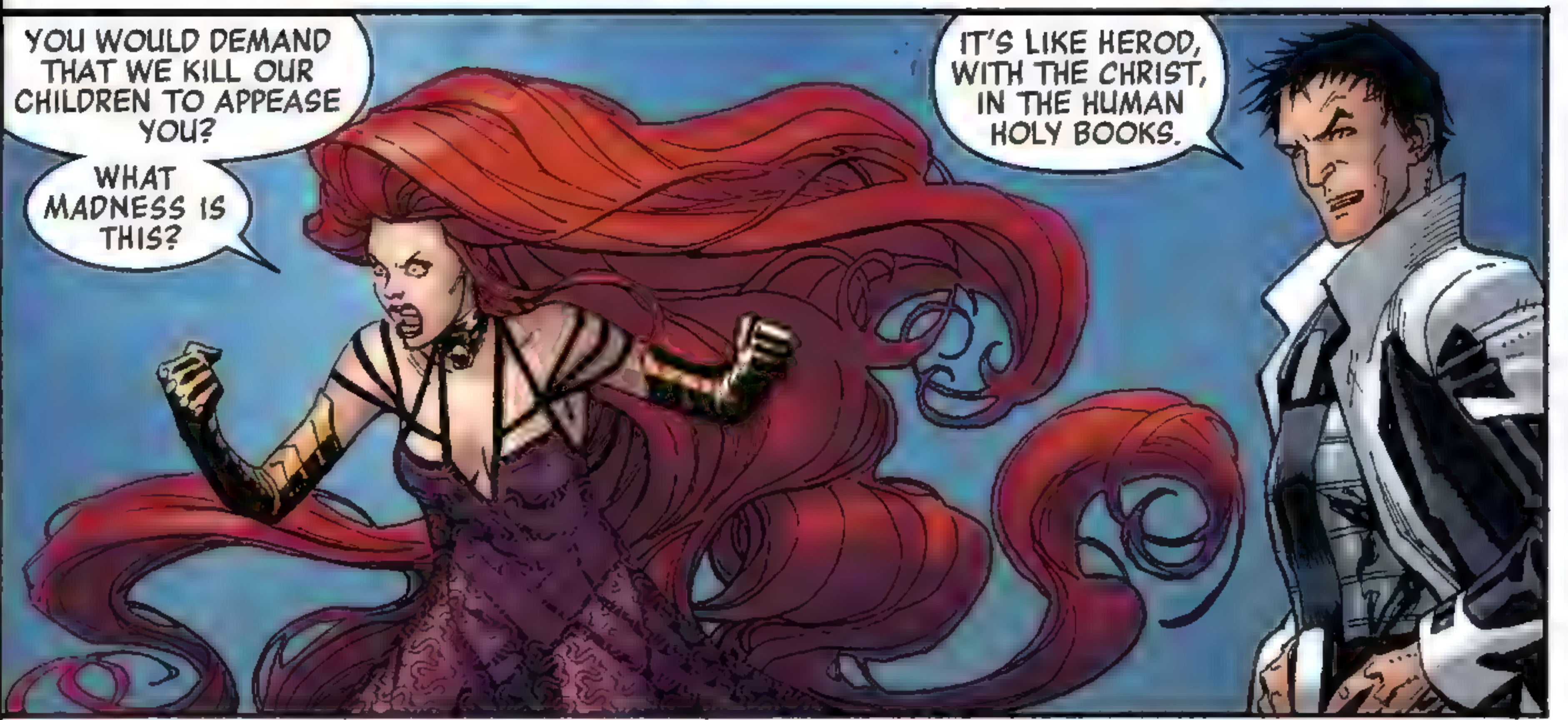


ONLY THEIR
HEADS.



YOU WOULD DEMAND
THAT WE KILL OUR
CHILDREN TO APPEASE
YOU?

WHAT
MADNESS IS
THIS?



IT'S LIKE HEROD,
WITH THE CHRIST,
IN THE HUMAN
HOLY BOOKS.



NO.

LIKE THANOS,
OF TITAN, IN
THE NOW.

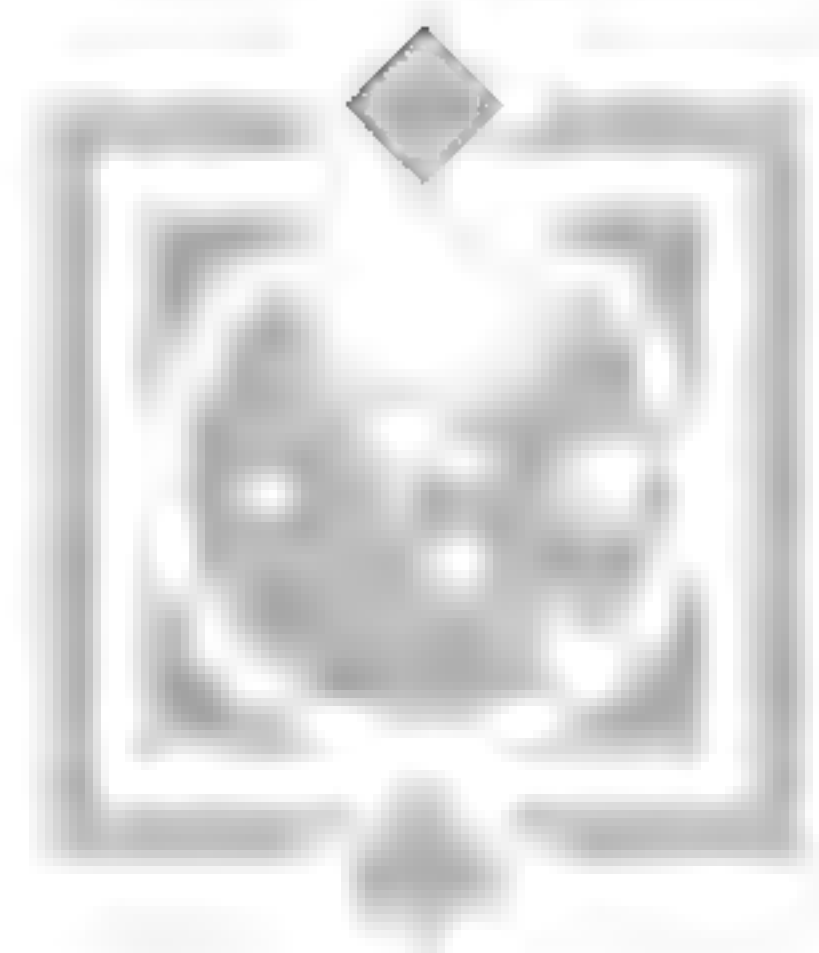


YOU HAVE
ONE DAY TO
DECIDE.

YOUR PEOPLE
MAY DIE A LITTLE,
OR DIE A LOT...

THE
CHOICE IS
YOURS.





A WAR
IN THE HEAVENS

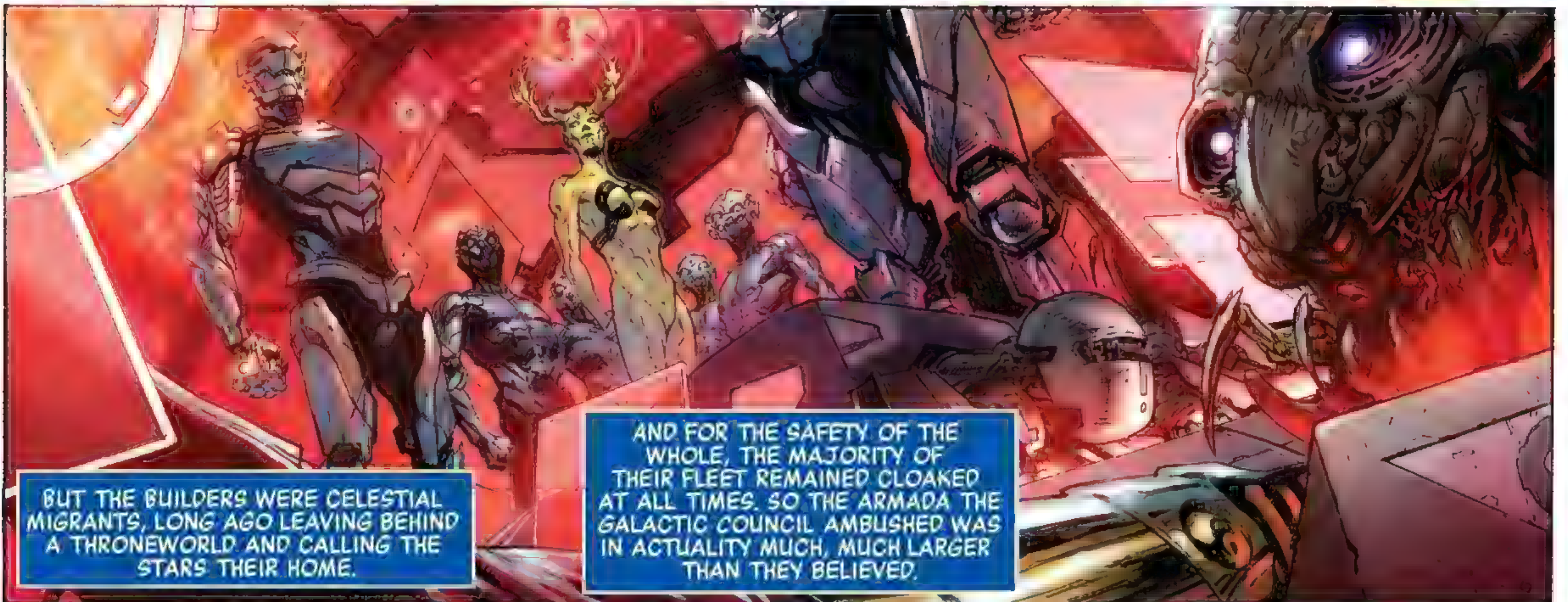




DEEP SPACE.

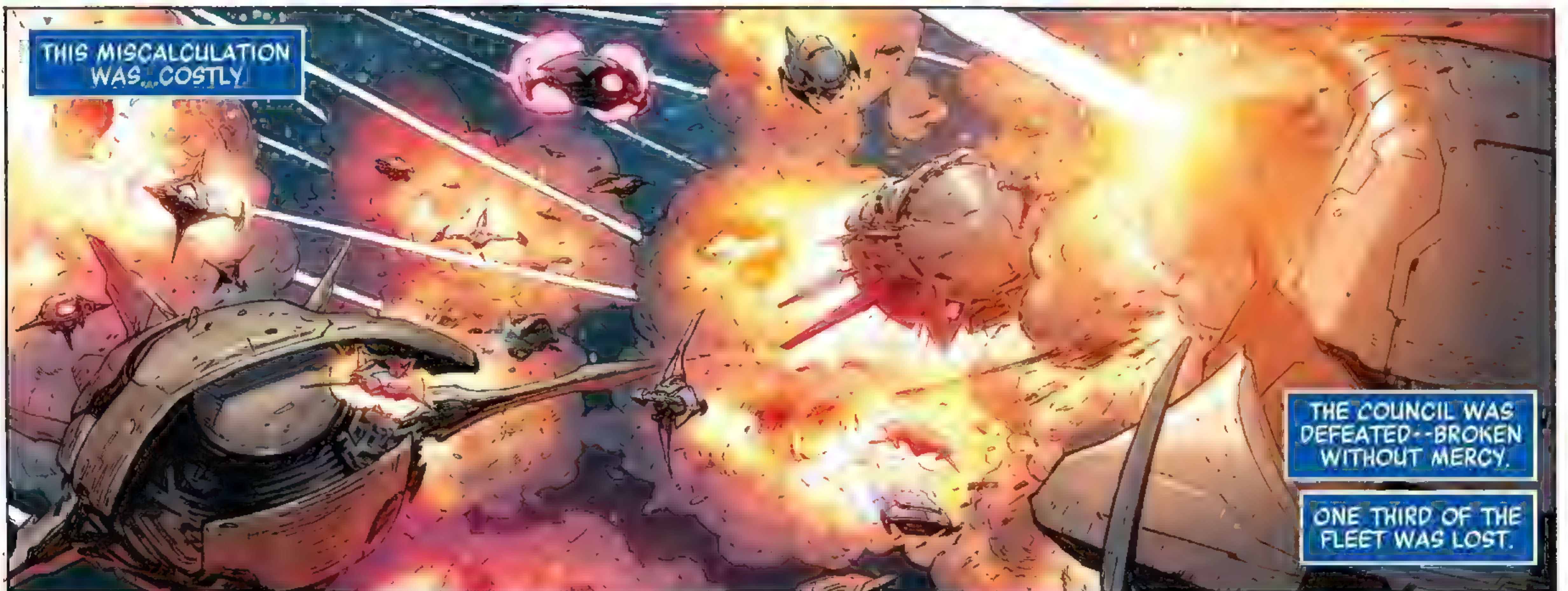
THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL MET THE BUILDER ARMADA AT THE CORRIDOR.

A KILL ZONE LOCATED BETWEEN REMAINS OF TWO SHATTERED WORLDS AND AN ALL-CONSUMING SINGULARITY, THE CORRIDOR WAS THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR THE COUNCIL FLEET TO AMBUSH AND DEFEAT THE INVADING ARMADA.



BUT THE BUILDERS WERE CELESTIAL MIGRANTS, LONG AGO LEAVING BEHIND A THRONeworld AND CALLING THE STARS THEIR HOME.

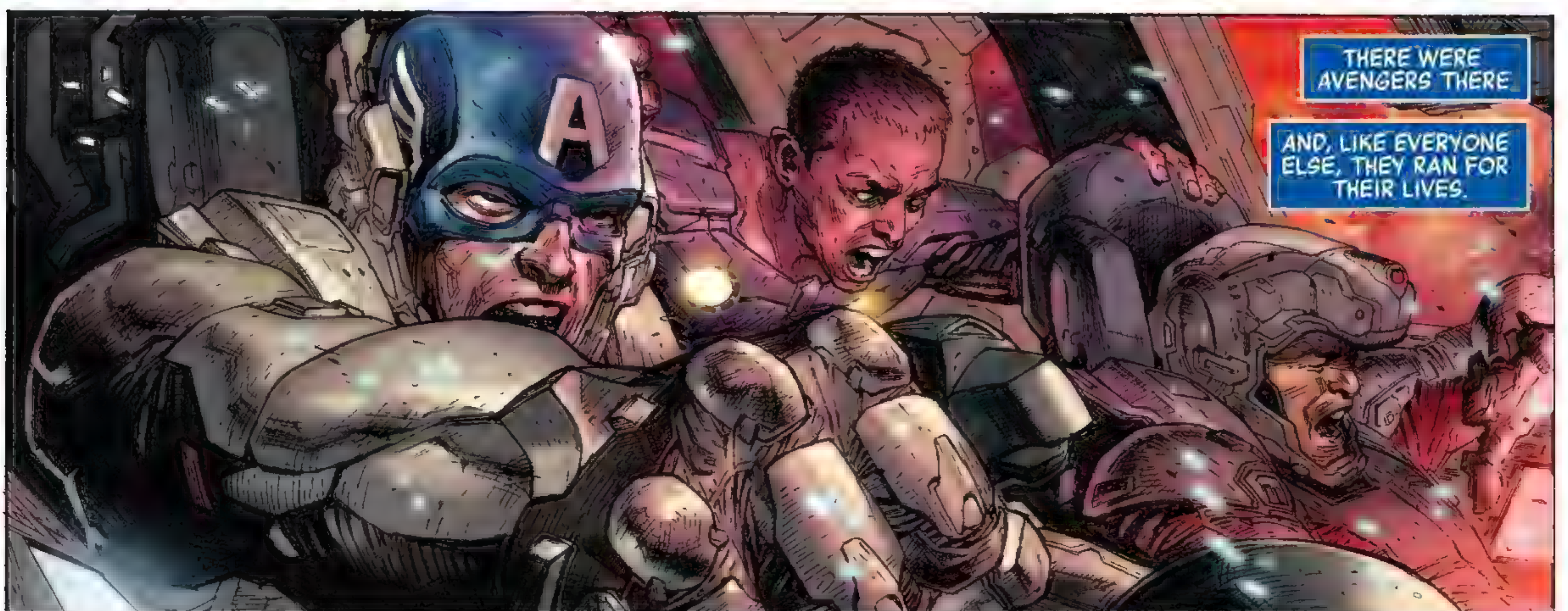
AND FOR THE SAFETY OF THE WHOLE, THE MAJORITY OF THEIR FLEET REMAINED CLOAKED AT ALL TIMES. SO THE ARMADA THE GALACTIC COUNCIL AMBUSHED WAS IN ACTUALITY MUCH, MUCH LARGER THAN THEY BELIEVED.



THIS MISCALCULATION WAS COSTLY.

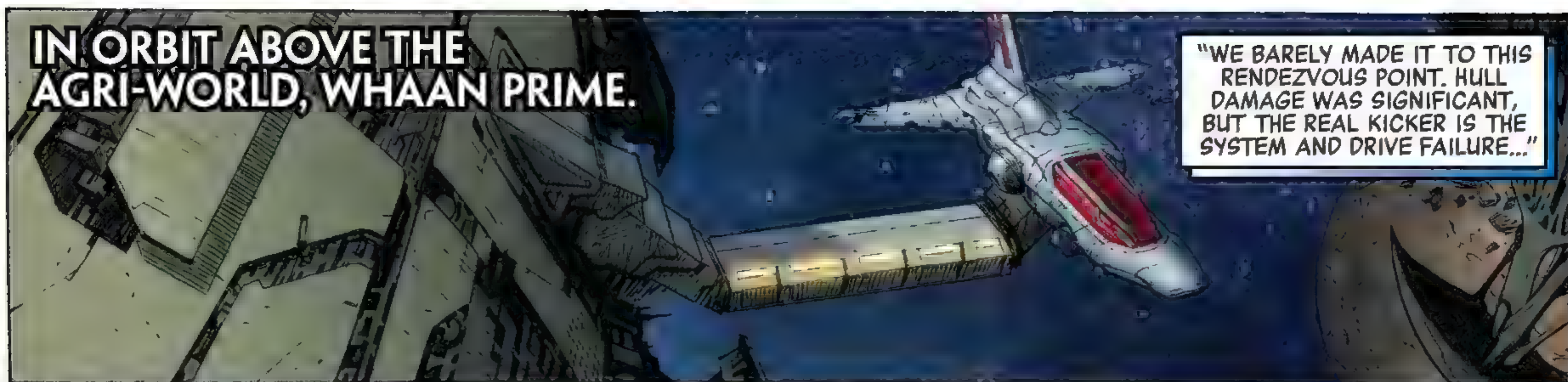
THE COUNCIL WAS DEFEATED--BROKEN WITHOUT MERCY.

ONE THIRD OF THE FLEET WAS LOST.



THERE WERE AVENGERS THERE

AND, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, THEY RAN FOR THEIR LIVES.



IN ORBIT ABOVE THE
AGRI-WORLD, WHAAN PRIME.

"WE BARELY MADE IT TO THIS
RENDEZVOUS POINT. HULL
DAMAGE WAS SIGNIFICANT,
BUT THE REAL KICKER IS THE
SYSTEM AND DRIVE FAILURE..."



THE QUINCARRIER'S
DONE, SMASHER.

PERMISSION
TO COME
ABOARD?

GLADIATOR SAID
ALL COURTESIES WERE
TO BE EXTEND, CAP...SO
WELCOME TO THE
SHI'AR FLAGSHIP,
LILANDRA.

ANY WORD
ON THE OTHERS?



NO, BUT MAYBE THEY VECTORED OUT WITH
THE SPARTAX OR THE BROOD.

TRUTH IS, IF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S
CARRIER DOESN'T SHOW UP HERE,
WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE
REACH OUR SECONDARY
STAGING POINT.

RIGHT AFTER THE
FLEET RETREATED, THE
SHI'AR NETWORK, THE
KREE OMNICAST, AND
EVERY OTHER WIDEBAND
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
WENT DARK.

SO WE'RE
BLIND AND
DEAF.

YOU GOT
ANY GOOD NEWS,
IZZY?

WELL...



I THINK I'M
FALLING IN LOVE
WITH SOMEONE.

THAT'S
SOME TIMING,
KIDDO.

"MAJESTOR, I
MUST INSIST...WE
CANNOT WAIT
ANY LONGER."



WE NEED TO MAKE FOR BEHEMOTH
AND THE FLEET STAGING AREA. THE
SOONER WE REASSEMBLE THE
COUNCIL, THE SOONER WE
CAN STRIKE BACK.

MENTOR?

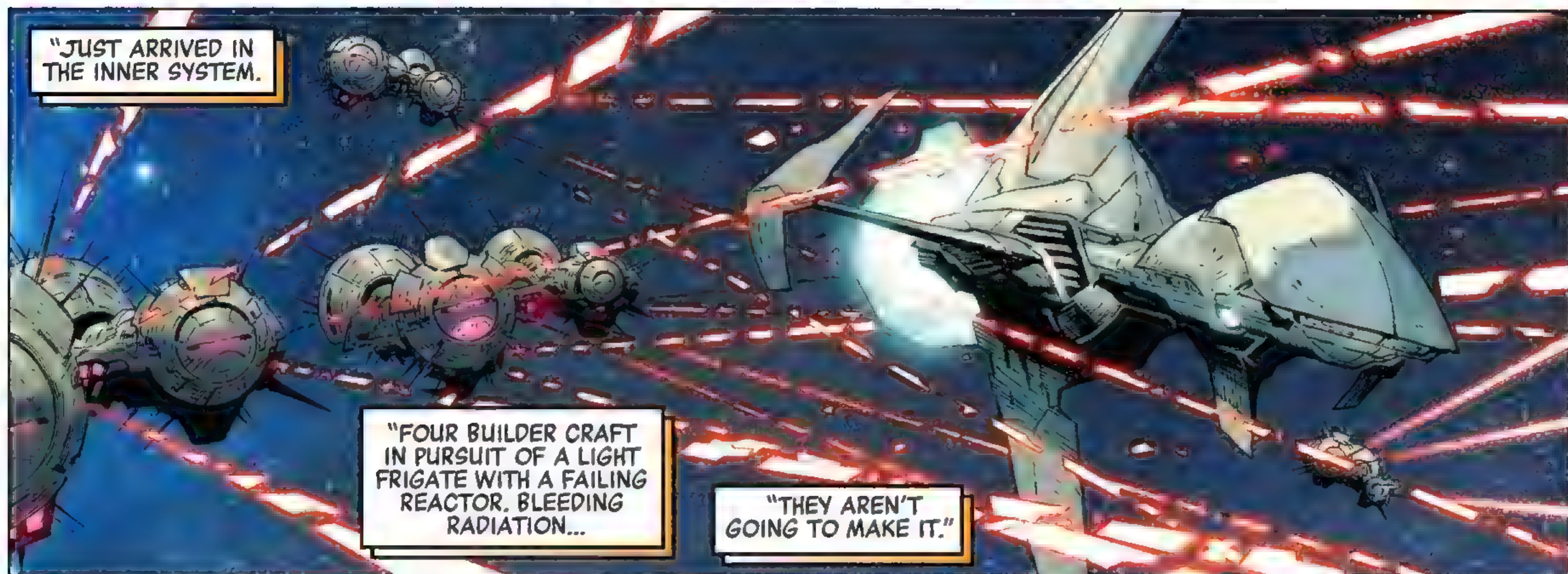
WHAT ORACLE IS SAYING
HAS MERIT, BUT WE PICKED
THIS RENDEZVOUS POINT
FOR A REASON...



THIS FARMING COLONY
IS OF NO STRATEGIC
VALUE AND UNDER NO
THREAT OF--

MAJESTOR!

INCOMING
VESSELS!



"JUST ARRIVED IN
THE INNER SYSTEM.

"FOUR BUILDER CRAFT
IN PURSUIT OF A LIGHT
FRIGATE WITH A FAILING
REACTOR. BLEEDING
RADIATION...

"THEY AREN'T
GOING TO MAKE IT."



SEND OUT THE WORD TO
THE OTHER SHIPS. SPOOL UP
THEIR DRIVES--PREPARE
TO JUMP.

WE HAVE SEVEN
SHIPS CURRENTLY
UNABLE TO MAKE THE
JUMP. WE COULD FEINT
AN ATTACK--DRAW
THEM OFF, MOUNT A
RESCUE MISSION.

NO.

THEY WANT TO
MAKE US SCATTER--
THEY WANT US TO RUN,
SO THEY CAN CHASE
US DOWN.

I WILL NOT
BE BEATEN
AGAIN THIS
DAY.



WARRIORS
OF THE
SHI'AR.

DO YOU SEE
HOW THEY HOUND
US--HOPING TO HUNT
US TO EXTINCTION?
WELL...I AM NO
LONGER IN THE MOOD
FOR RUNNING.

YOU KNOW ME
AS *GLADIATOR*,
SUPERGUARDIAN,
MAJESTOR OF THE
EMPIRE...BUT SOON
YOU WILL CALL
ME *VICTOR*.

FOR I WILL
WIN HERE TODAY...
OR I WILL DIE IN
THE EFFORT.

MAJESTOR! MAJESTOR! MAJESTOR! MAJESTOR!



ARE THERE WARRIORS HERE WHO WOULD FIGHT WITH ME?



YOU HEAR THAT, HULK?

I THINK HE SAID GET ANGRY.



SO, YOUR GLADIATOR SAID I WAS NOT TO JOIN THEM?

I'M SURE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE MAJESTOR'S CAUTION, EX NIHILO.

YES. THOSE CURSED BUILDERS CREATED YOU, DIDN'T THEY?

AND WHO DO YOU THINK MADE YOU, LITTLE BIRD? THOSE ARE GODS YOU BATTLE OUT THERE.



"YES, WE HAVE ALL
HEARD YOUR STORIES
BY NOW, EX NIHILO.



"HOW THE BUILDERS
AND YOU GARDENERS
TRAVELED FROM WORLD
TO WORLD AS AGENTS
OF EVOLUTION.



"I HEARD YOU SAY THAT YOU
HELD OUR RACE IN YOUR HAND
AND GAVE US THE LITTLE PUSH
NECESSARY TO BE SOMETHING
SO MUCH MORE.



"WELL, LOOK AT
WHAT WE HAVE
BECOME."



"YOU MAY HAVE BEEN
AS GODS TO US ONCE,
BUT WE NO LONGER
NEED OR WANT YOU..."



"WE HAVE
NEW GODS
NOW."



SHARRA AND
K'YTHRI BE
PRAISED.

WE HAVE
WON.

PERHAPS...

LOOK
THERE!



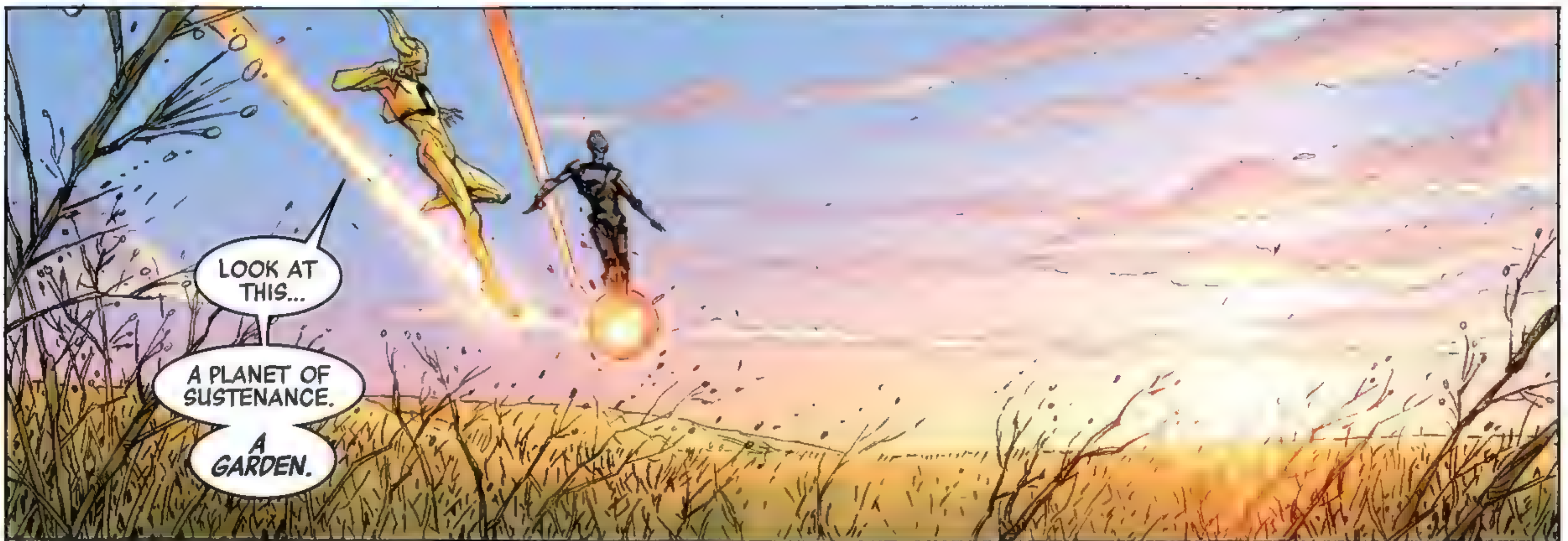
"THERE, BREAKING
THE SHADOW OF
THE PLANET.

"IT IS NOT JUST
ALEPHS YOU FACED
TODAY, BUT MY
KIND AS WELL...



"EX
NIHILII.

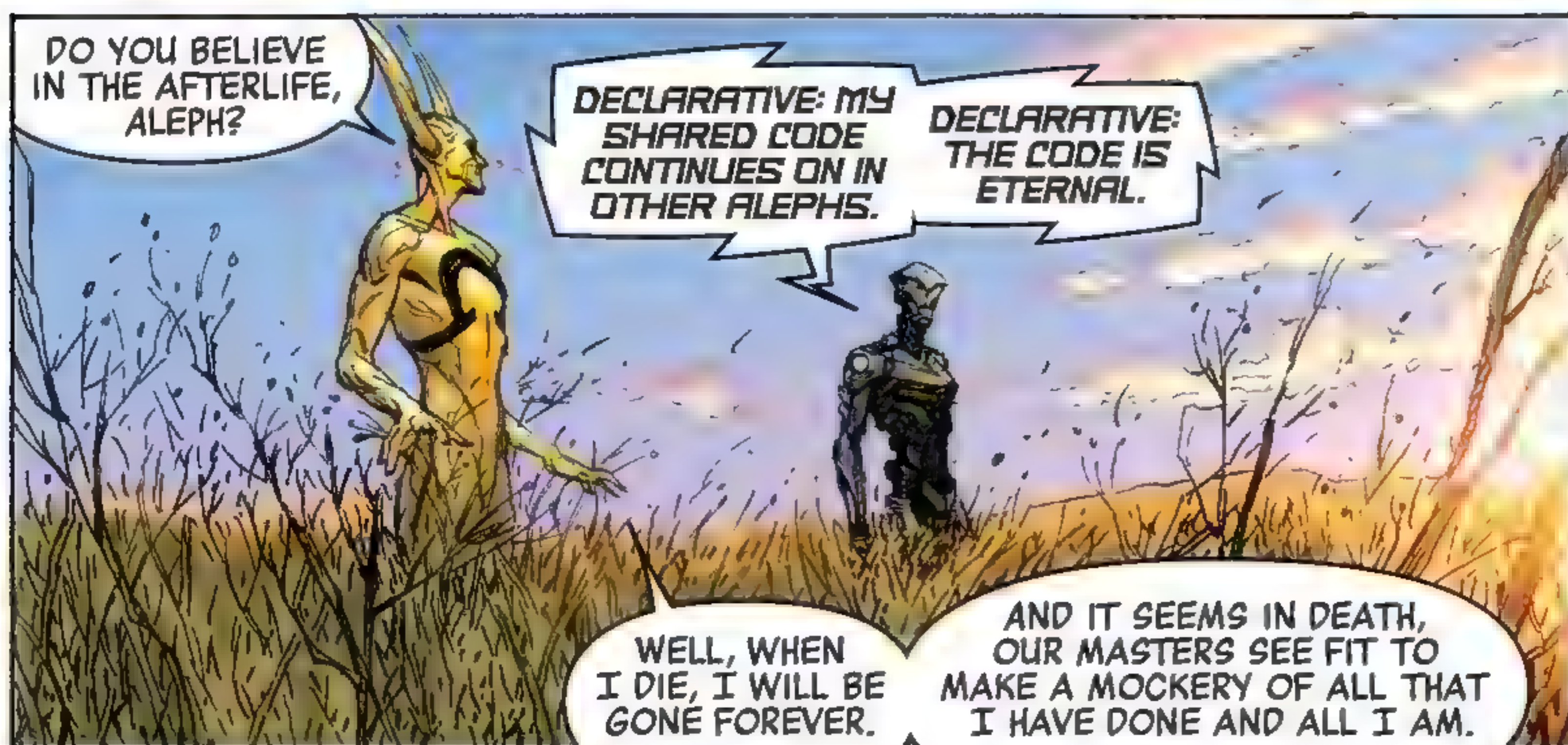
"LIFE
ITSELF."



LOOK AT
THIS...

A PLANET OF
SUSTENANCE.

A
GARDEN.



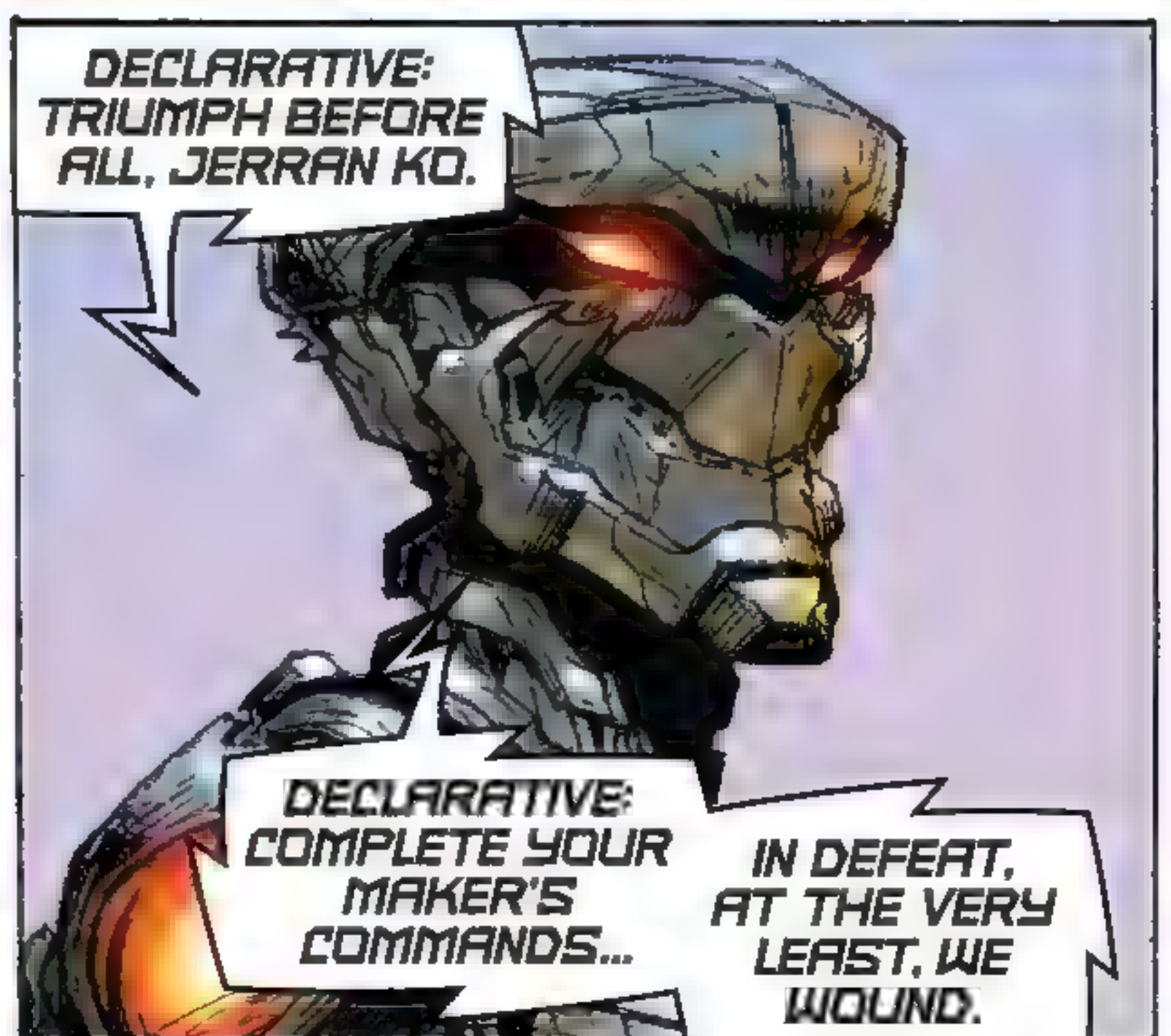
DO YOU BELIEVE
IN THE AFTERLIFE,
ALEPH?

DECLARATIVE: MY
SHARED CODE
CONTINUES ON IN
OTHER ALEPHS.

DECLARATIVE:
THE CODE IS
ETERNAL.

WELL, WHEN
I DIE, I WILL BE
GONE FOREVER.

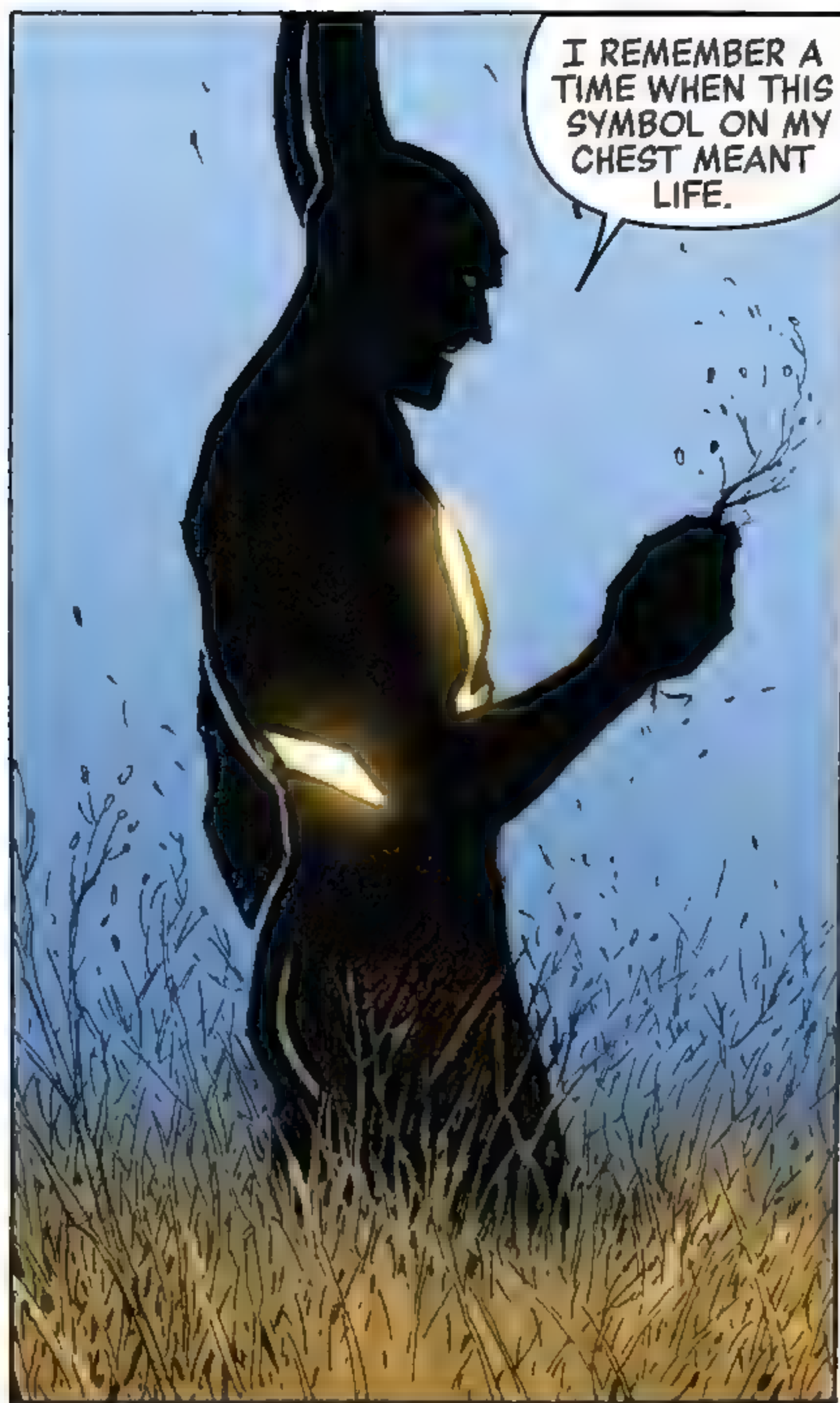
AND IT SEEMS IN DEATH,
OUR MASTERS SEE FIT TO
MAKE A MOCKERY OF ALL THAT
I HAVE DONE AND ALL I AM.



DECLARATIVE:
TRIUMPH BEFORE
ALL, JERRAN KO.

DECLARATIVE:
COMPLETE YOUR
MAKER'S
COMMANDS...

IN DEFEAT,
AT THE VERY
LEAST, WE
WOUND.

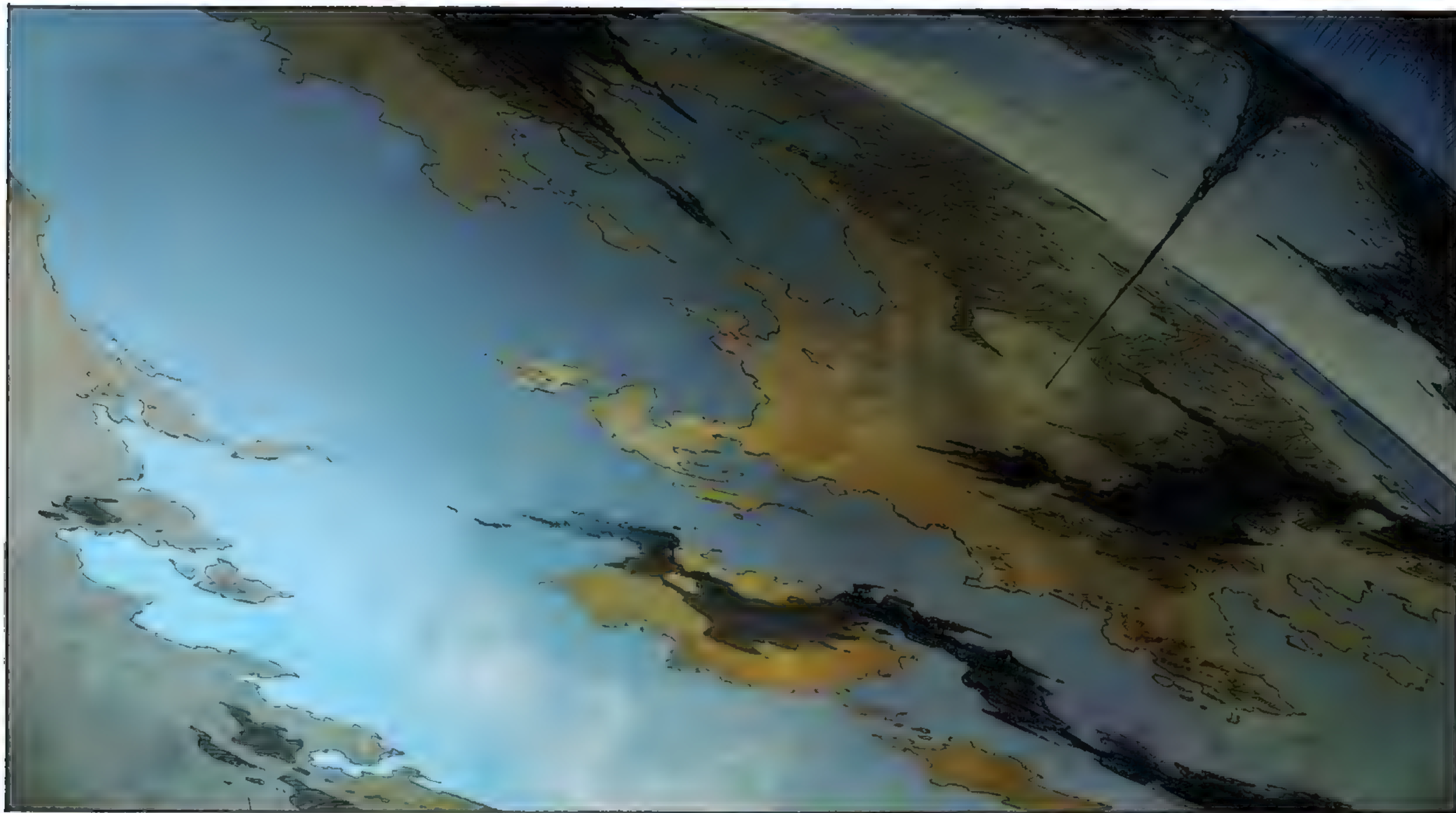


I REMEMBER A
TIME WHEN THIS
SYMBOL ON MY
CHEST MEANT
LIFE.



RECORD MY
WORDS FOR THE
CODE, ALEPH...

TELL EVERYONE
THAT JERRAN KO SAID
THOSE WERE BETTER
DAYS...AND THAT THEY
ARE NOW LONG
GONE.



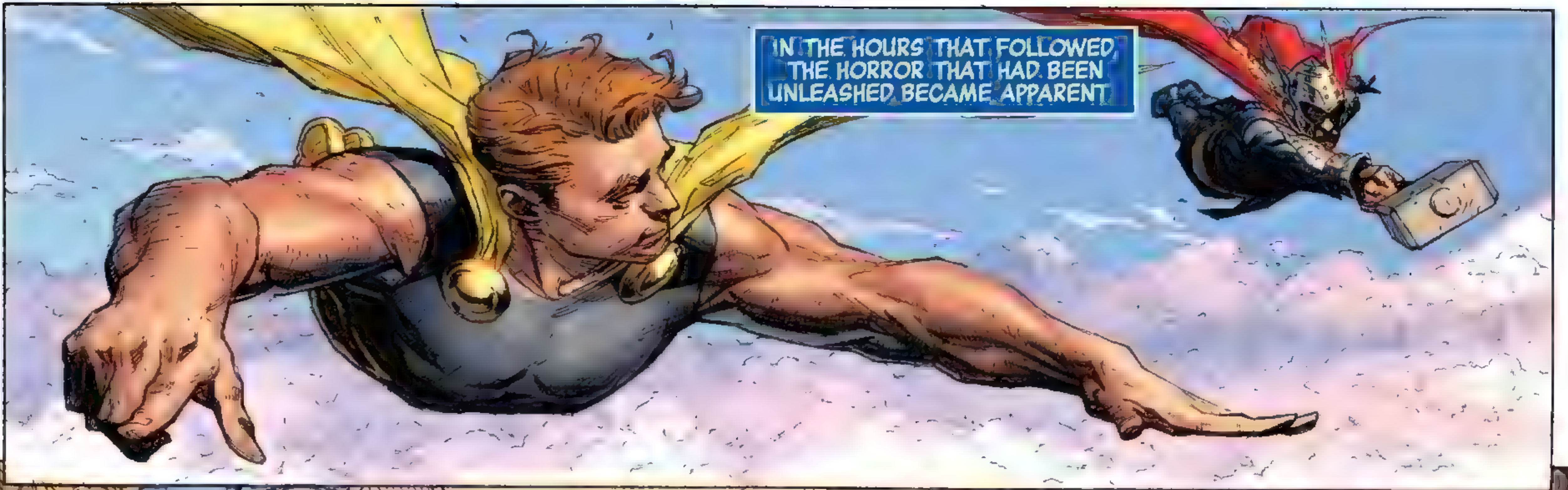
NO!

HE...
HE...
COULDN'T
HAVE.



GET
EVERYONE
BACK HERE...

SOMETHING
UNTHINKABLE HAS
HAPPENED.



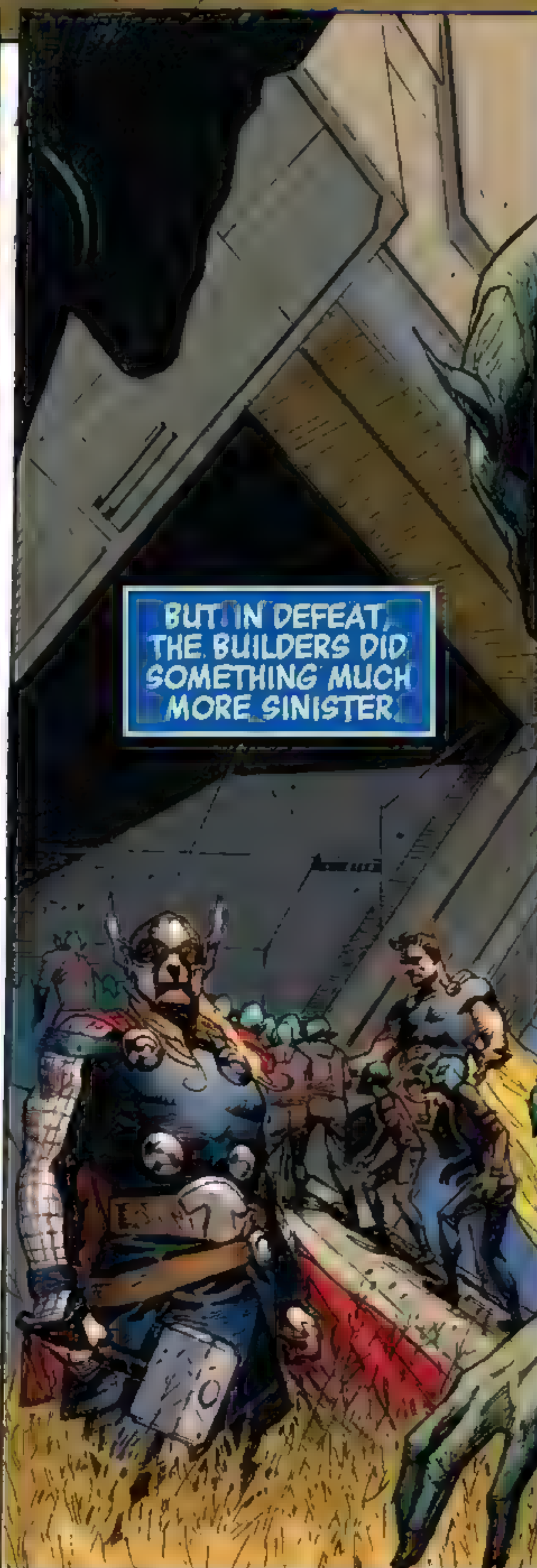
IN THE HOURS THAT FOLLOWED
THE HORROR THAT HAD BEEN
UNLEASHED, BECAME APPARENT



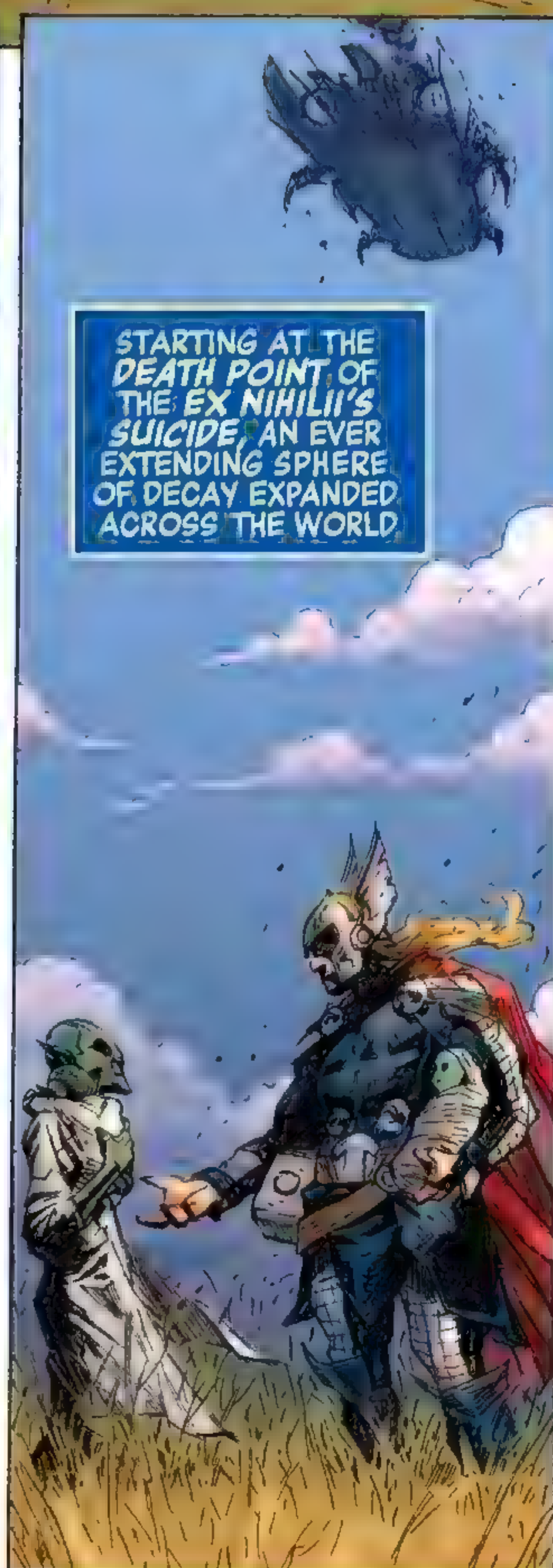
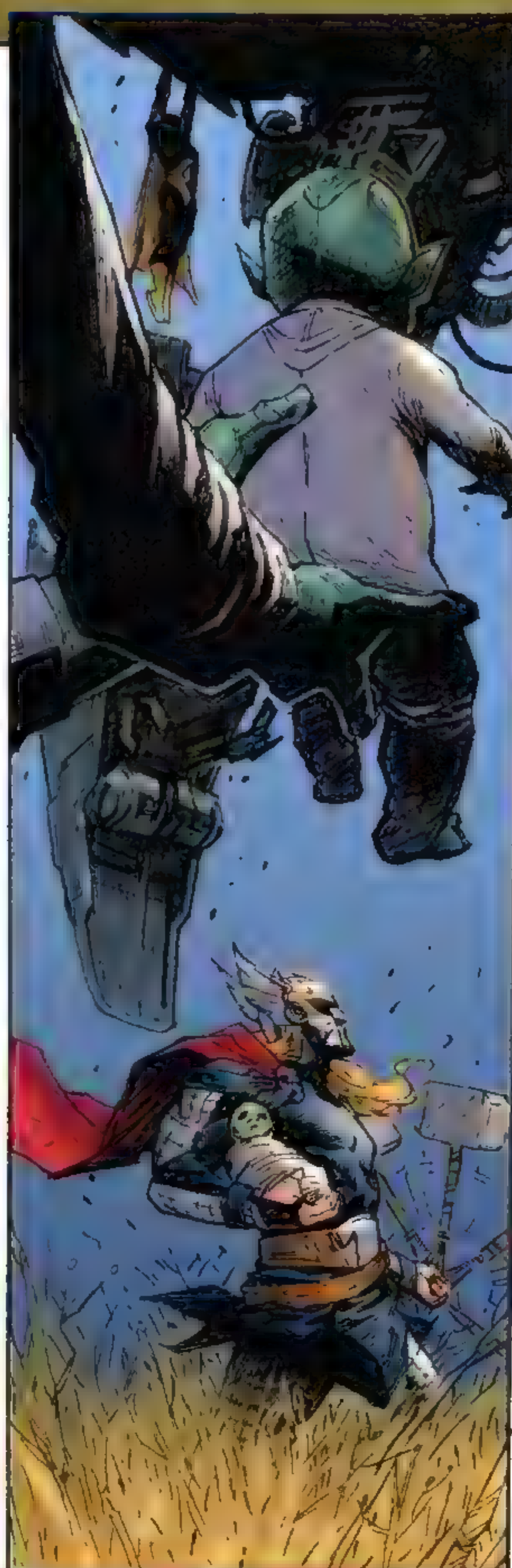
WE KNEW THAT
THE BUILDERS
COULD ERASE A WORLD
FROM EXISTENCE



KILLING A PLANET
SEEMED THE WORST
THEY COULD DO



BUT IN DEFEAT,
THE BUILDERS DID
SOMETHING MUCH
MORE SINISTER



STARTING AT THE
DEATH POINT OF
THE EX NIHILII'S
SUICIDE, AN EVER
EXTENDING SPHERE
OF DECAY EXPANDED
ACROSS THE WORLD



IT WAS A SHADOW'S SLOW
CRAWL OF DESPAIR THAT
STOLE THE FUTURE OF A
PEOPLE.



IT WAS
SICKNESS.



IT WAS
SPOIL.

IT WAS
DECAY.

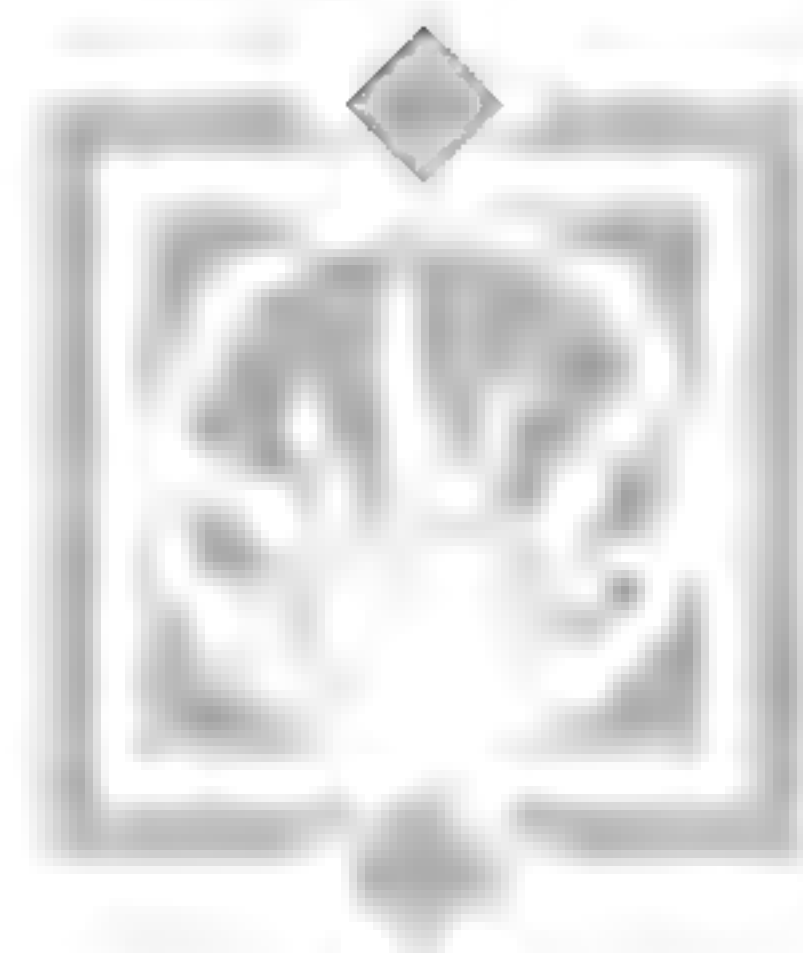


HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
OF REFUGEES WATCHED AS
THE ONES LEFT BEHIND
BECAME SEETHING VESSELS
OF DEATH AND DISEASE.

THIS WAS
WORSE THAN
DEATH.

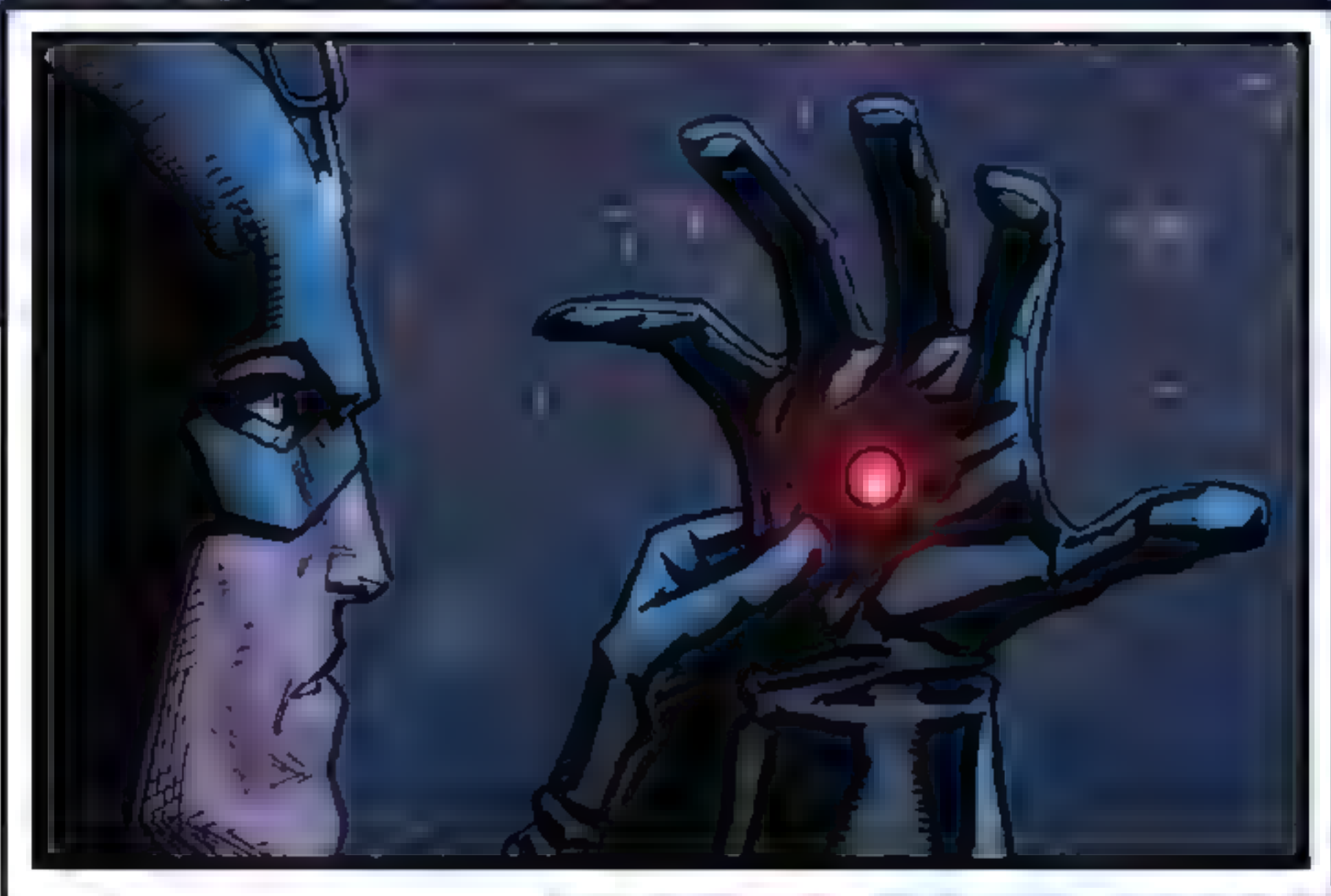
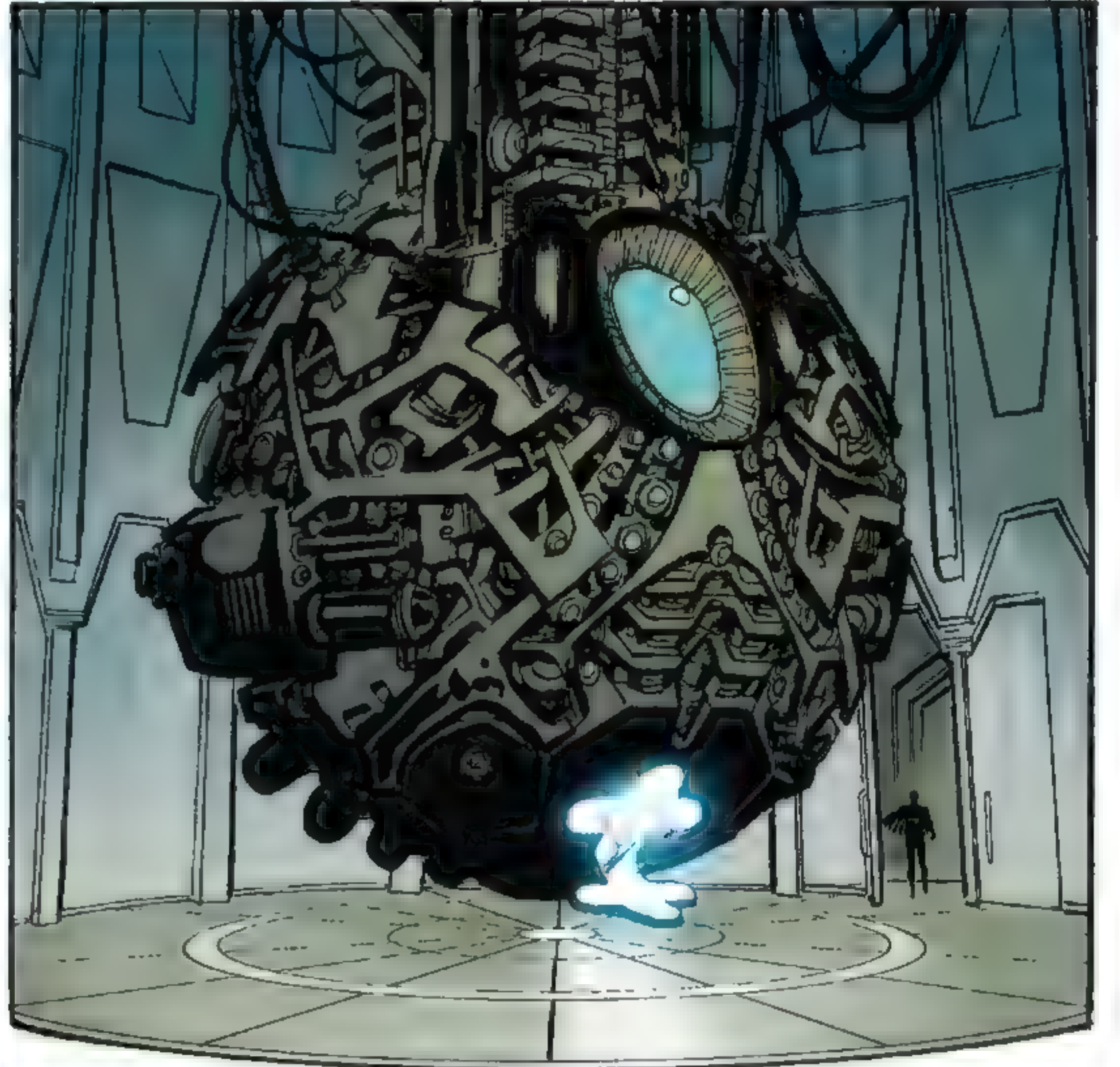
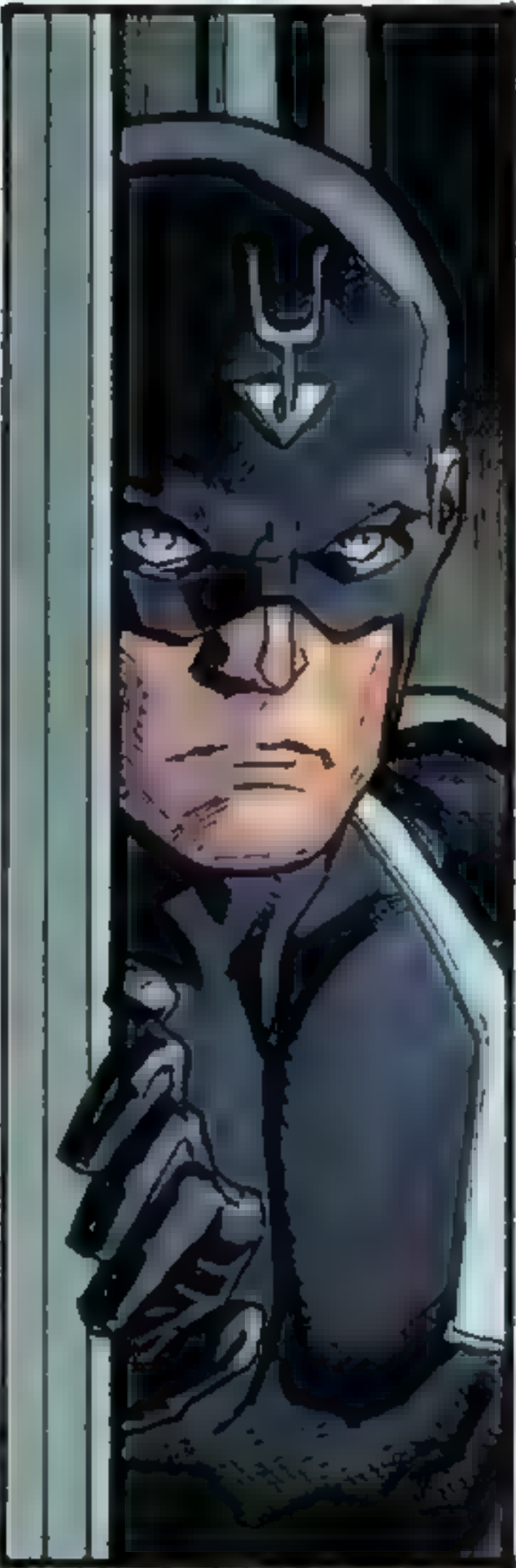
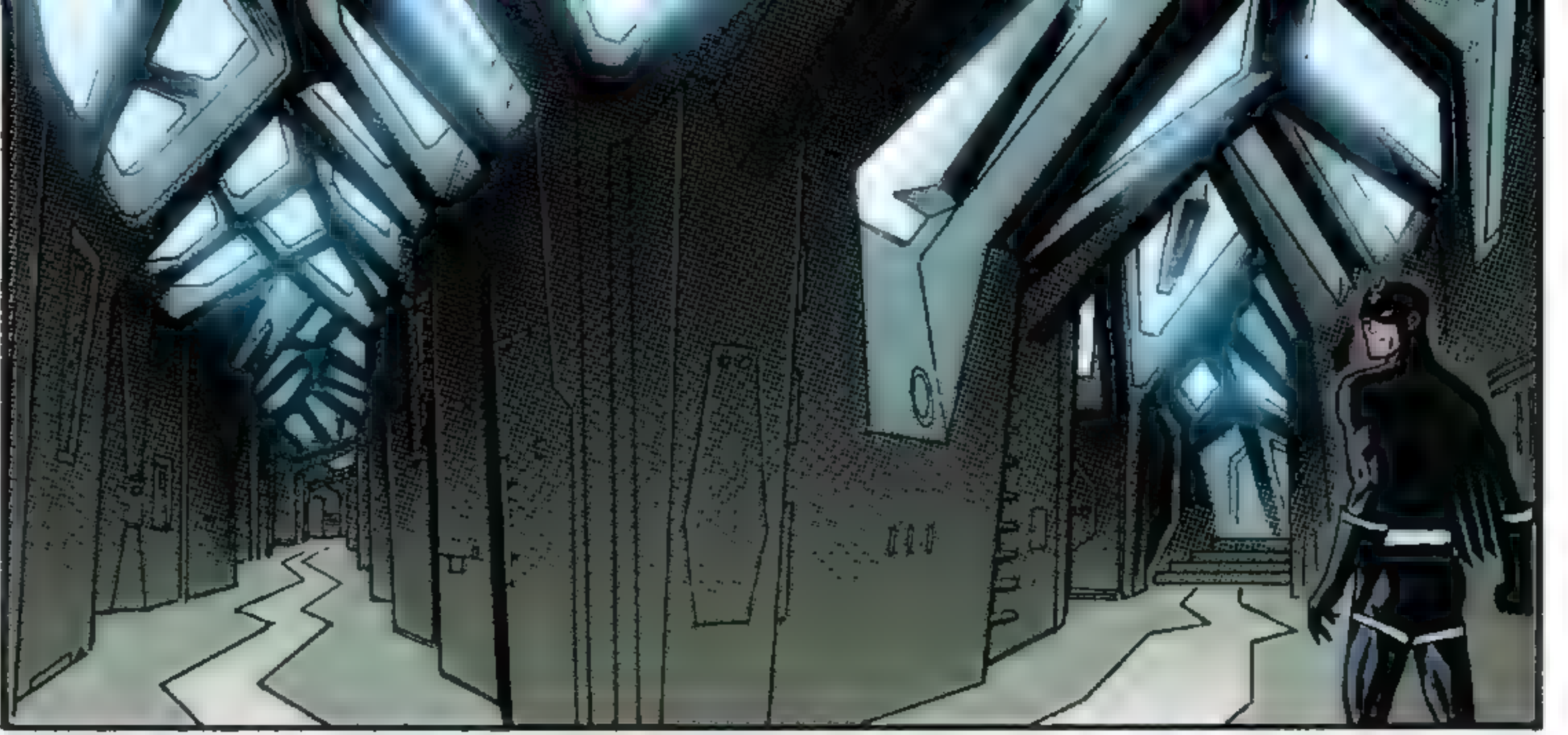


IT WAS OUR
FIRST VICTORY.



A CONVENIENT LIE







WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, BLACK BOLT?

WHY HAVE WE BEEN CALLED HERE WHILE THE ENTIRE WORLD IS UNDER SIEGE?

PATIENCE, T'CHALLA...

THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD REASON WHEN THE ILLUMINATI ARE SUMMONED.

WHERE ARE WE? AND WHY DOES EVERYONE SOUND--



WELCOME TO ATTILAN, FRIENDS...

...OR, AT LEAST A PLACE THAT IS VERY NEAR TO IT.



YOU'RE SPEAKING, BUT NOTHING IS HAPPENING. HOW...?

MY BROTHER MAXIMUS DISCOVERED THIS PLACE.

A POCKET REALITY WHERE ALL SOUND IS REDUCED TO A SINGLE PITCH--NEUTRALIZING MY DESTRUCTIVE VOICE.

AS TO WHY YOU ARE HERE... THAT, I THINK, YOU ALREADY KNOW.



THANOS.

EARLIER THIS DAY, HIS EMISSARY DELIVERED A MESSAGE TO ATTILAN.



TO ALL OF THE INHUMANS?

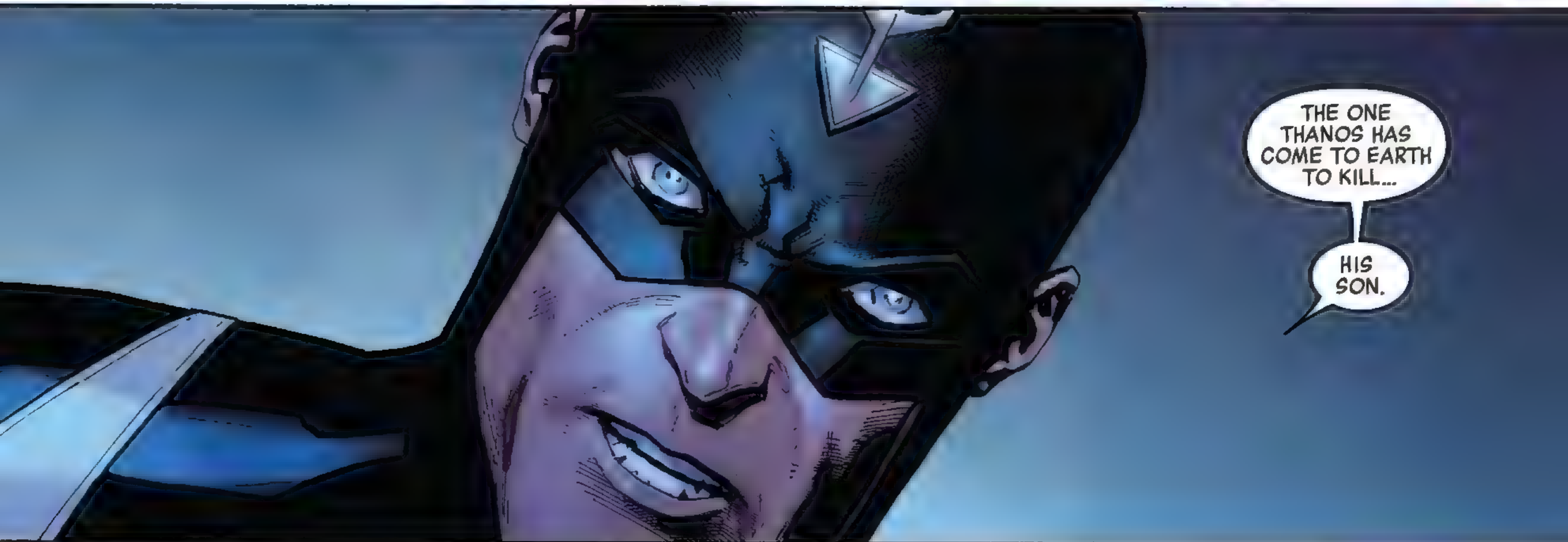
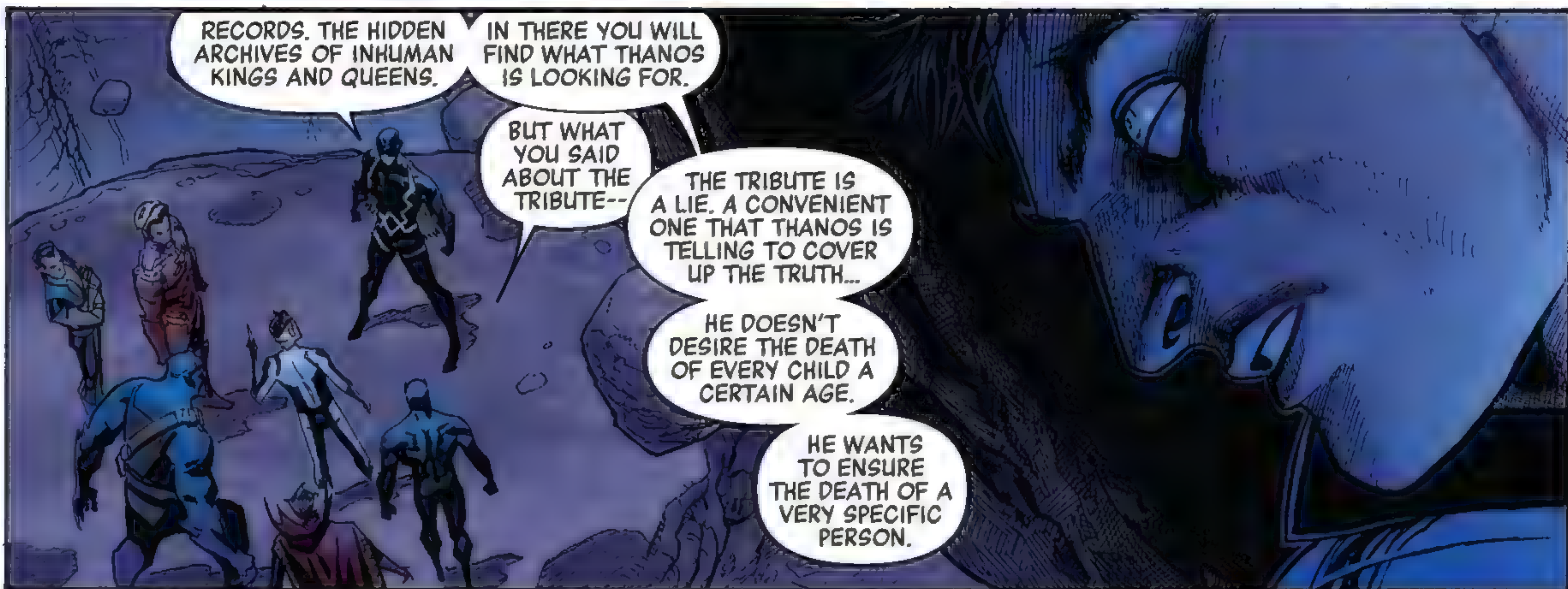
OR JUST TO YOU?

TO ME...



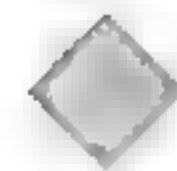
THE MAD TITAN HAS DEMANDED A TRIBUTE. I AM TO DELIVER TO HIM THE HEADS OF EVERY INHUMAN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 22.

AND AS I WILL BE DELIVERING MY RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST IN PERSON... I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO GIVE YOU THIS.





THE HANDS SEED







"AGES AND AGES AGO,
THERE WAS A FRACTURE
IN THE ROYAL FAMILY.

"KINGS AND A
QUEEN TORN
ASUNDER.



"OVER MATTERS OF HONOR
AND DESTINY, THE KINGDOM
SPLIT, AND THE LOST
TRIBES SPREAD.



"BOTH
THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD...

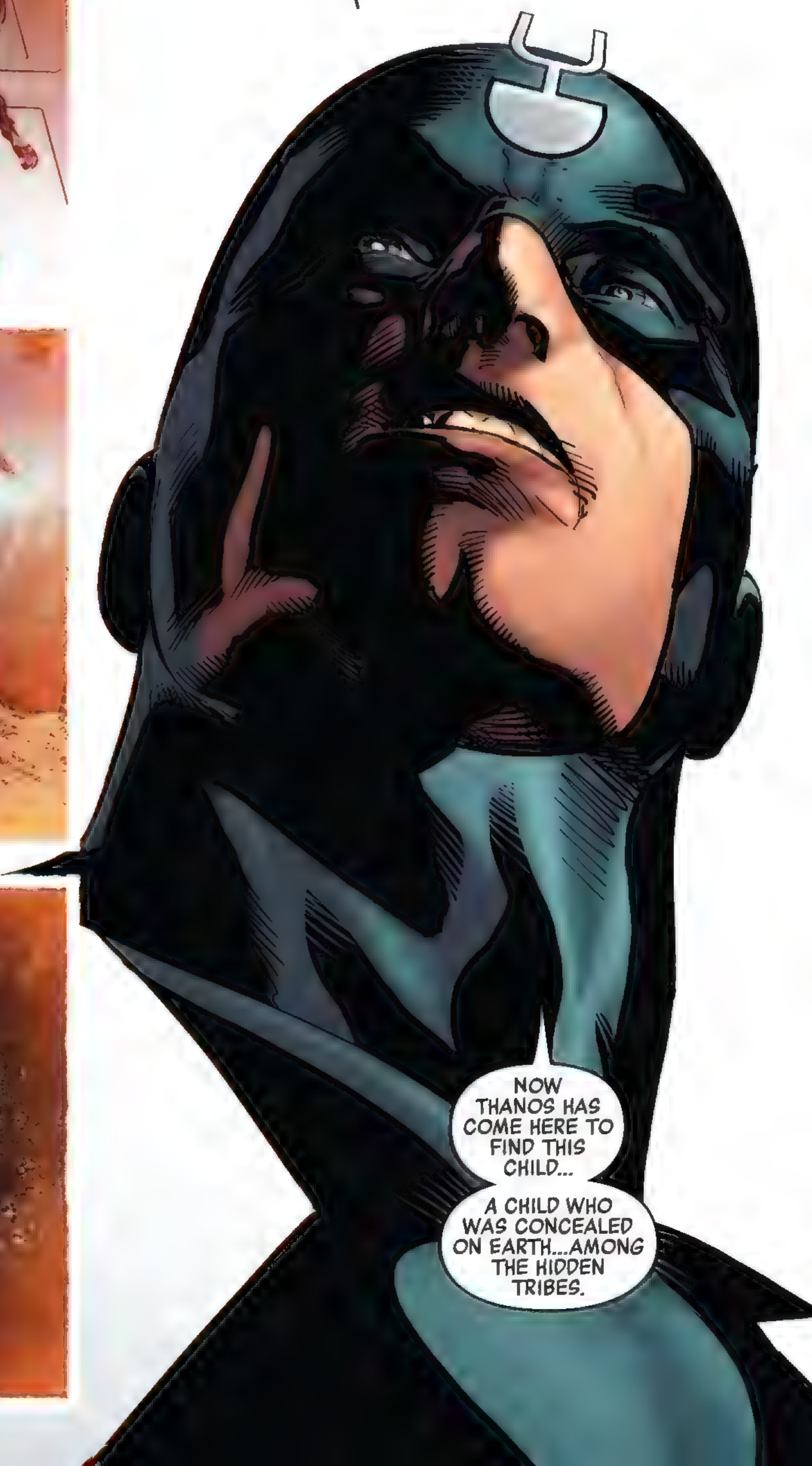


"AND, FOR SOME,
THROUGHOUT
THE STARS.

"WE INHUMANS
ARE MIGRATORY...
WE ARE CHANGE,
SO WE EMBRACE
CHANGE."

YEARS AGO,
THE DESCENDANTS
OF ONE OF THESE
TRIBES RAN AFOUL OF
THANOS AND HIS MINIONS
AT THE EDGES OF
KNOWN SPACE.

DARK THINGS
IN DARK PLACES
OCCURED...AND
AN INHUMAN WOMAN
RETURNED HOME
WITH THE THANOS
SEED.



NOW
THANOS HAS
COME HERE TO
FIND THIS
CHILD...

A CHILD WHO
WAS CONCEALED
ON EARTH...AMONG
THE HIDDEN
TRIBES.

AND THAT'S
WHAT THIS IS--
THE INFORMATION
WE NEED?

WHERE
TO FIND HIS
SON?

AMONG THE
INHUMANS, IT IS KNOWN
THAT THE TERRIGEN
CODEX CONTAINS ALL OF
THE HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE
OF MY HOUSE, REED
RICHARDS.

USE THIS
INFORMATION
TO FIND THE
BOY.

I
UNDERSTAND.

THANOS
WILL BE COMING
SOON.

WITH THE
WORLD AS WITNESS,
I WILL MEET HIM
HERE AND SHOW HIM
WHAT IT MEANS TO
BE INHUMAN.

YOU
SHOULD GO
NOW...

OKAY...
WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
SPLIT UP.

LOOKING
AT THIS...
THAT'S A
CERTAINTY.

STEPHEN,
CAN YOU
TAKE US
HOME?

YOU'RE
NOT COMING
WITH US?

FROM
HERE, THE WAY
IS TWISTED, BUT
NAVIGABLE.

GATHER
AROUND...

WE'RE
GOING
NOW.

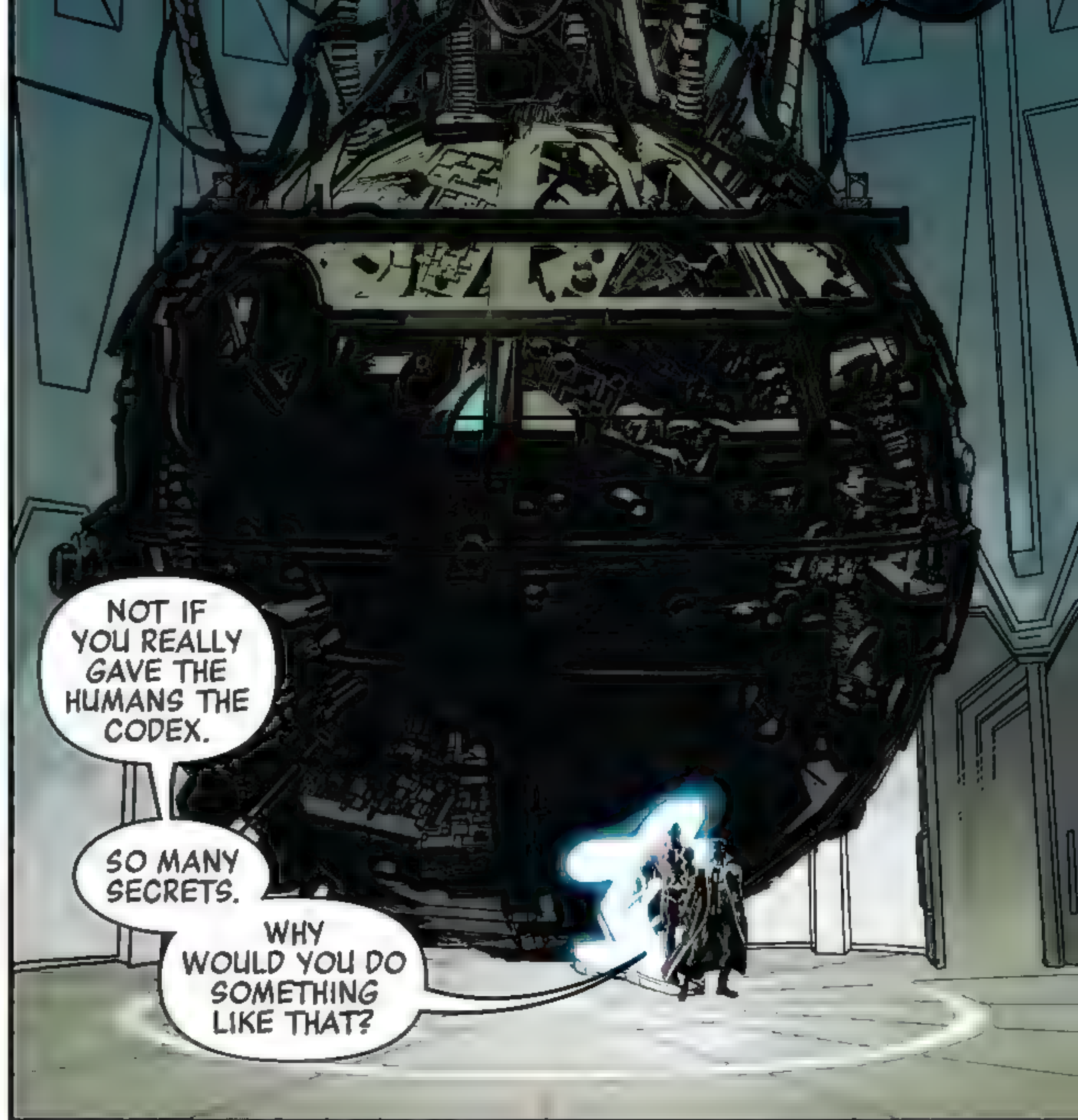
FWASHHH!



FLASH, AND
OFF THEY GO. IT
WAS FOOLISH,
BROTHER.

FOOLISH
AND UNLIKE
YOU...

DON'T YOU
TRUST ME,
MAXIMUS?



NOT IF
YOU REALLY
GAVE THE
HUMANS THE
CODEX.

SO MANY
SECRETS.

WHY
WOULD YOU DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?



WHY
WOULD
YO--



OH...
I LIKE THIS
PLAN.



AND WHAT
FOLLOWS
SUCH DEVIOUS
ACTIONS?

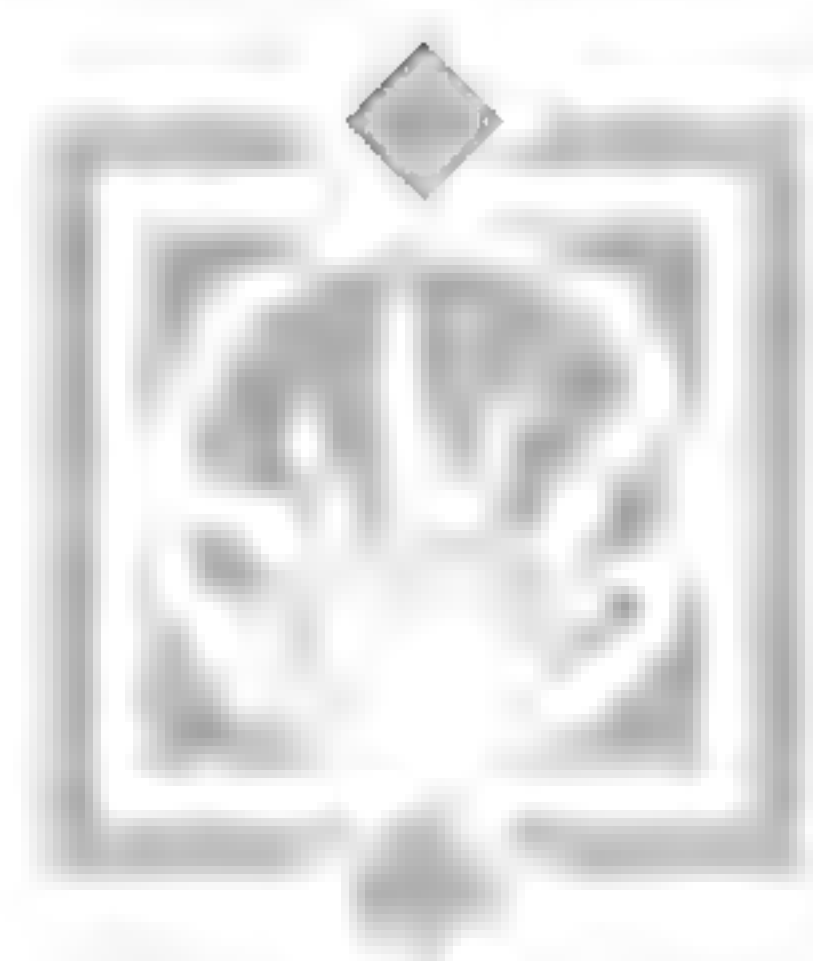
WHAT NEXT,
BROTHER?

AH!



VERY
GOOD.

I'LL MAKE
READY THE
MACHINE!



FAVOR AND DISFAVOR





MASTER.

THIS IS A PAGEANT, CORVUS.

A GRAND PLAY, AND THE BLACK KING TESTS ME. NO WORD YET...HAS HE NOT YIELDED THE TRIBUTE?

NO, THANOS. ONLY SILENCE FROM THE INHUMAN CITY.

I THINK THEY QUIETLY COWER IN THEIR HOLES, HOPING WE WILL SIMPLY FORGET THEM.



THEN THEY MUST BE UNFAMILIAR WITH HOW WE TREAT THE MEEK.

PREPARE MY SHUTTLE. ANY FURTHER DELAY IS POINTLESS...

AND IT'S TIME I TOOK WHAT IS MINE.



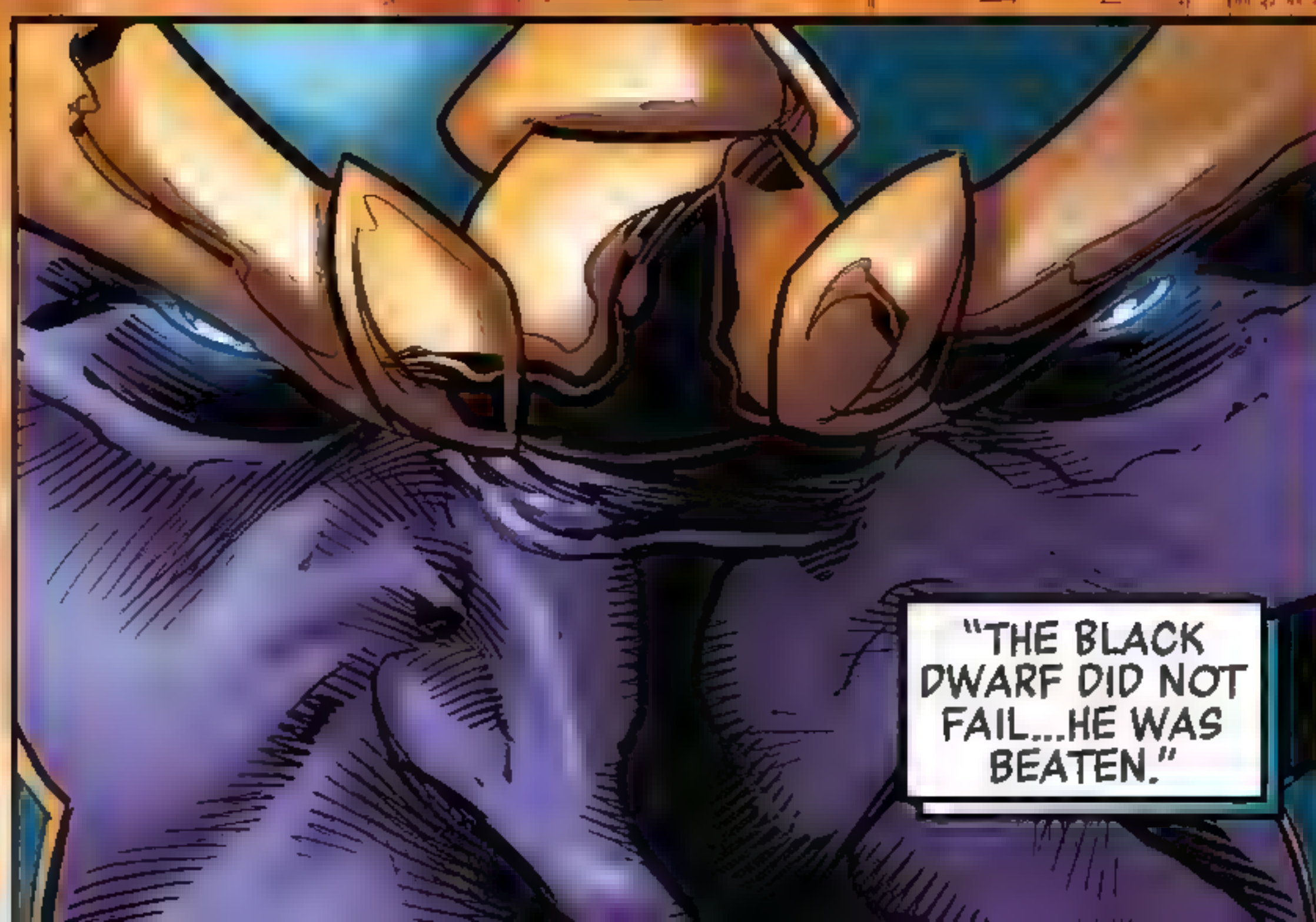
IT WILL BE DONE.

ALSO, THE OTHERS HAVE RETURNED.

MORE FAILURE, CORVUS?

ACTUALLY, PROXIMA MIDNIGHT BRINGS GOOD NEWS...

HOWEVER?



"THE BLACK DWARF DID NOT FAIL...HE WAS BEATEN."

NO ONE HAS SEEN OR HEARD FROM HIM SINCE YOU SENT US TO FIND THE GEM.

I HAVE TRIED CALLING OUT TO HIM...HE DOES NOT ANSWER. NOT WITH HIS COMM, NOR WITH HIS MIND.

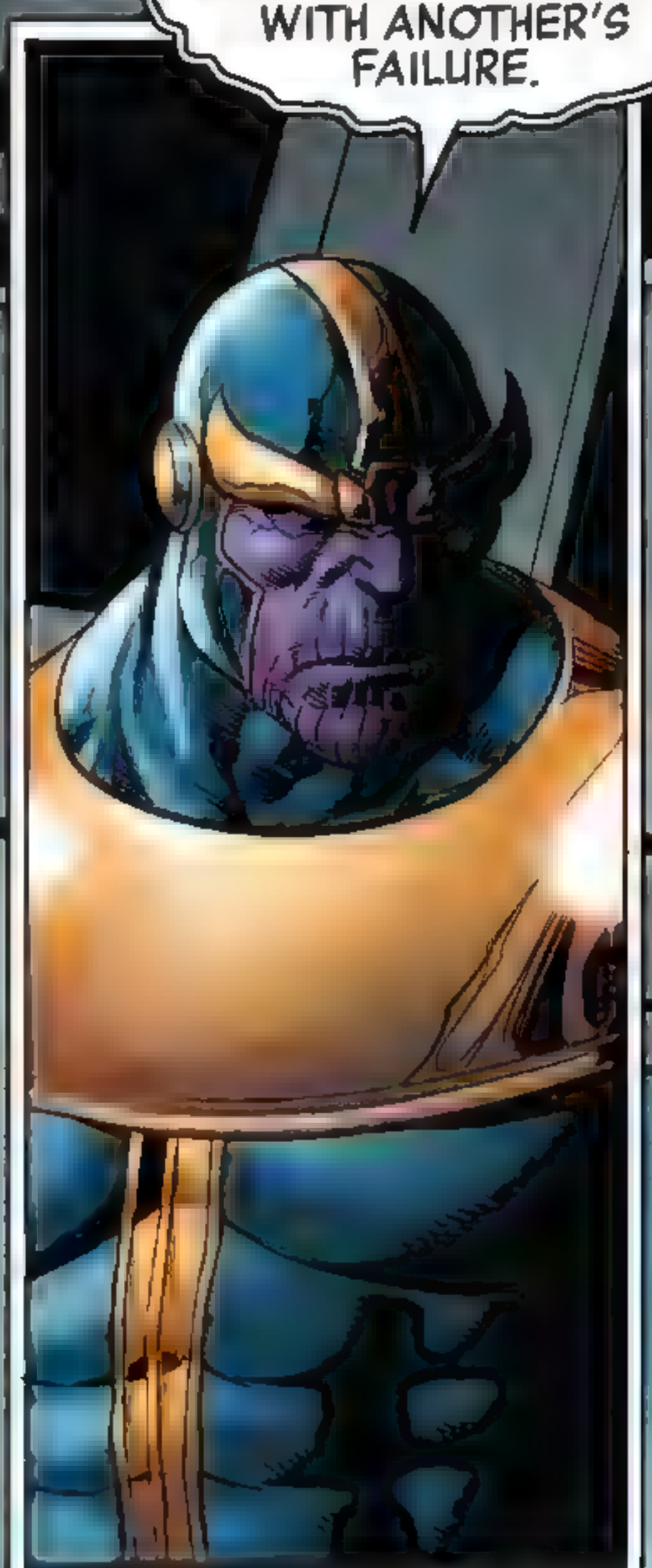
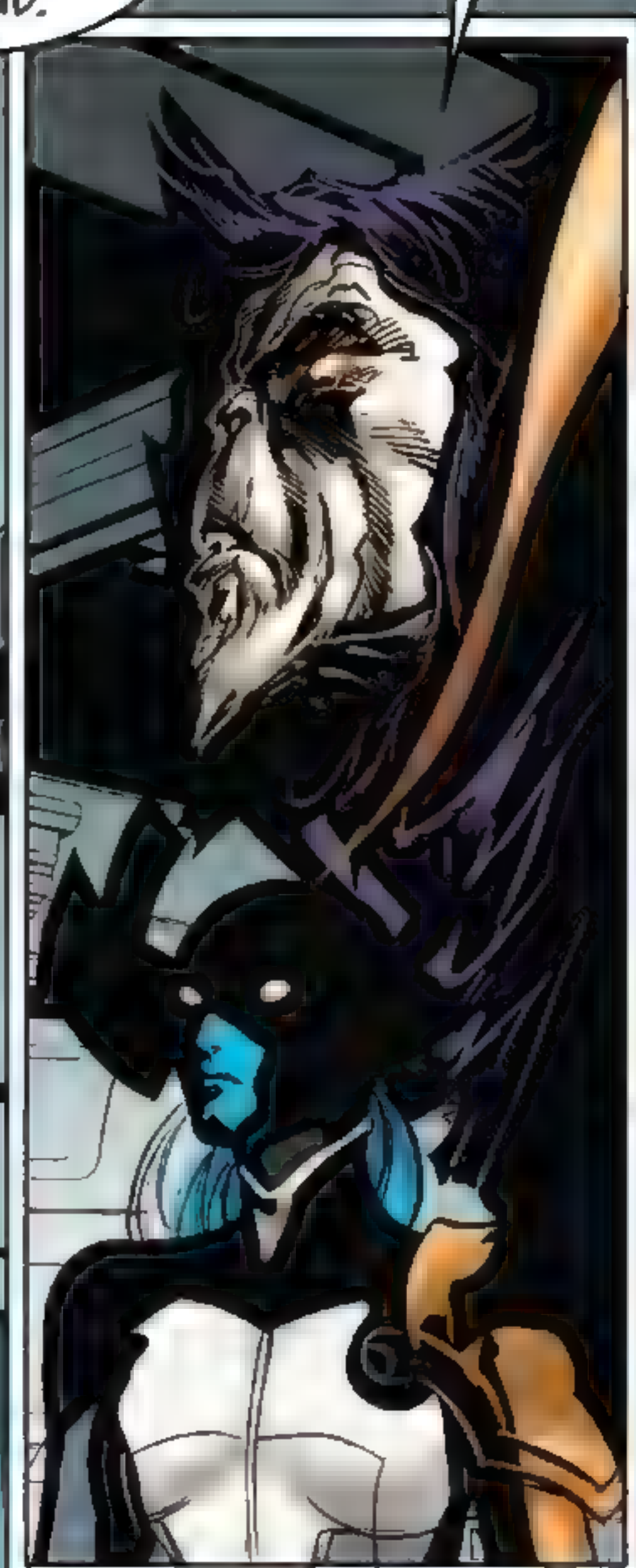
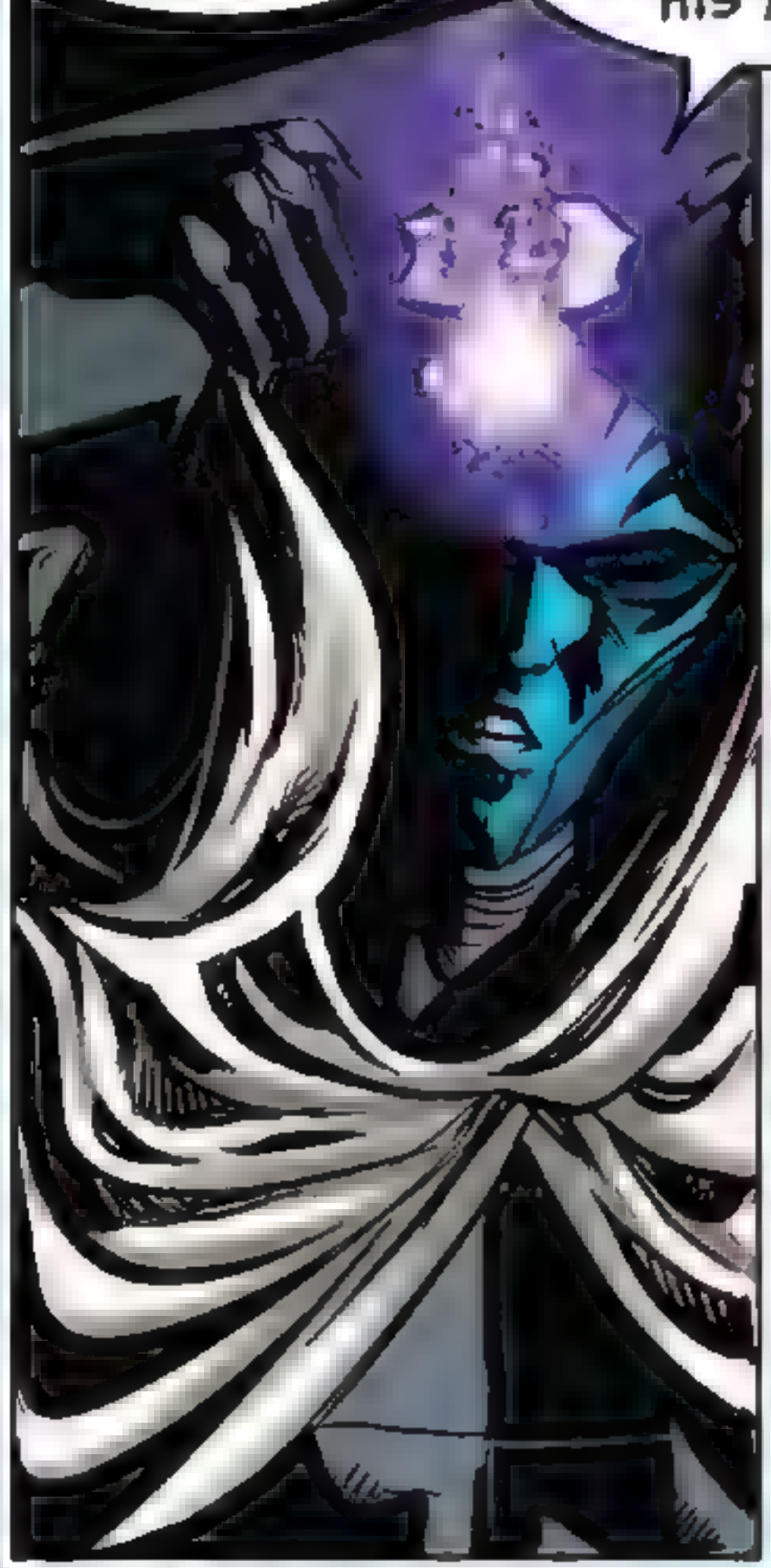
WE KNOW WHERE HE WENT, MASTER... I COULD--

NO. LET HIM BE.

HE IS UNORTHODOX, BUT ALWAYS EFFECTIVE. DO NOT DOUBT THE MAW WHEN WE ARE FULL UP WITH ANOTHER'S FAILURE.

WE ARE MISSING ONE OF THE ORDER.

WHERE IS THE EBONY MAW?

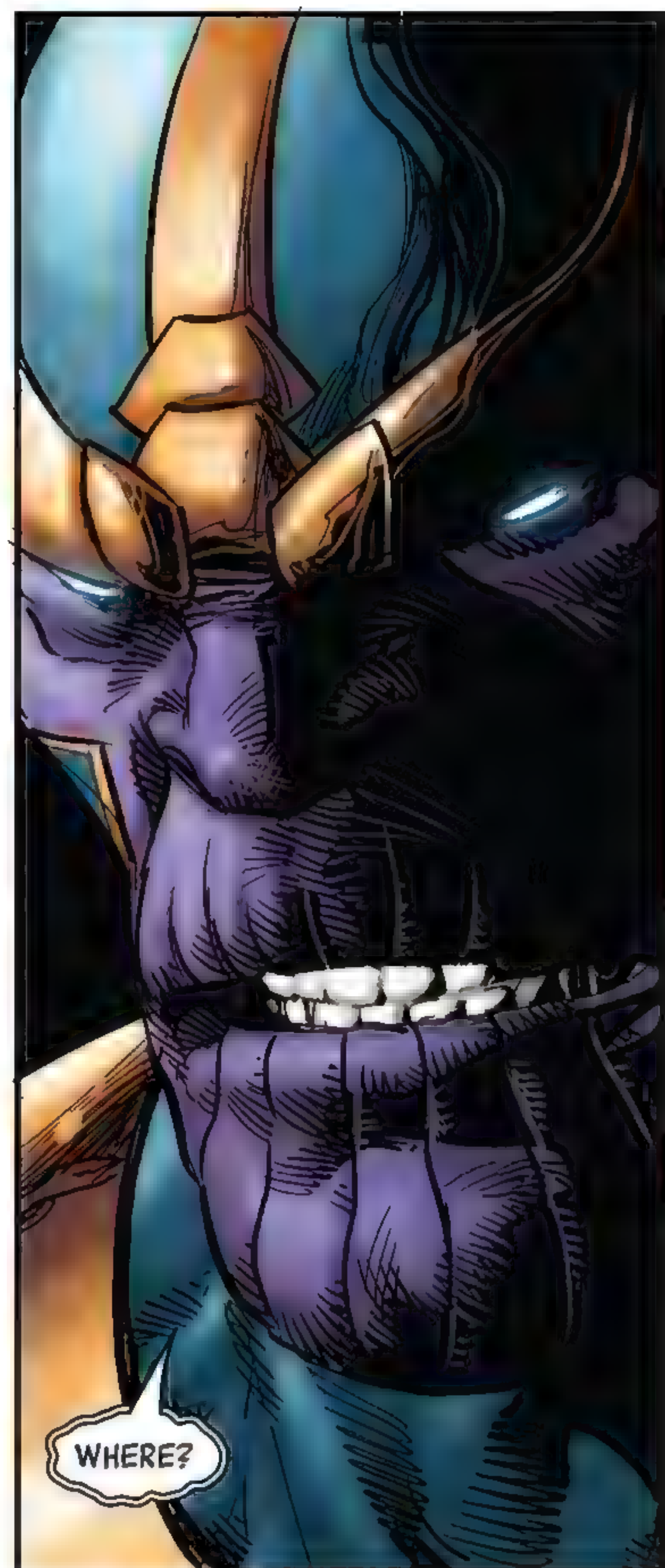


FORGIVENESS, MASTER.

THERE WERE... UNFORESEEN COMPLICATIONS. UNEXPECTED QUALITY...

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO--







NO.
NOT
YOU.

I GAVE
YOU A WORLD
TO RAZE, AND IN
RETURN YOU
GAVE ME...
NOTHING.

I HAVE
NO NEED
FOR BROKEN
THINGS,
CHILD.

SO YOU
WILL LEAVE THIS
PLACE...AND YOU
WILL NOT RETURN
UNTIL I CALL
FOR YOU.

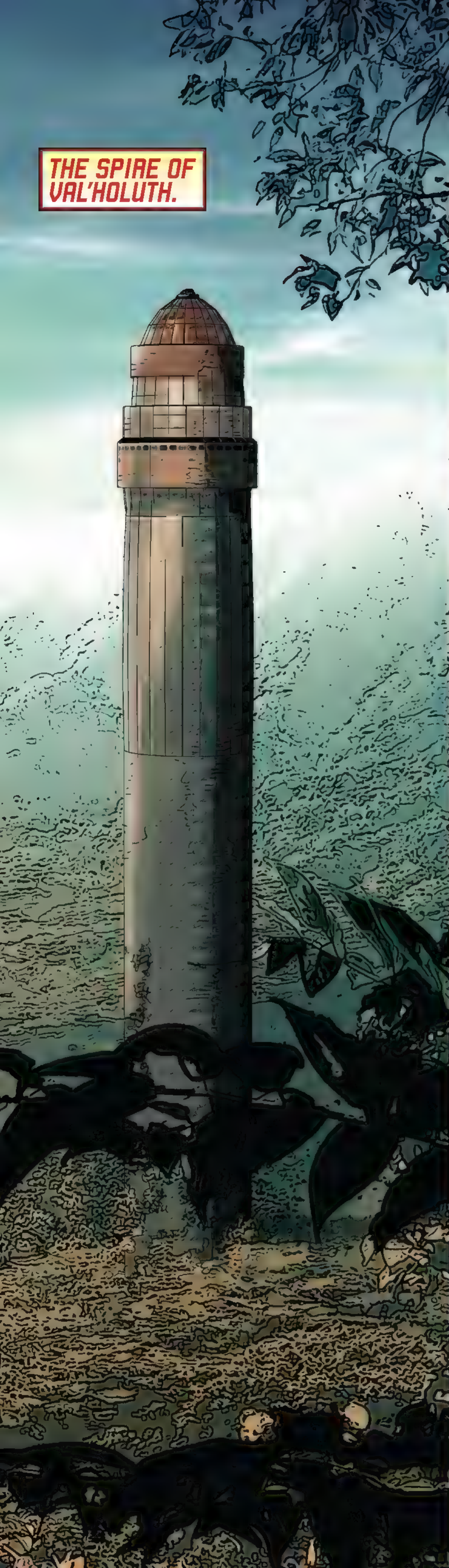
HOPE THE
SUNS AND STARS
DO NOT **ALL** DIE
OUT BEFORE
THAT HAPPENS.



THE HUNT



THE SPIRE OF VAL'HOLUTH.



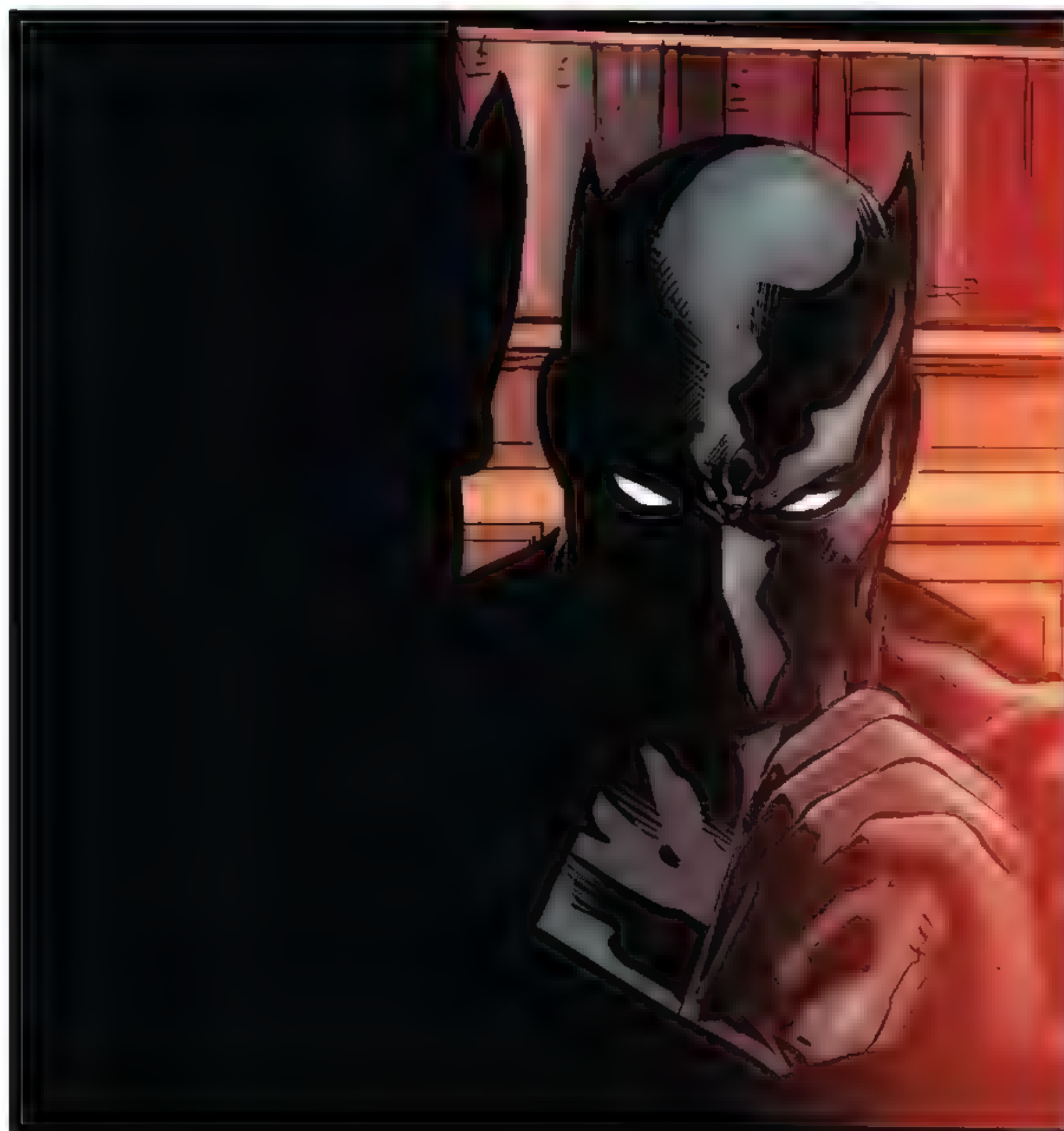
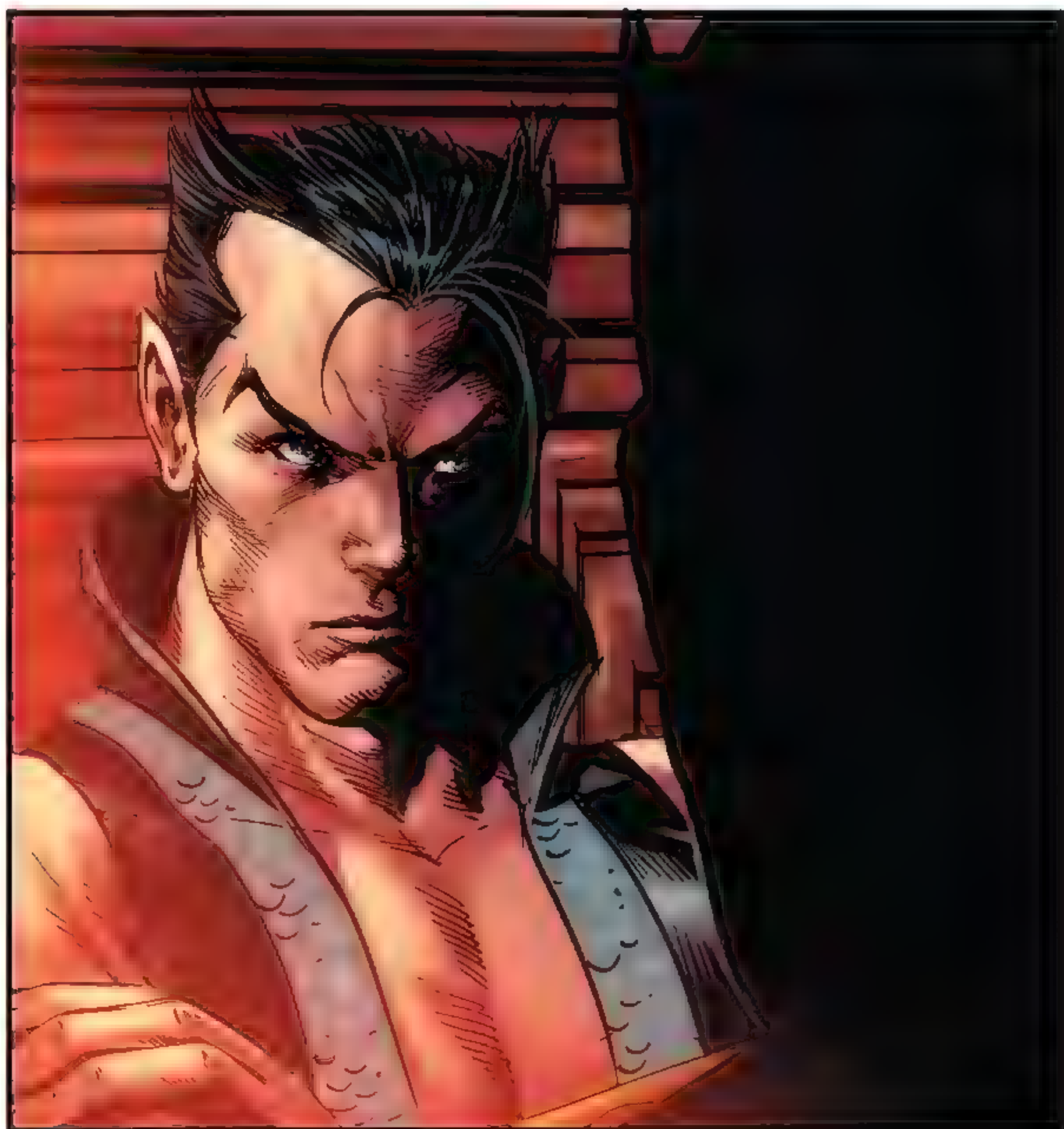
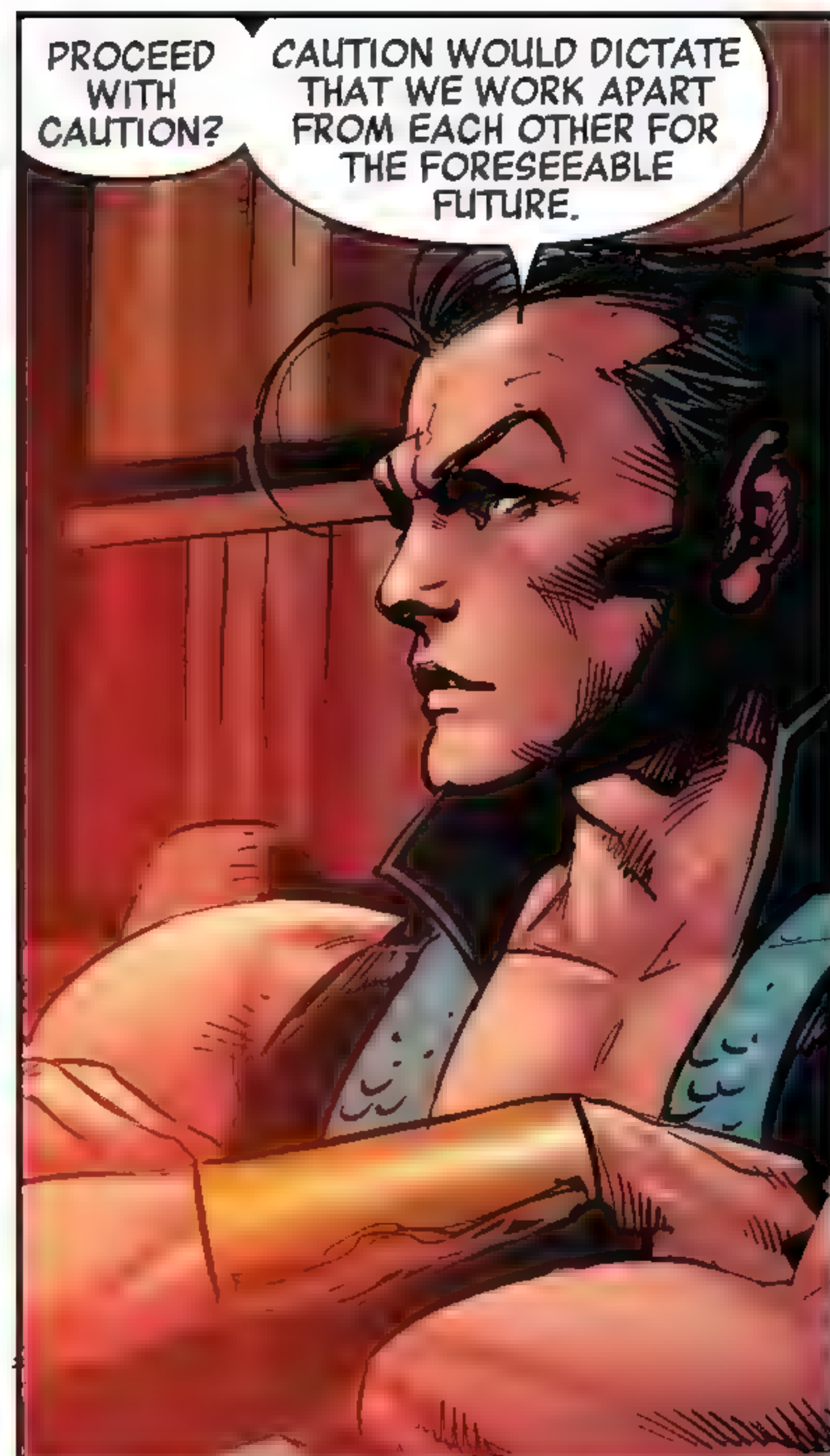
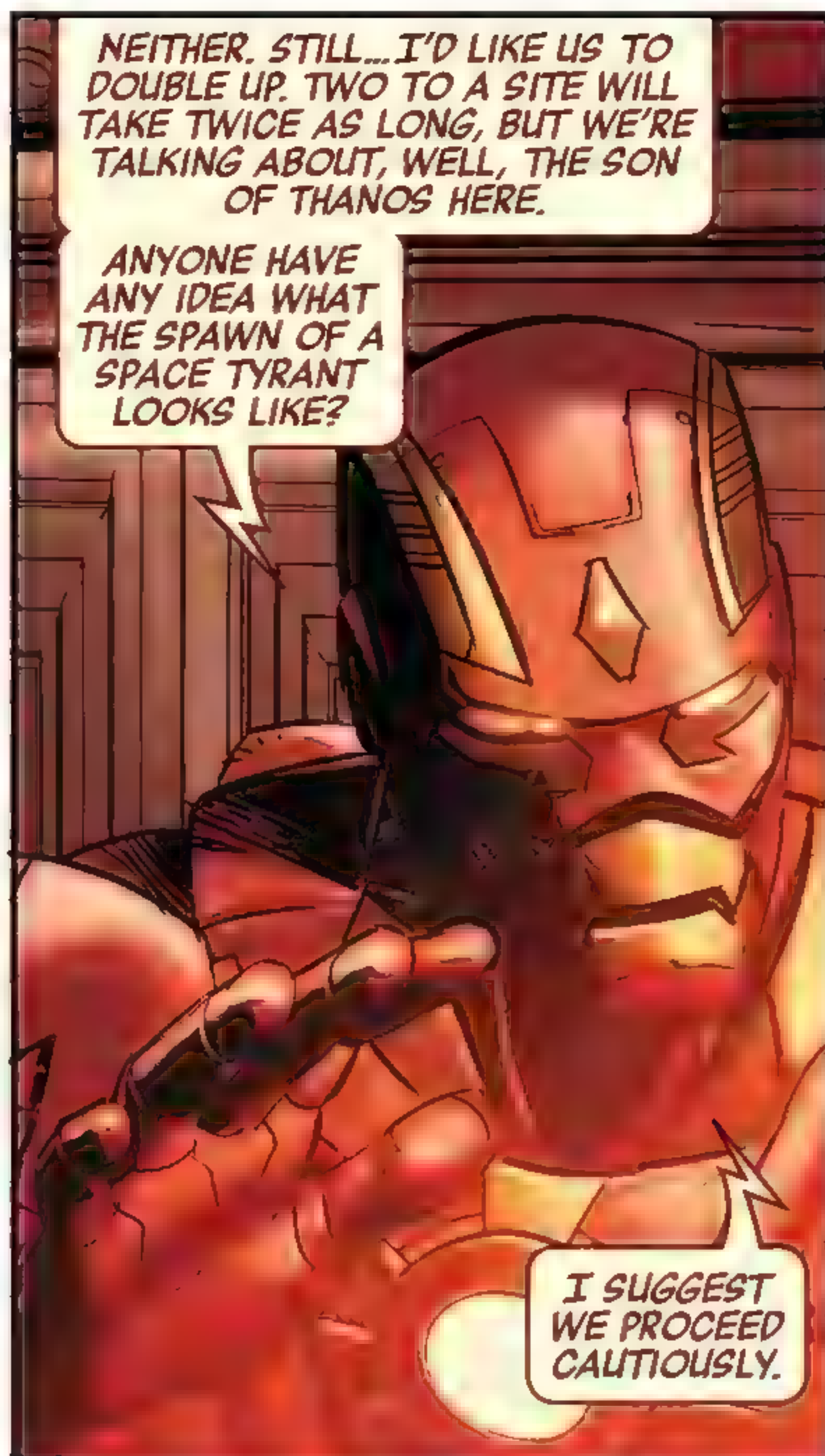
HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE...

THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO US BY BLACK BOLT SHOWS THAT, LIKE THE INHUMANS OF ATTILAN, THE HIDDEN TRIBES HAVE LIVED IN MANY PLACES OVER THE YEARS. MOST OF THEM MIXING AND INTERMINGLING WITH HUMANITY.

USING THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARCHIVE, WE LOCATED THE MOST PROBABLE LOCATIONS THAT A LOST TRIBE... AND THE CHILD OF THANOS... COULD BE.



THE INHUMANS ALSO KEEP PRECISE GENETIC RECORDS, WHICH IS HOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM.





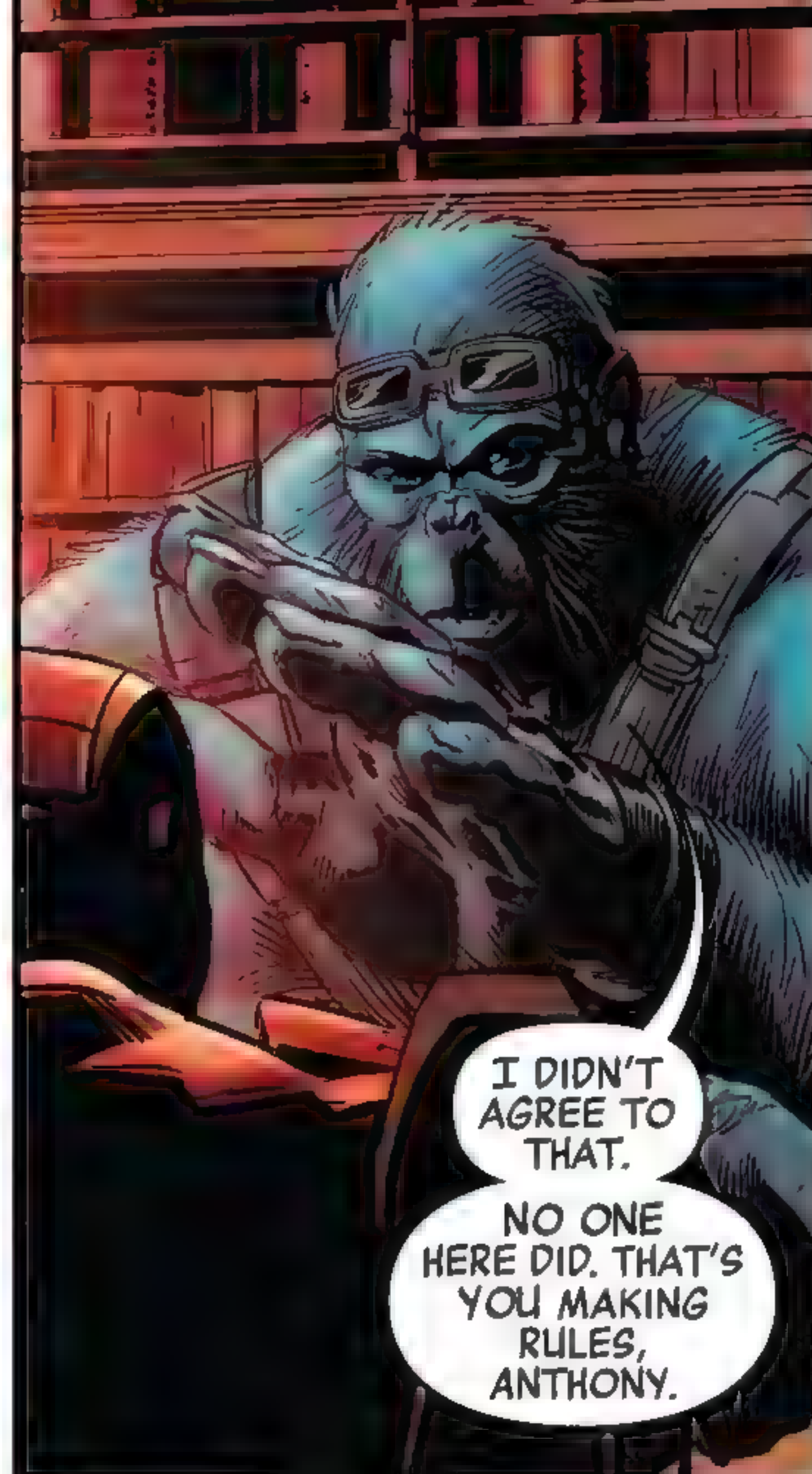
WELL, NOT TO GLOSS OVER WHATEVER THIS IS... BUT I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.

I STAYED BEHIND WHEN THE AVENGERS WENT INTO SPACE BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW THERE ARE WORSE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE UNIVERSE...AND THEY'RE HAPPENING RIGHT HERE ON EARTH.



SHOULD WE BE DOING THIS? SHOULD WE REALLY BE HANDLING INHUMAN BUSINESS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OTHER?

I THOUGHT WE AGREED...EVERYTHING IS SECONDARY EXCEPT THE CAUSE, OUR PRIVATE LIVES, OUR PARTNERS, OUR FAMILIES...EVERYTHING.



I DIDN'T AGREE TO THAT.

NO ONE HERE DID. THAT'S YOU MAKING RULES, ANTHONY.



DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I WOULDN'T BE RUNNING BACK TO THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL IF I FELT THE NEED?

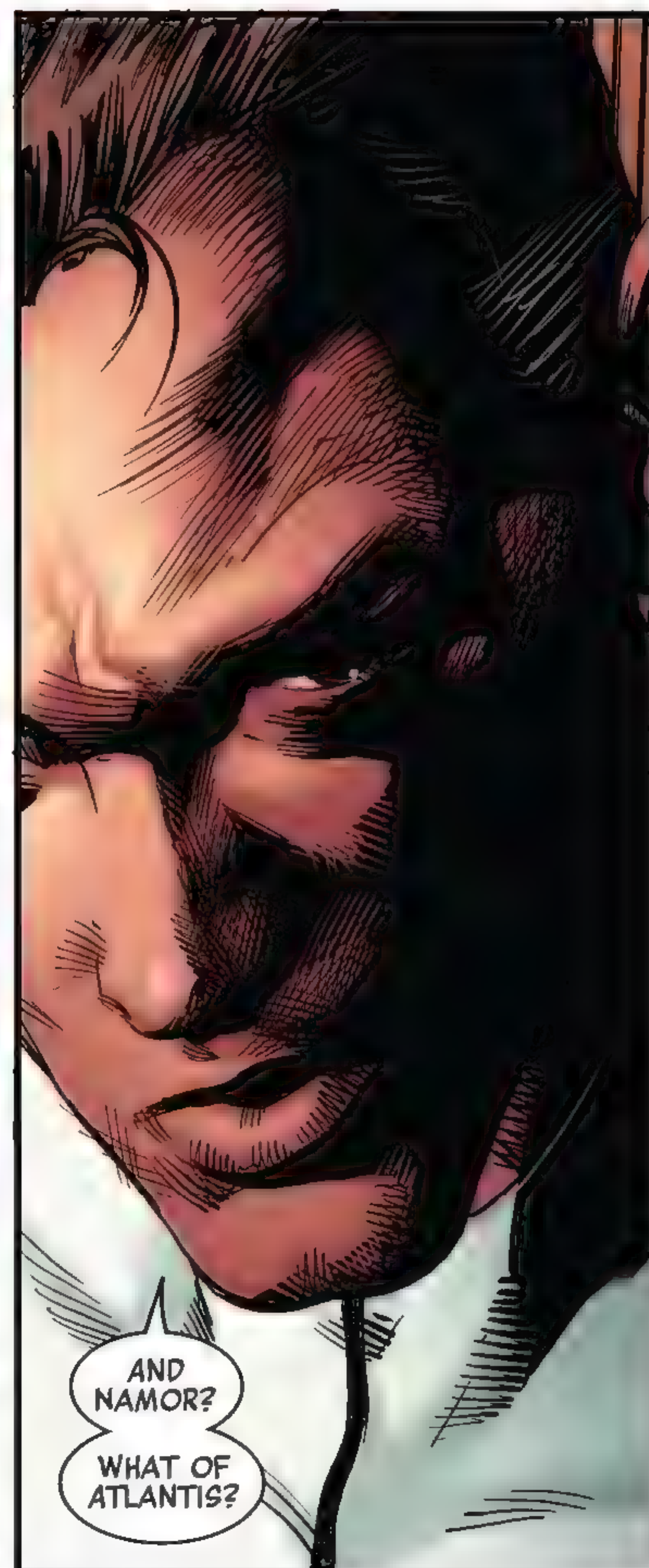
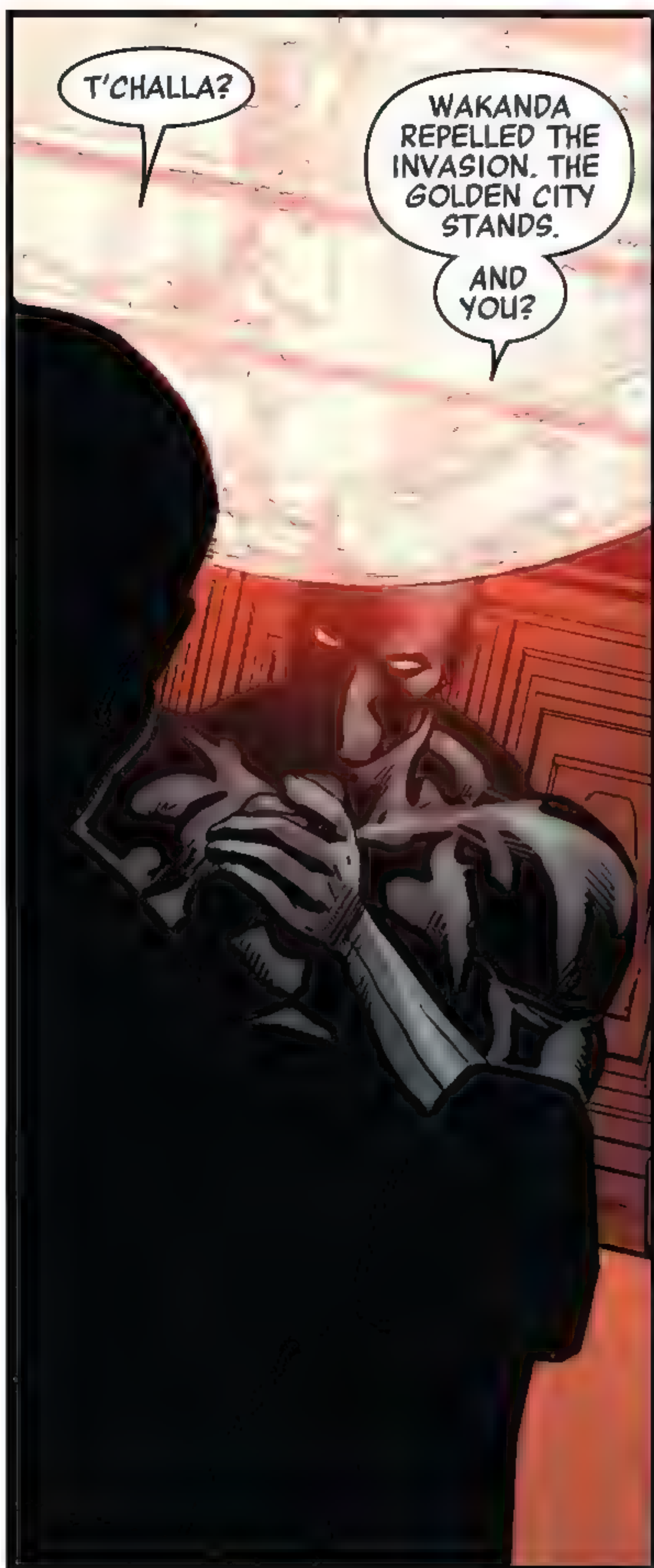
WE SHOULD HELP IF WE CAN.

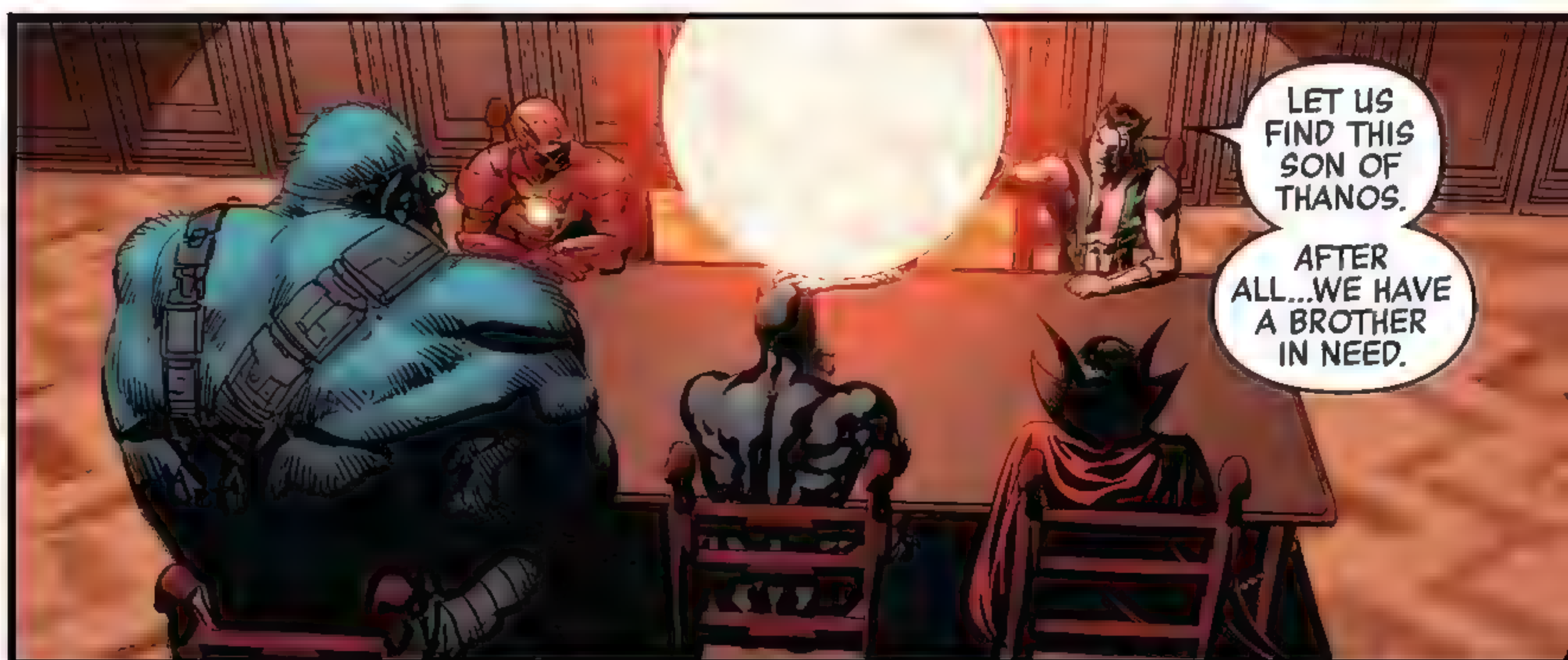
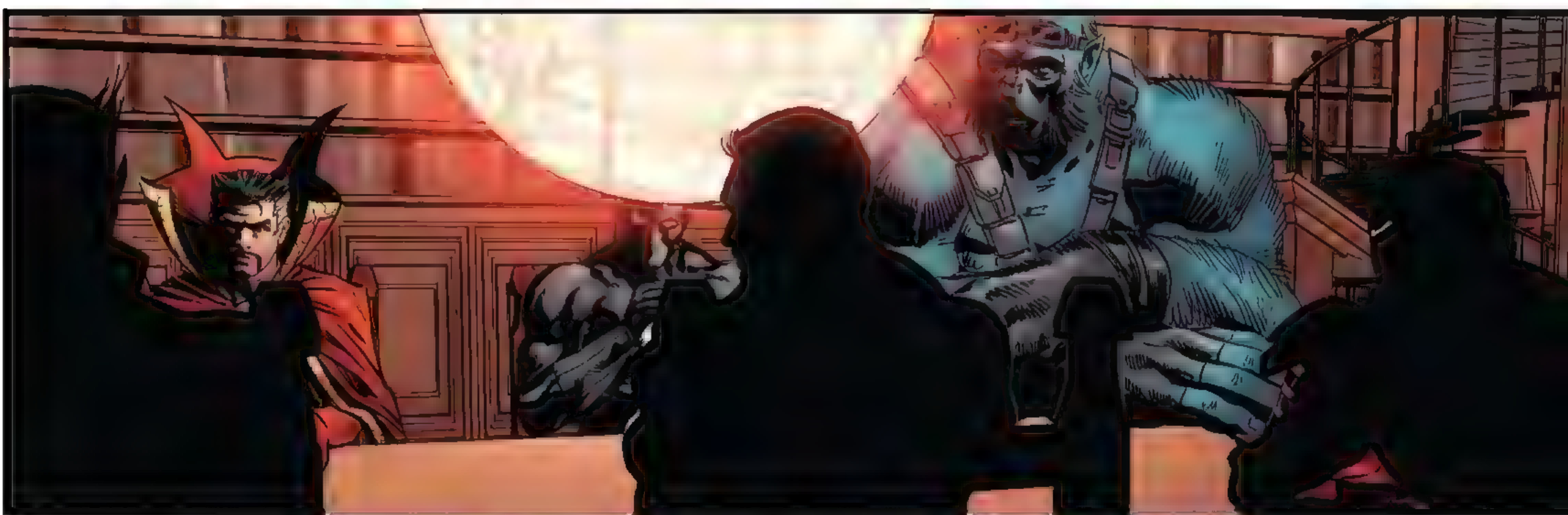
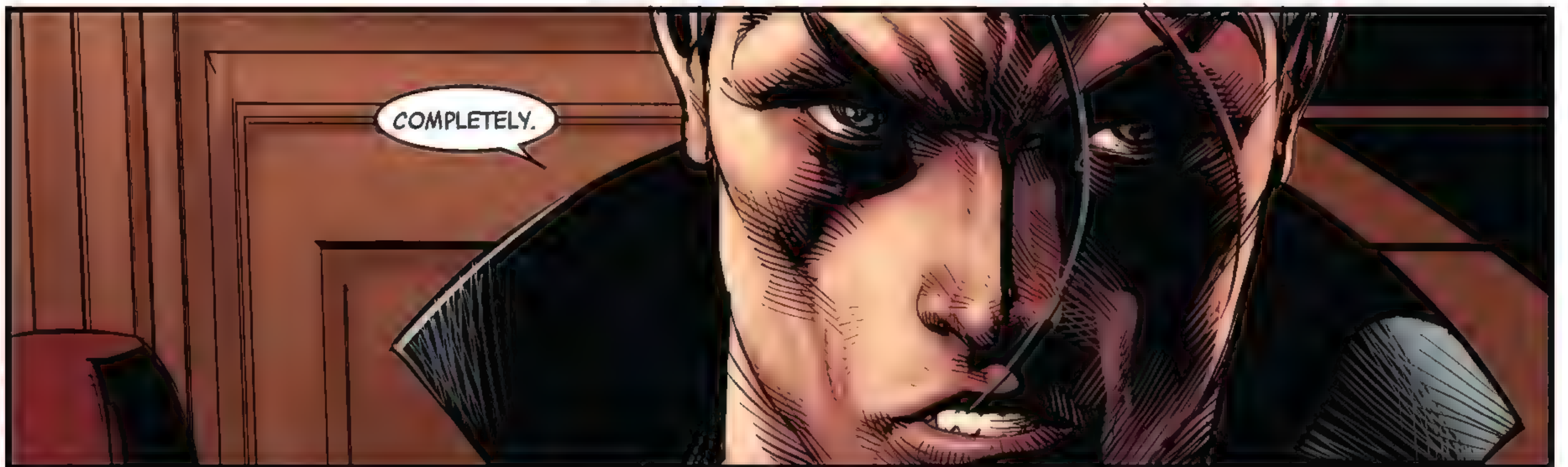
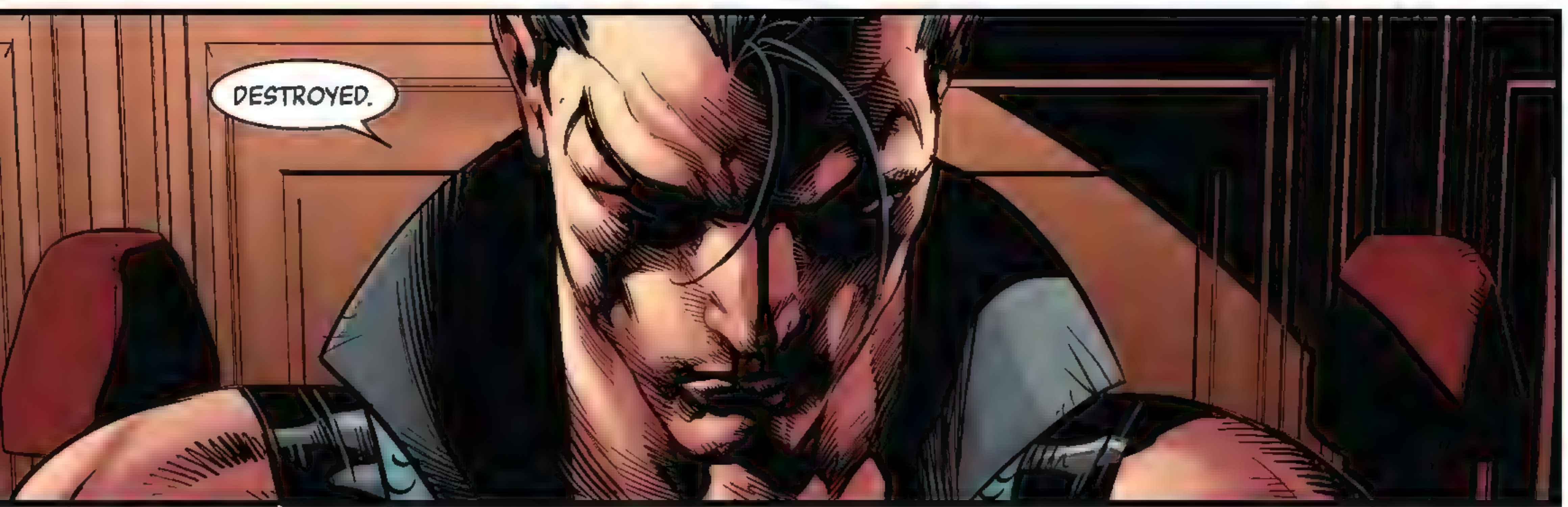
HOW COULD WE NOT?

HANK'S RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME.

I SHOULD'VE ASKED IF EVERYONE WAS OKAY--MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE MY FAMILY IS OFF PLANET--IT SHOULDN'T MATTER, BUT IT PROBABLY DOES...

SO...IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?





**THE
TAKLIMAKAN
DESERT.**



**THE PAMIR
MOUNTAINS.**



**THE
ATLANTIC
FOREST.**



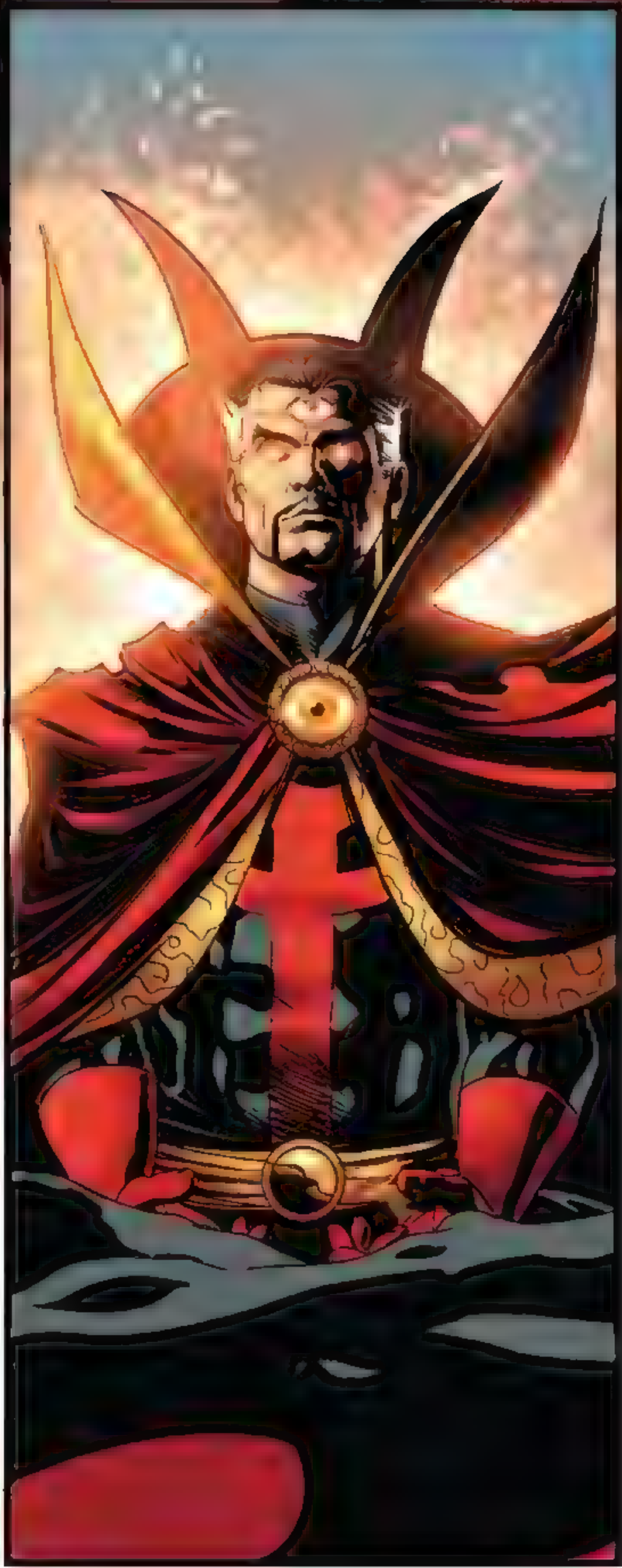
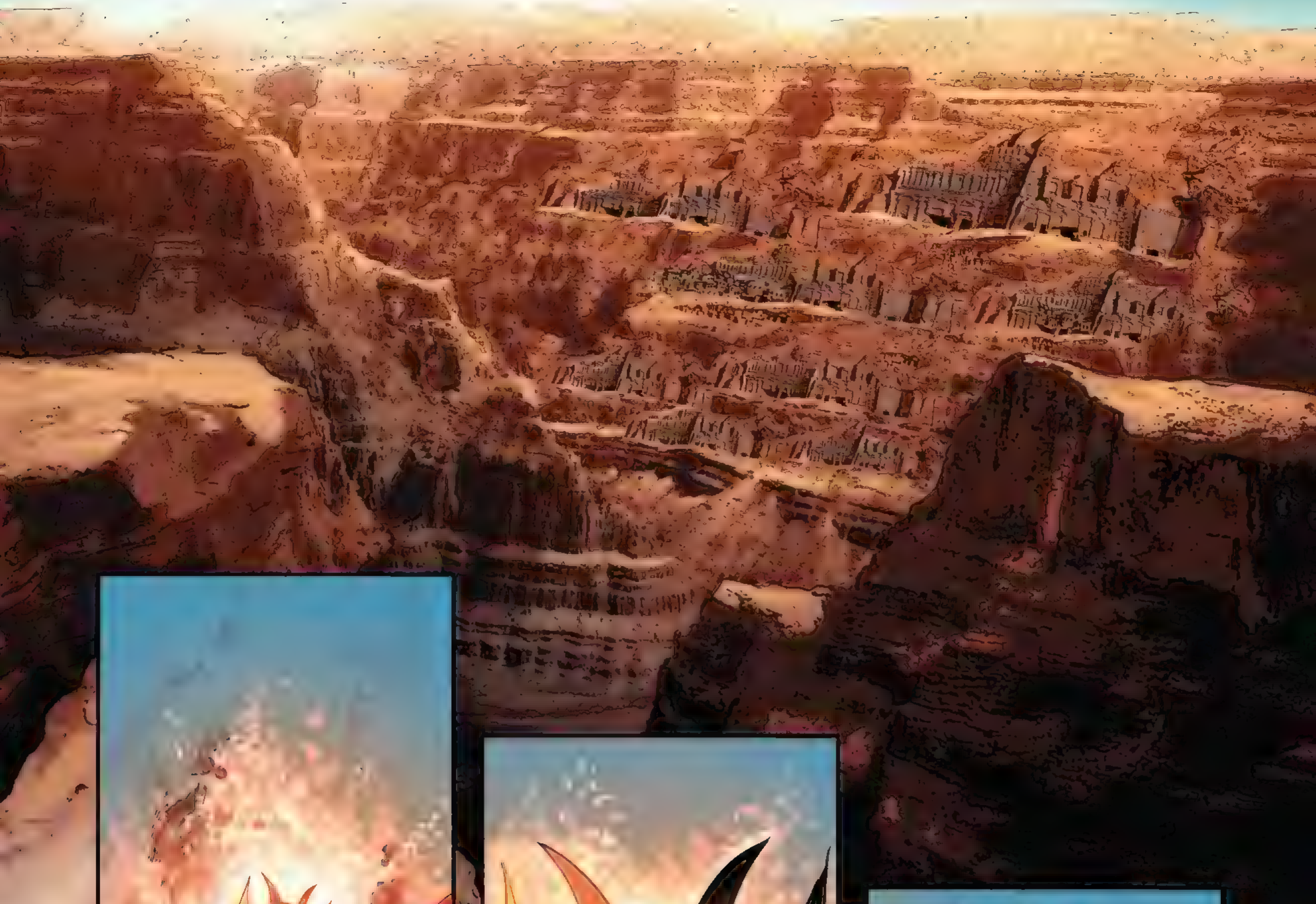
**THE
PANGNIIRTUNG
FJORD.**



**THE
CARLSBERG
RIDGE.**



THE ETERNAL CHASM,
GREENLAND.



A LOST
TRIBE.

A HIDDEN
INHUMAN
CITY.



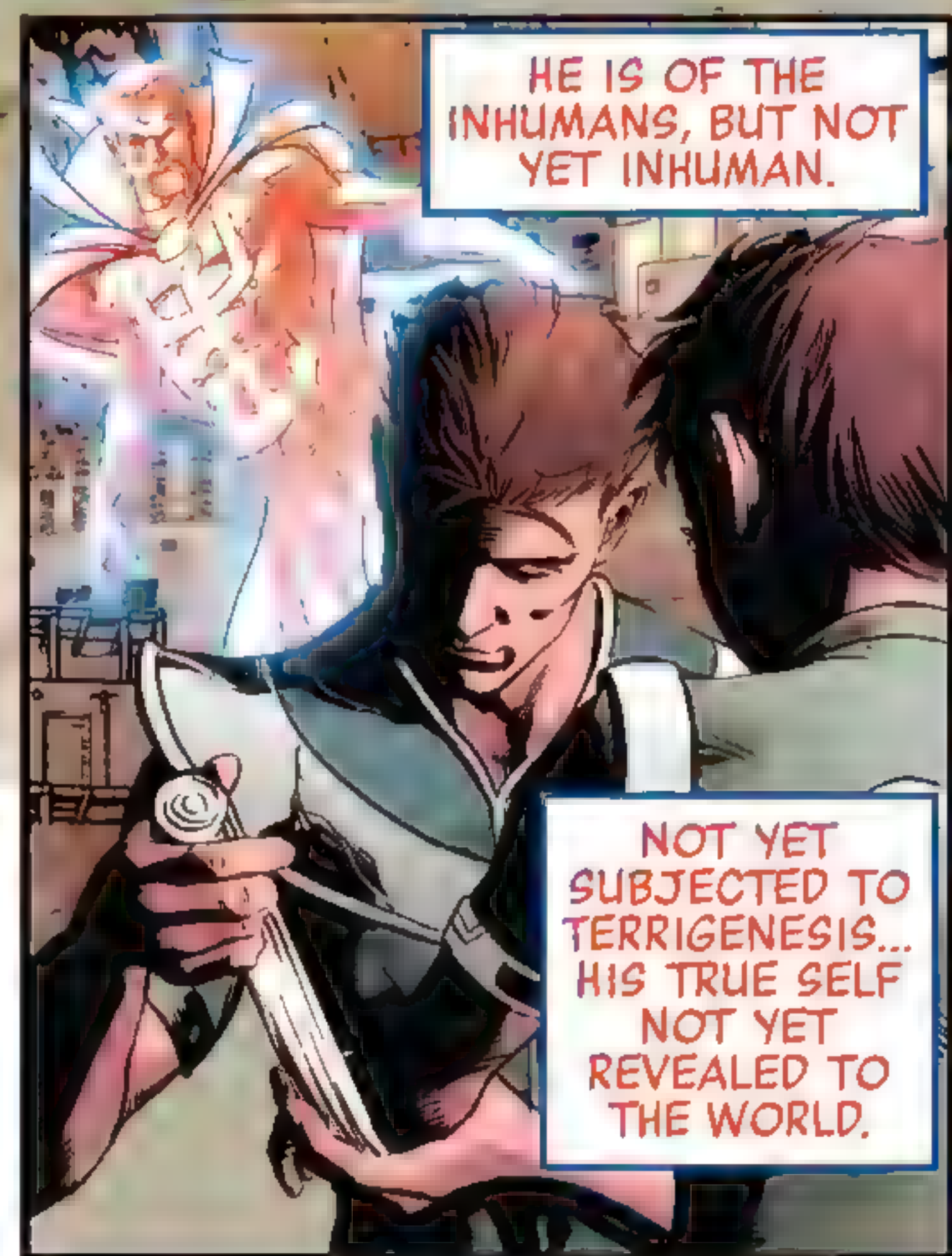
A SPELL OF
DIVINATION
TO FIND THE
MARKERS THAT
MARK THE
CHILD...



THAT MARK
THE SON OF
THANOS.



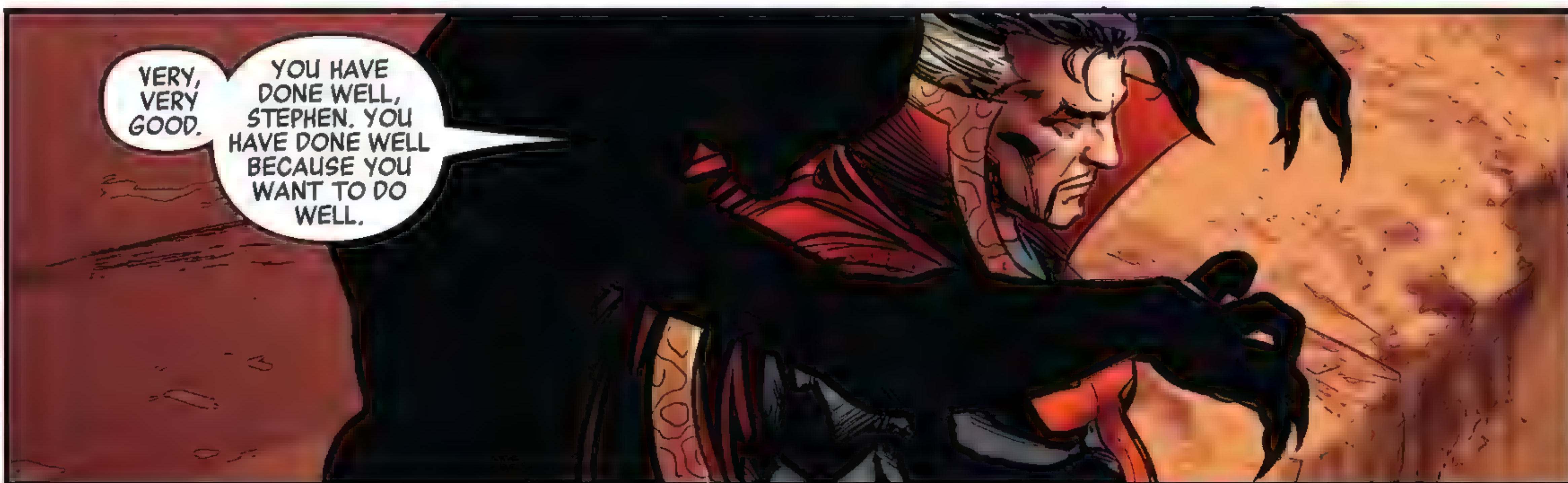
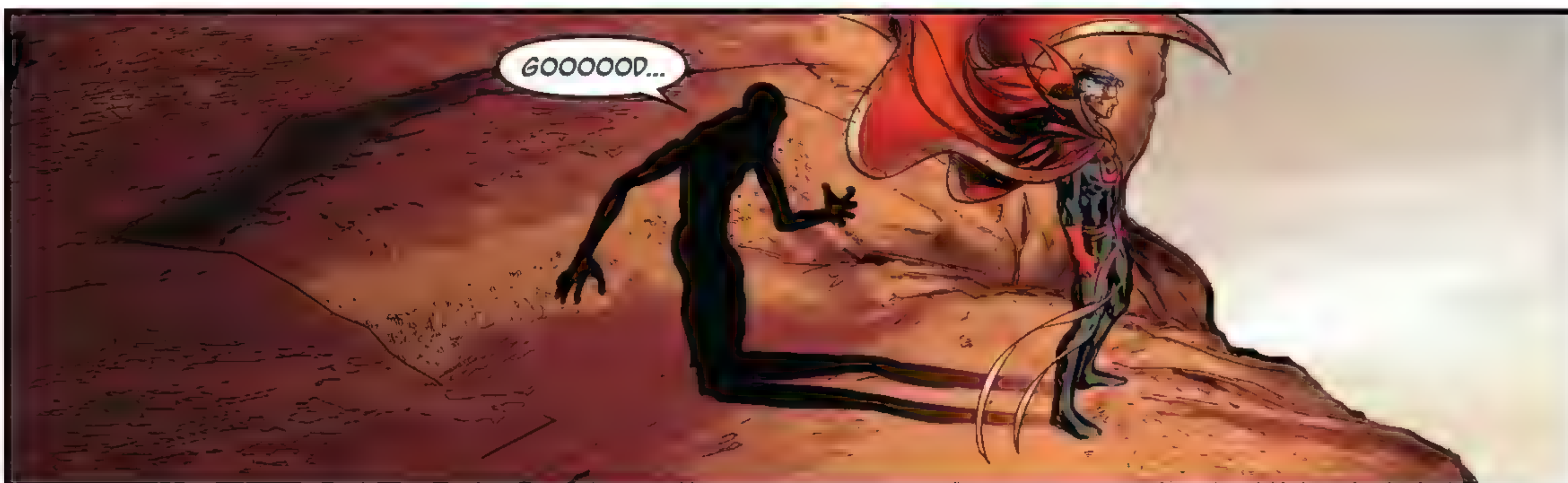
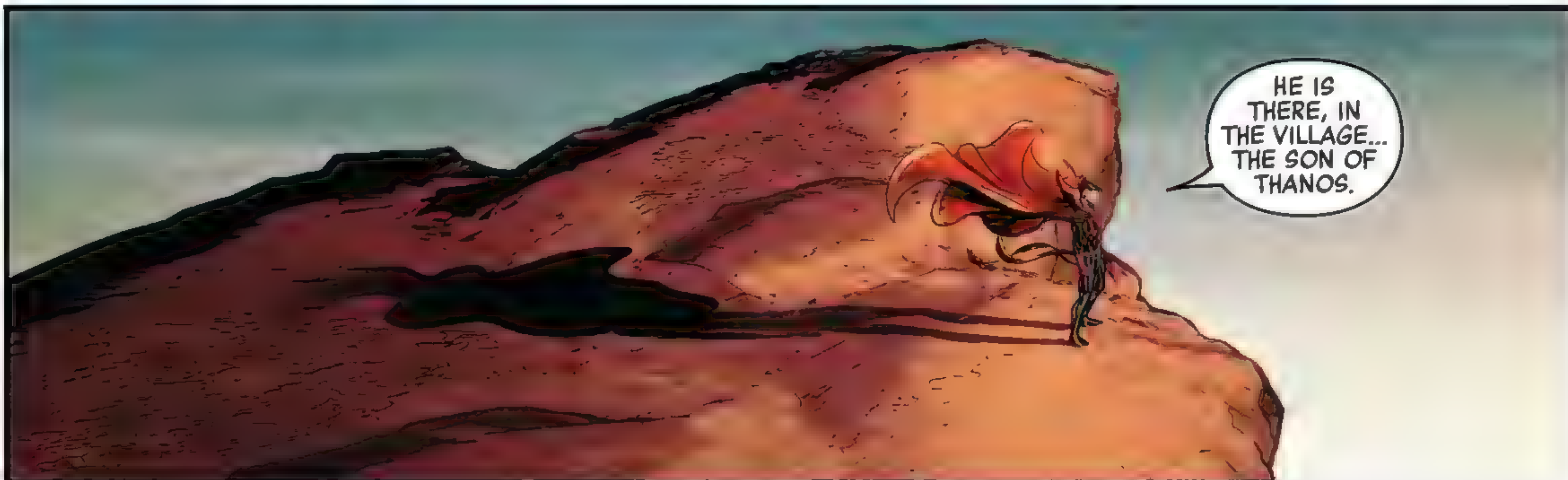
HE IS OF THE
INHUMANS, BUT NOT
YET INHUMAN.



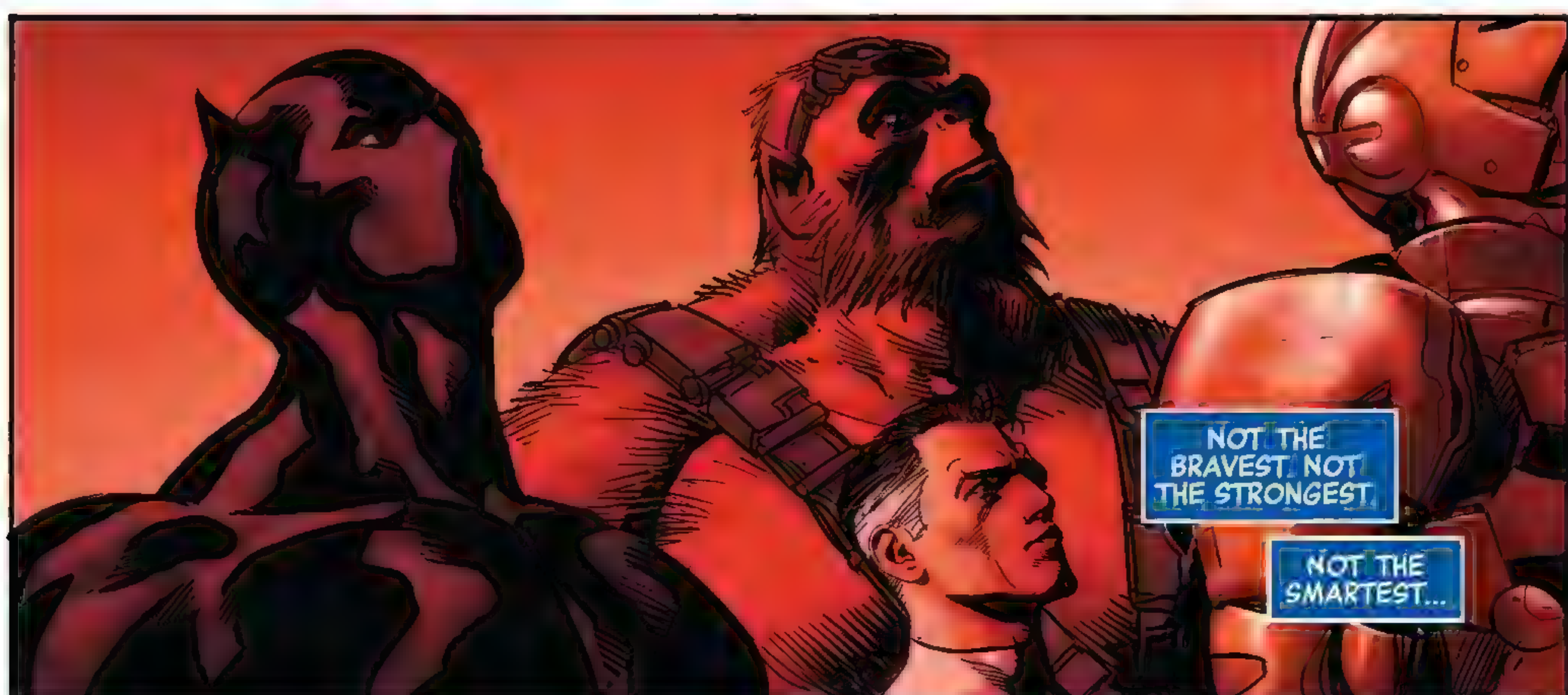
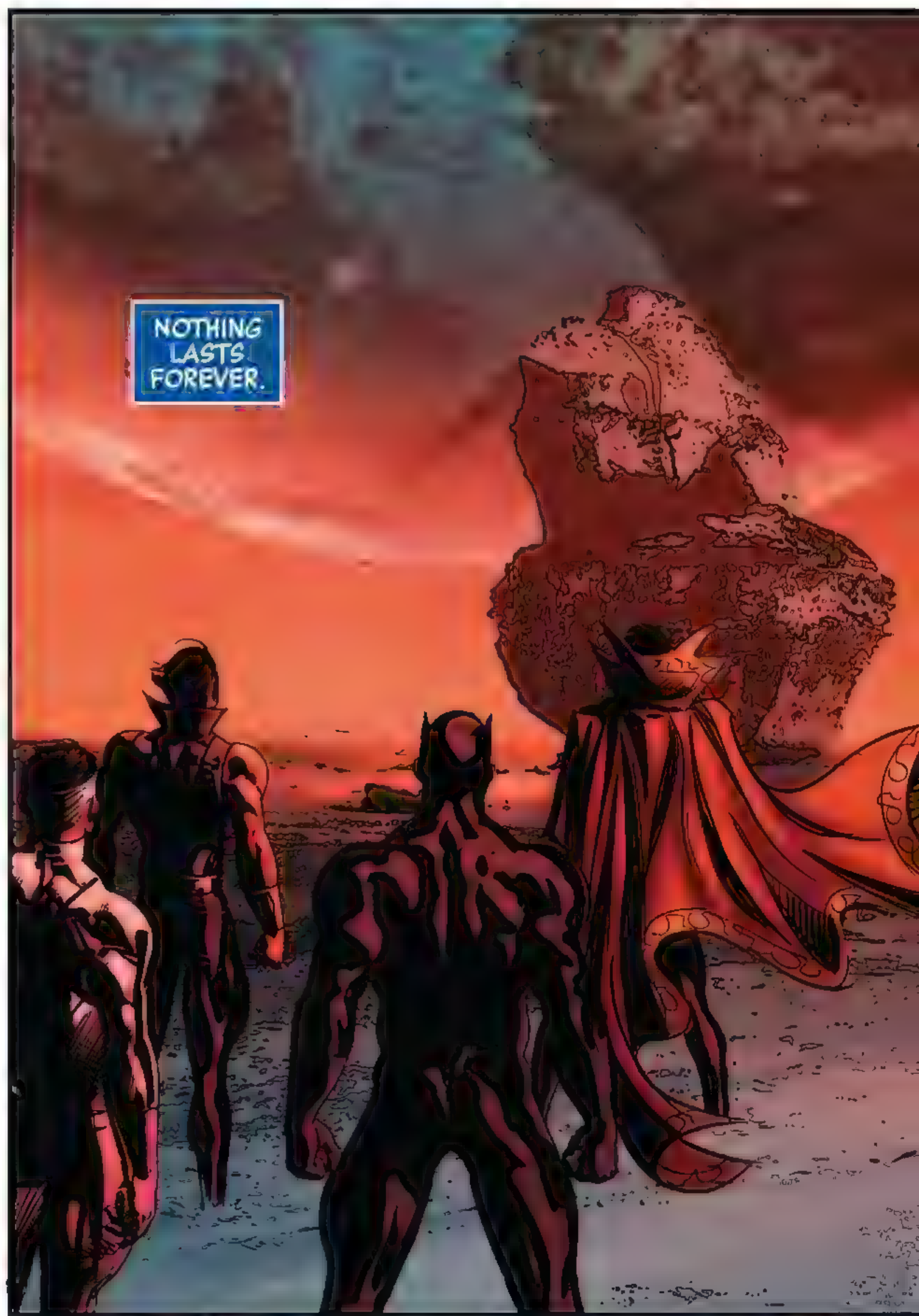
NOT YET
SUBJECTED TO
TERRIGENESIS...
HIS TRUE SELF
NOT YET
REVEALED TO
THE WORLD.

I WISH THAT
HE COULD HIDE
HERE FOREVER.





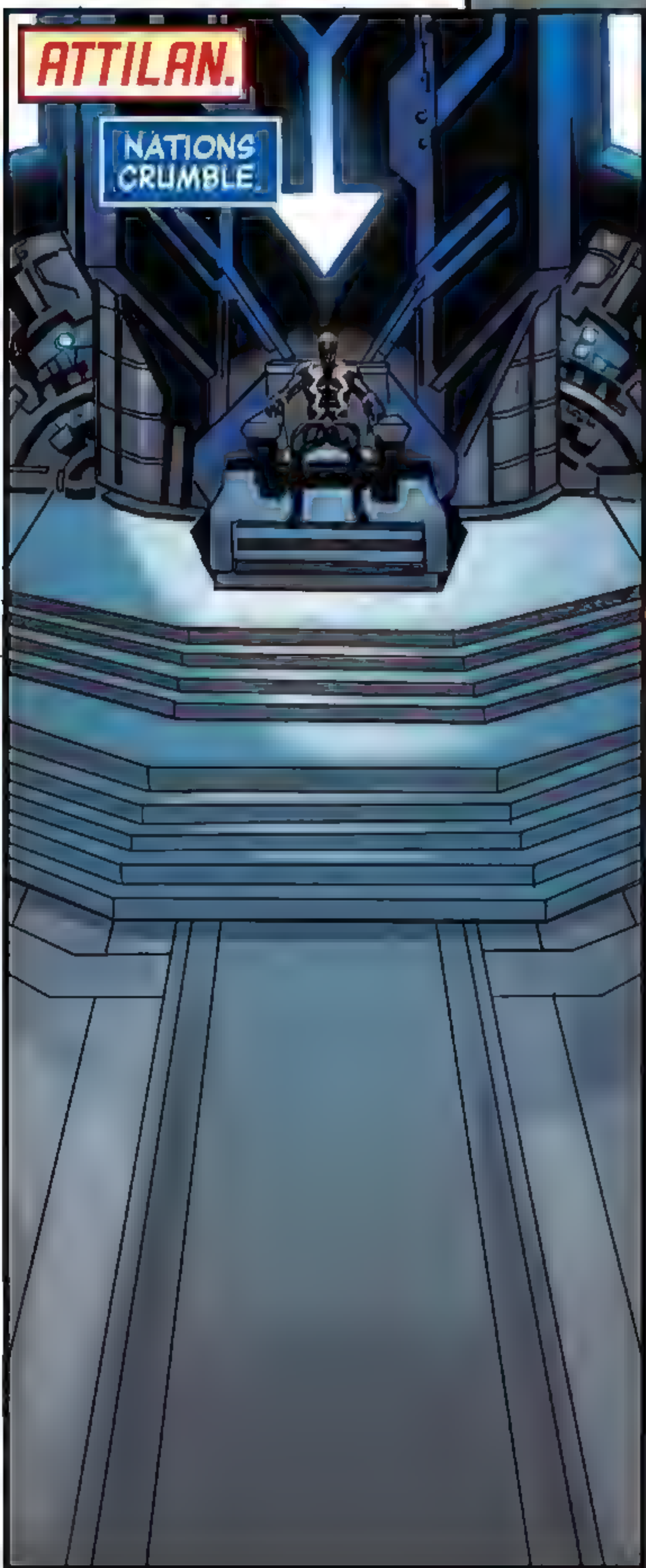






WAKANDA.

NATIONS FALL



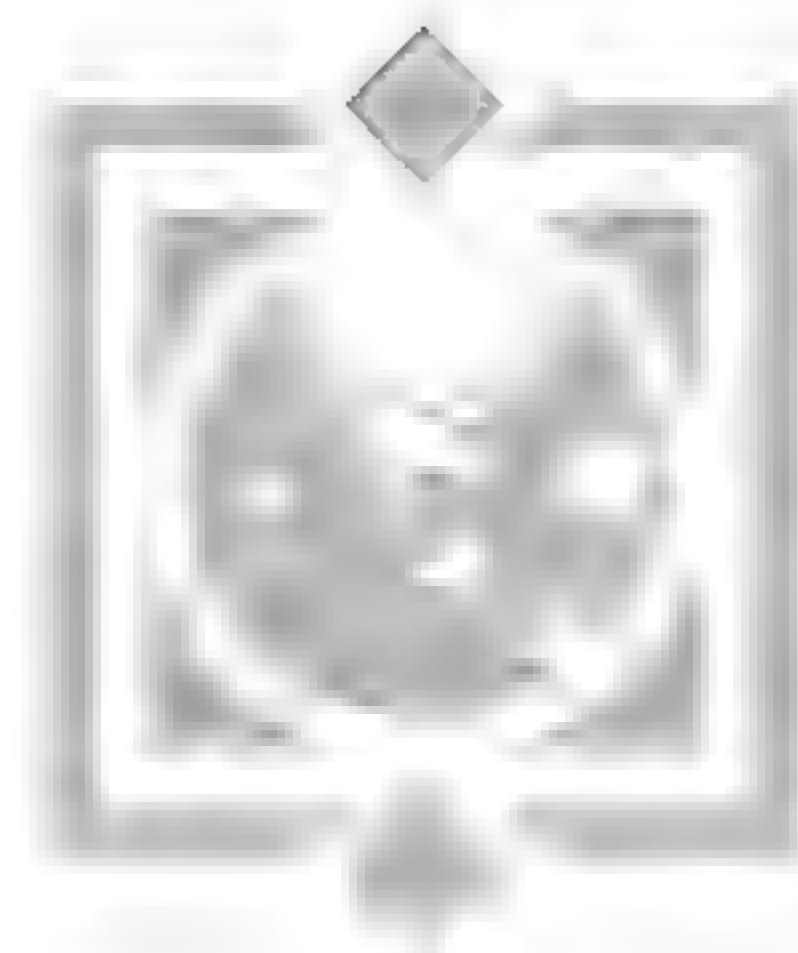
ATTILAN.

NATIONS CRUMBLE



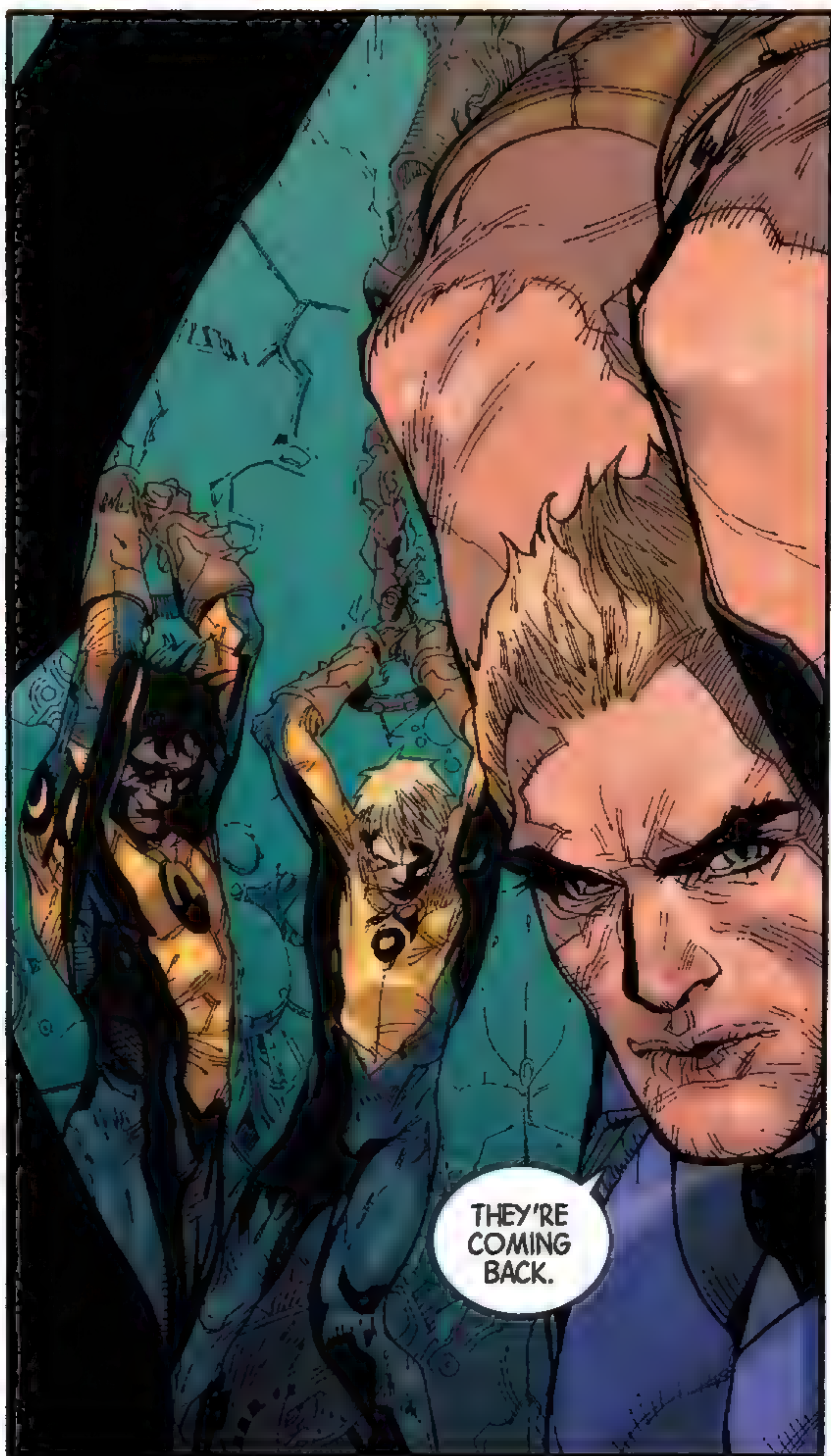
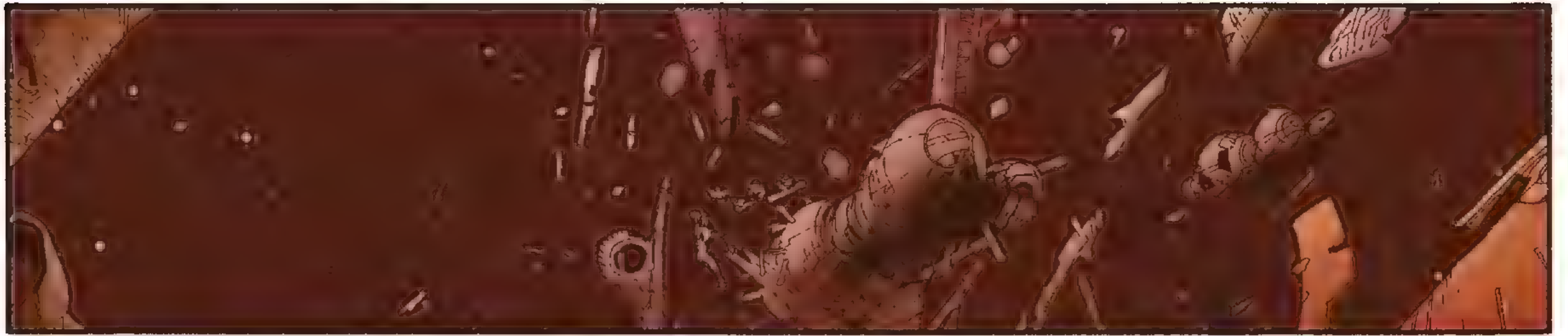
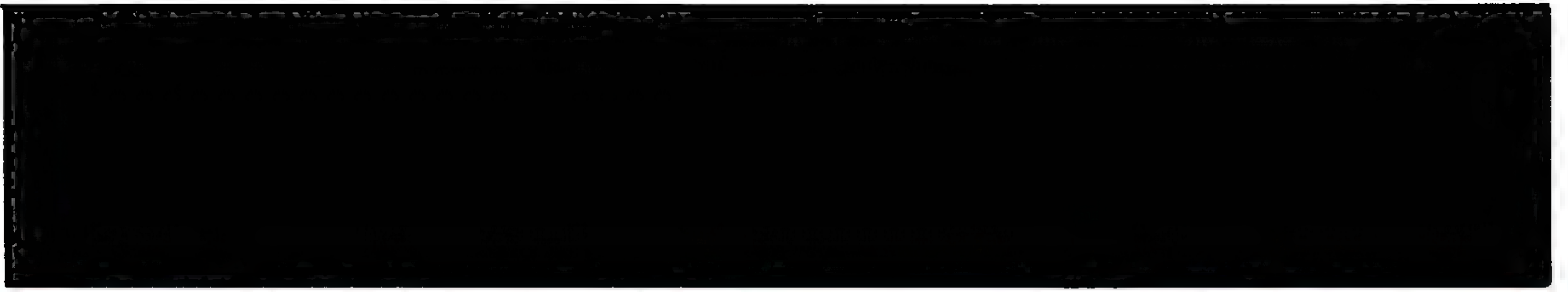
AND SOMETIMES...

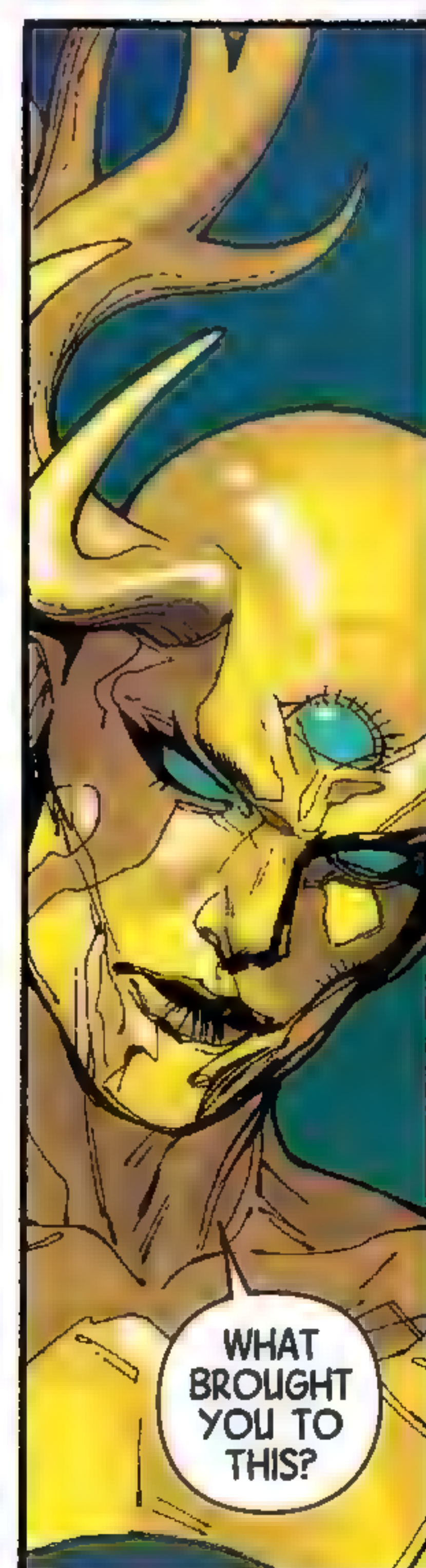
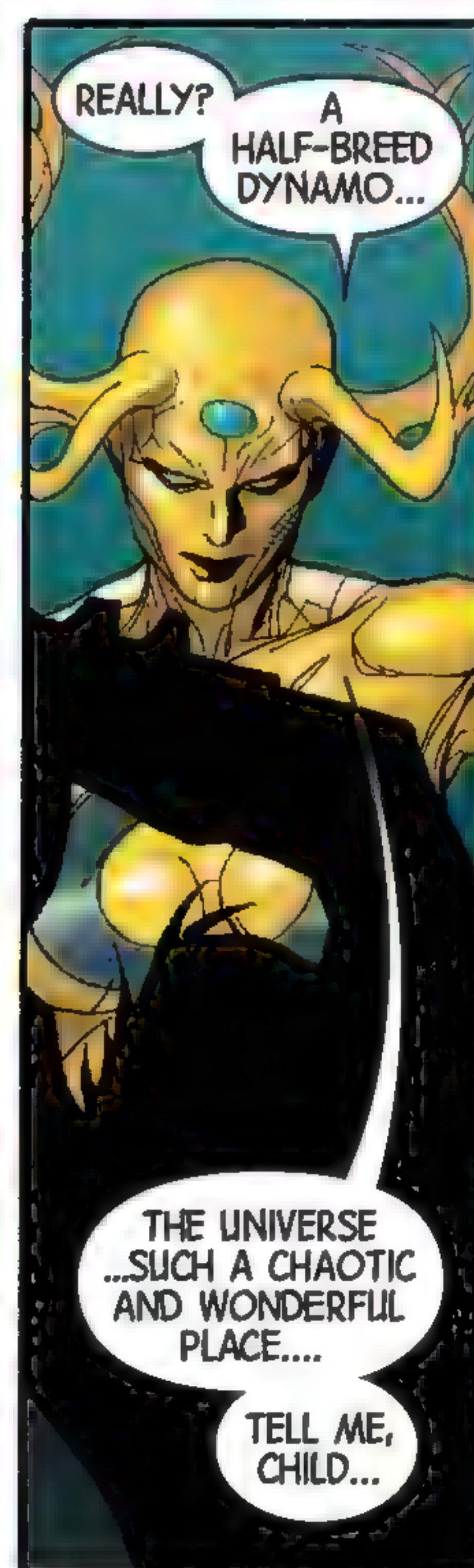
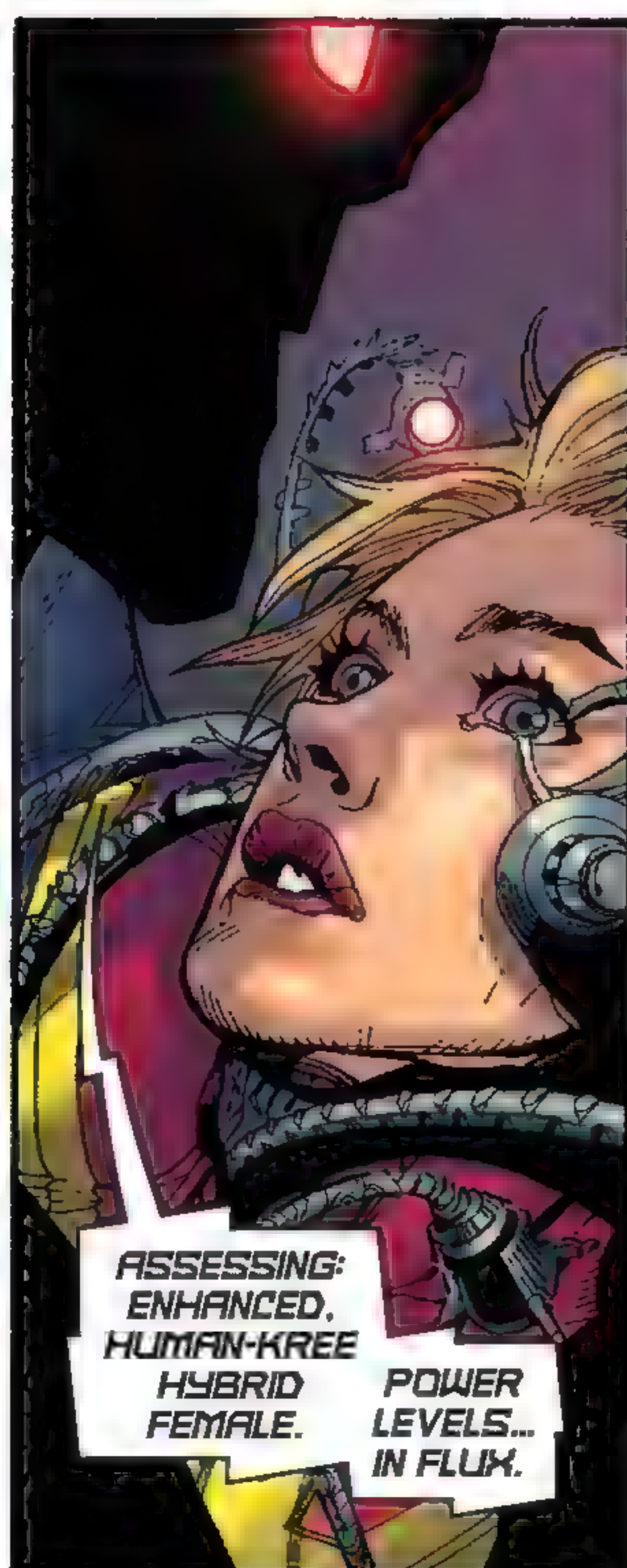
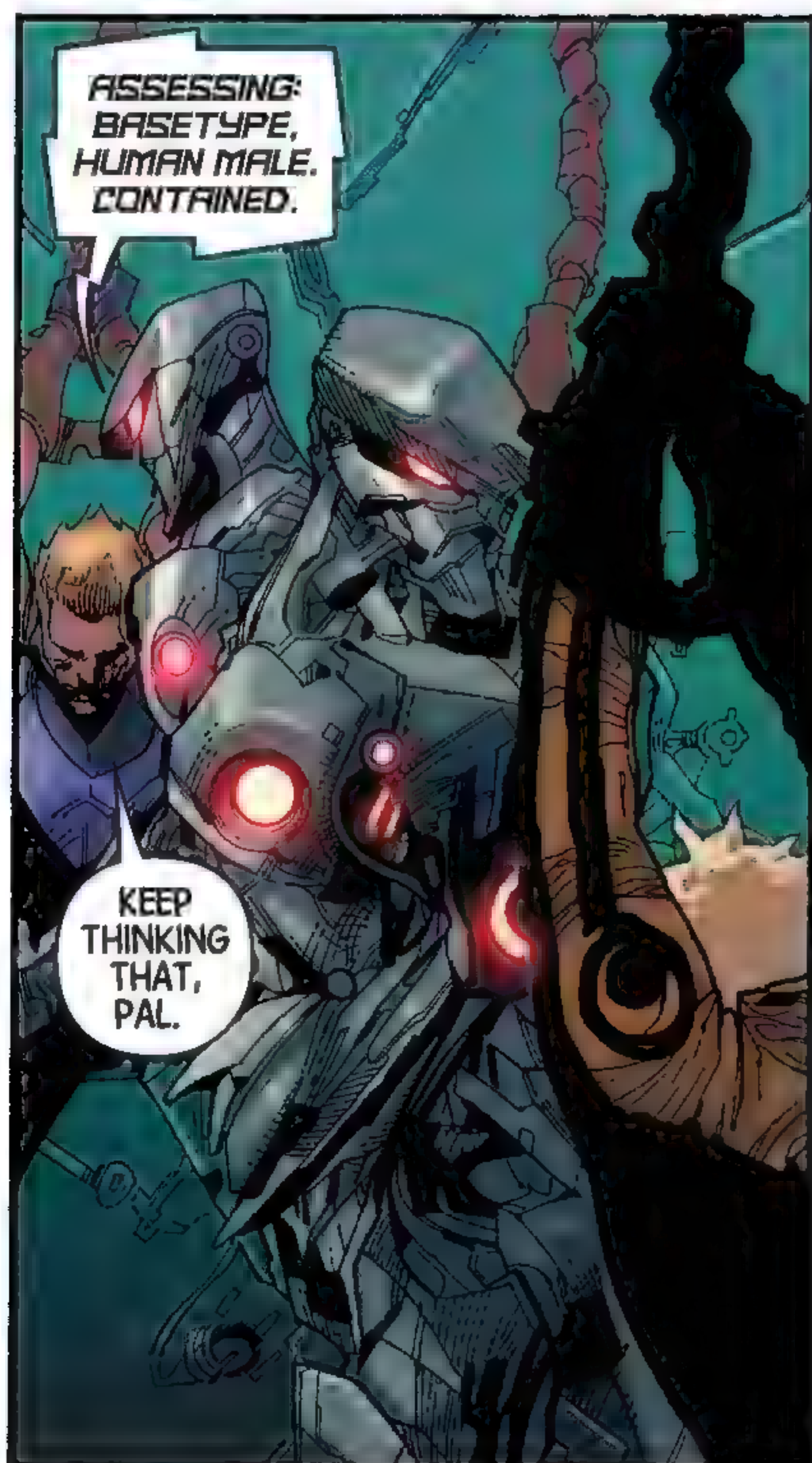
THAT'S THE VERY BEST OF WHAT THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER



BINARY COLLAPSE









LOSING
CONTROL...

ARR!
DAMMIT!

HOW
BAD?

SHIP'S
COOKED,
HAWKEYE.



"SYSTEMS FRIED,
DRIVE'S SHOT AND
THE SINGULARITY'S
GOT US."

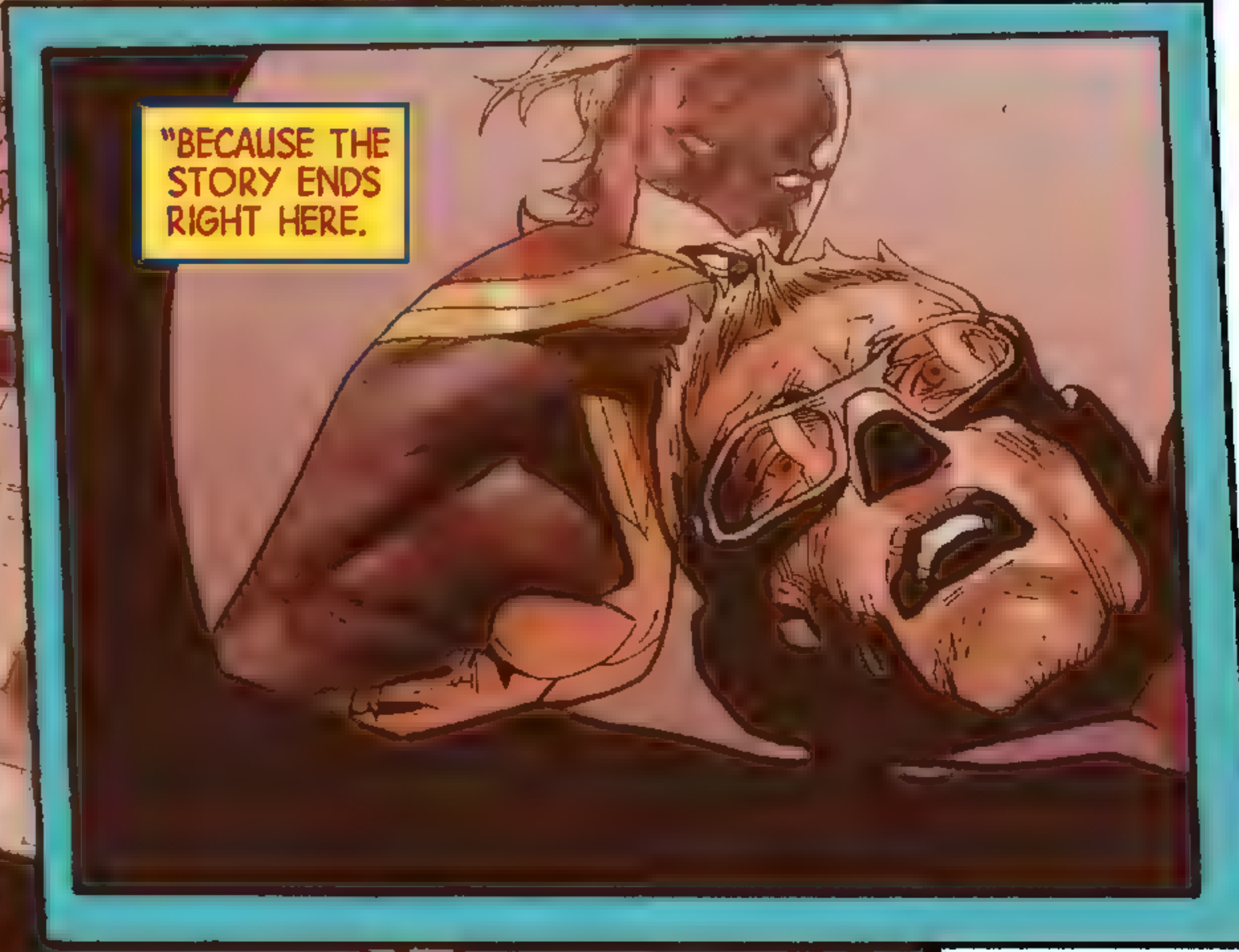


GET
EVERYONE TO
THE ESCAPE PODS.
I'LL SET THE SHIP
TO BLOW. IF WE'RE
LUCKY, THE EXPLOSION
WILL PUSH US OUT
PAST THE EVENT
HORIZON.

AND IF
NOT?



"WELL THEN, BAD
NEWS, SOLDIER..."



"BECAUSE THE
STORY ENDS
RIGHT HERE."

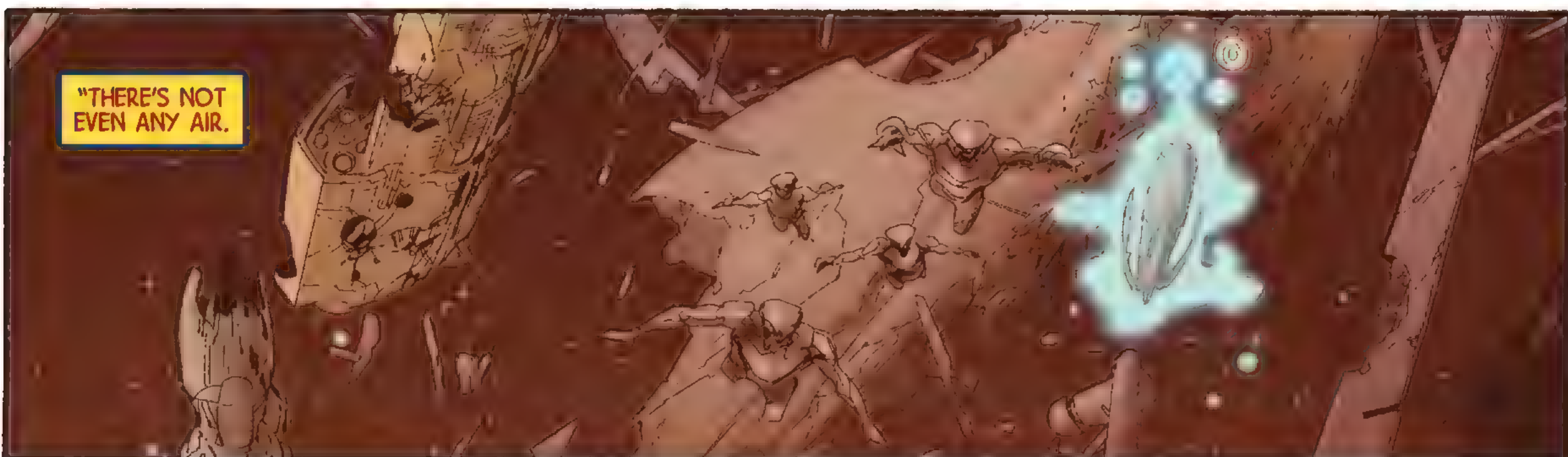
"THIS IS WAR
IN COLD,
UNFORGIVING
SPACE, CLINT."



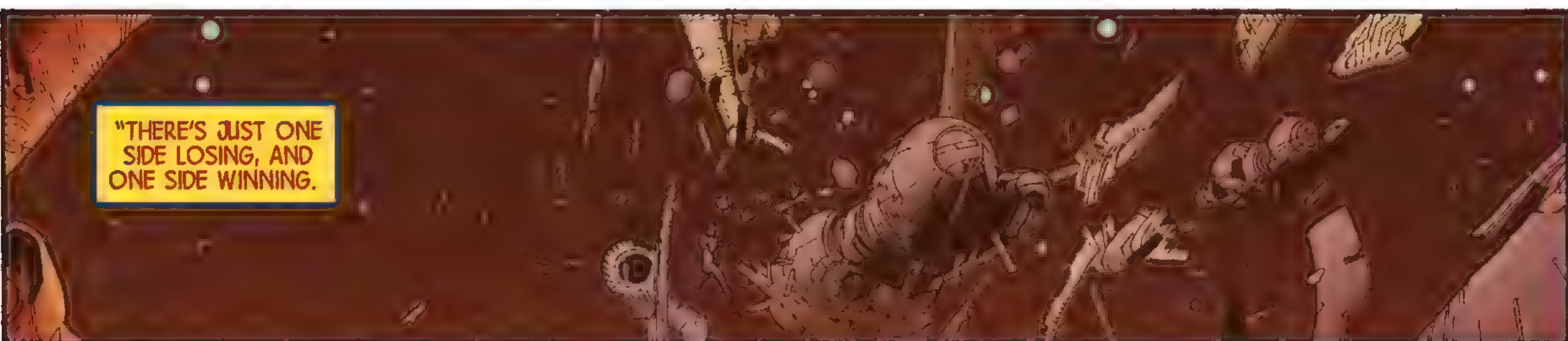
"THERE IS NO
FAIRNESS OR
COMPASSION..."



"THERE'S NOT
EVEN ANY AIR."



"THERE'S JUST ONE
SIDE LOSING, AND
ONE SIDE WINNING."



"ONE SIDE
DYING..."



"AND ONE SIDE
FIGHTING LIKE HELL
TO STAY ALIVE."



"TELL ME,
CHILD..."



WHAT
BROUGHT YOU
TO THIS?

WELL...FIRST
THERE WAS NOTHING,
THEN THERE WAS
EVERYTHING...

THEN THE
GOOD LORD SAW
FIT TO BRING ME
INTO THE WORLD TO
KICK THE ASSES OF
THOSE WHO NEED
IT MOST.

SO GET
READY 'CAUSE THIS
DAY OR THE NEXT,
IT'S COMING.

HMRPT!
SHE'LL DO.

BRING
HER.

HEY!
NO!
STOP!
LEAVE HER
ALONE...
YOU CAN
TAKE ME
INSTEAD.

DON'T
WORRY...

WE'LL BE
BACK FOR
YOU SOON
ENOUGH.



BEHEMOTH



THE BEHEMOTH RINGWORLD.
TRANS-GALACTIC SPACE.





WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG TO GET THESE PEOPLE SOME HELP?

ONE HUNDRED MILLION REFUGEES AND COUNTING.

AND MOST OF THE MEDICAL TEAMS ARE BUSY SCREENING NEW ARRIVALS COMING FROM PLAGUE WORLDS LIKE WHAAN PRIME.

IT'S BAD ALL AROUND.



AND IT COULD BE MUCH WORSE...

AT LEAST NO ONE'S HUNGRY.



EX NIHILO HAS PROVIDED THE RINGWORLD WITH THOUSANDS OF NEW GARDENS, AND HAS ENCOURAGED THEM TO CONTINUALLY YIELD FOOD.

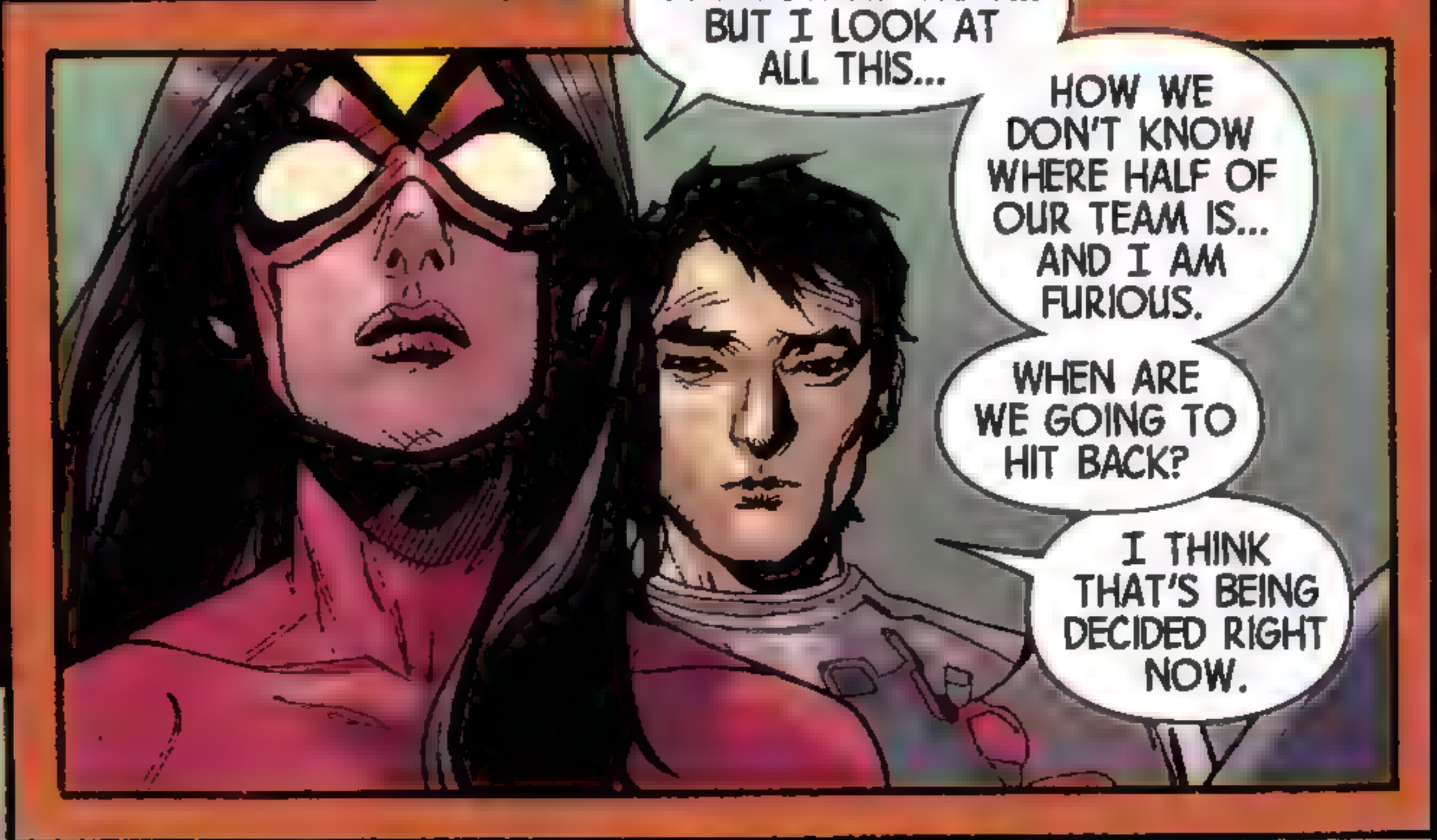
TENDING TO THEM GIVES MANY OF THE REFUGEES SOMETHING TO DO, KEEPING THEIR THOUGHTS FROM WHAT THEY HAVE LOST.



WHICH I SUSPECT IS THE POINT FOR HIM AS WELL.

DOING GOOD TO OCCUPY HIS MIND, NOT DWELLING ON THE DARK ACTIONS OF THE BUILDERS WHO MADE HIM.

WELL, I UNDERSTAND THAT... BUT I LOOK AT ALL THIS...



HOW WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HALF OF OUR TEAM IS... AND I AM FURIOUS.

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO HIT BACK?

I THINK THAT'S BEING DECIDED RIGHT NOW.

THE GALACTIC WAR COUNCIL.



HOW WERE WE SO WRONG?

YES. WE DO...AND IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN YOU THINK.

MY WARMASTERS HAVE ANALYZED THE READINGS WE TOOK OF THE BUILDER FLEET AS WE LEFT THE CORRIDOR.

HAVE ANY OF YOU?

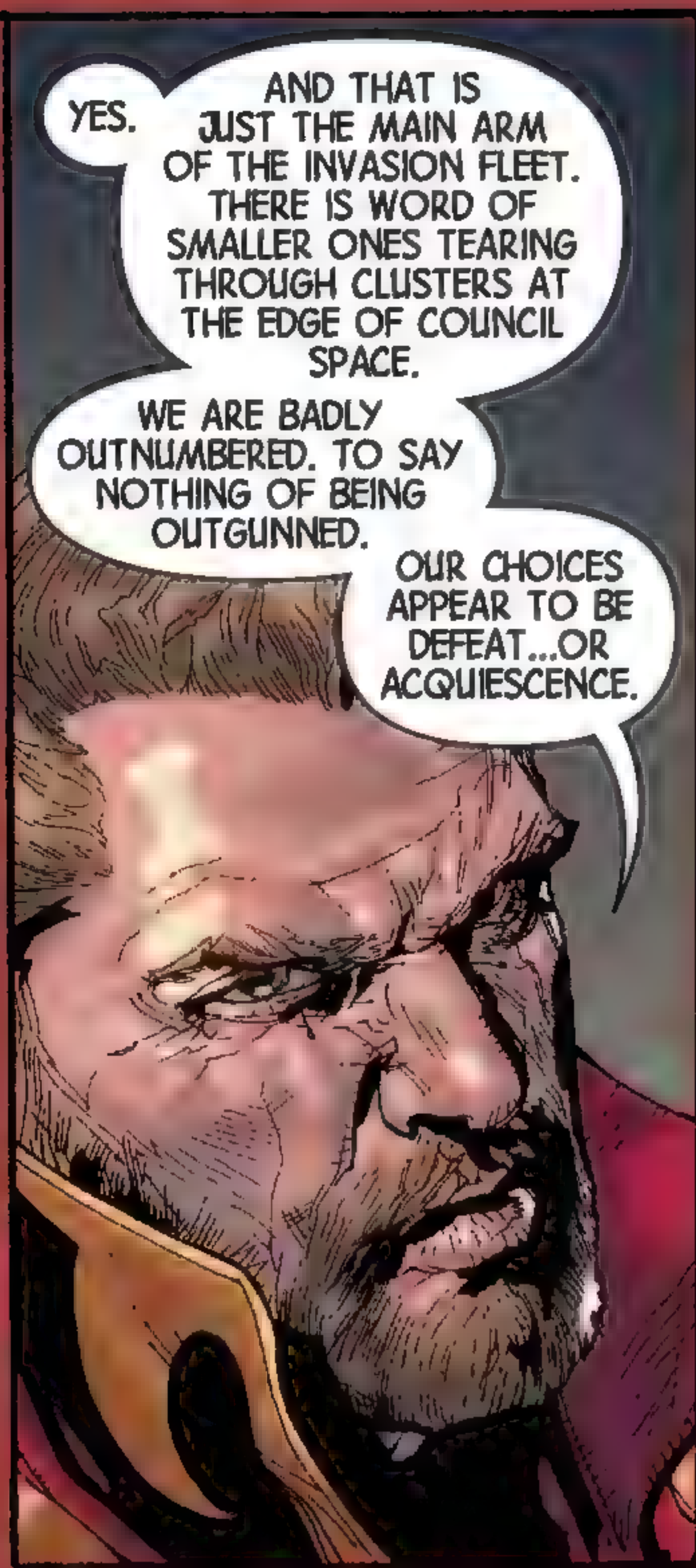
IS IT WRONG TO HUNT A WH'ULLO ONLY TO FIND IT BOUND WITH A GURDDAK?

THE BEAST HAD A SECOND MOUTH, WE ONLY SAW IT BECAUSE WE MADE IT SCREAM...

NOW WE REALLY KNOW WHAT WE FACE.

SEVENTEEN THOUSAND LIGHT CRUISERS. THREE THOUSAND CARRIERS. TWO THOUSAND HEAVY CRUISERS. SIX HUNDRED WORLDSHIPS.

TWELVE WORLD KILLERS.



YES. AND THAT IS JUST THE MAIN ARM OF THE INVASION FLEET. THERE IS WORD OF SMALLER ONES TEARING THROUGH CLUSTERS AT THE EDGE OF COUNCIL SPACE.

WE ARE BADLY OUTNUMBERED. TO SAY NOTHING OF BEING OUTGUNNED.

OUR CHOICES APPEAR TO BE DEFEAT...OR ACQUIESCENCE.



THEN LET OUR DEATHSSSS BE... GLORIOUSSSSSSS.

DYING WITH VALOR MEANS WE SACRIFICE ACHIEVING OUR GOALS. HAS THAT HAPPENED?

NOT YET IT HASN'T

THE COST WAS HIGH, BUT I HAVE JUST REUNITED THE BULK OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE

I PREFER LIVING

OF COURSE.

BUT WE DO NOT KNOW OUR ENEMY...AND IF WE DO NOT KNOW THEM, HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT THEM?



WE ARE CRIPPLED BY OUR IGNORANCE.



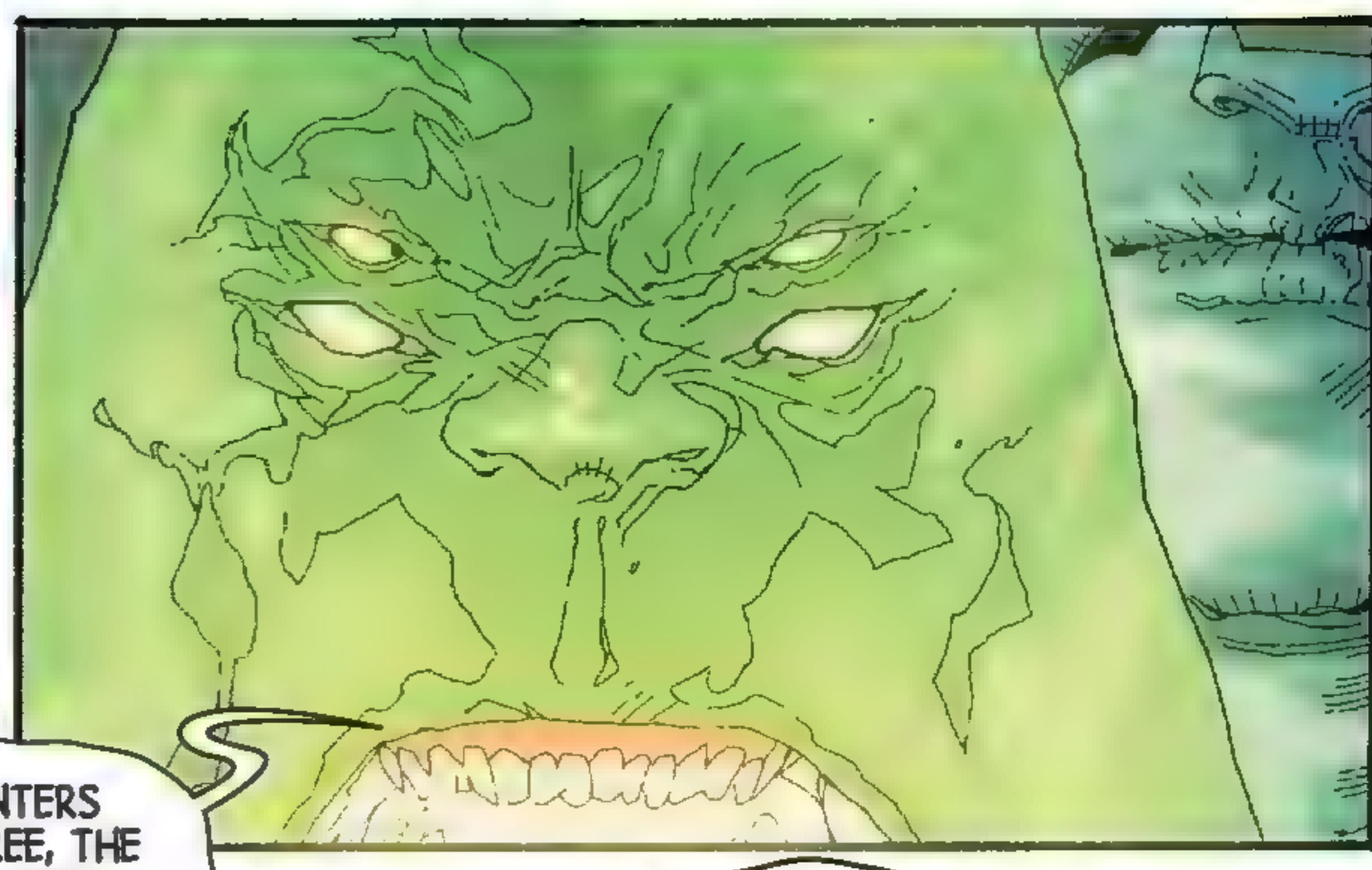
EXCUSE ME, GLADIATOR...

BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...I THINK THERE'S SOMEONE THIS COUNCIL NEEDS TO SEE.



NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR FROM EITHER OF YOU BACKWATER APES.

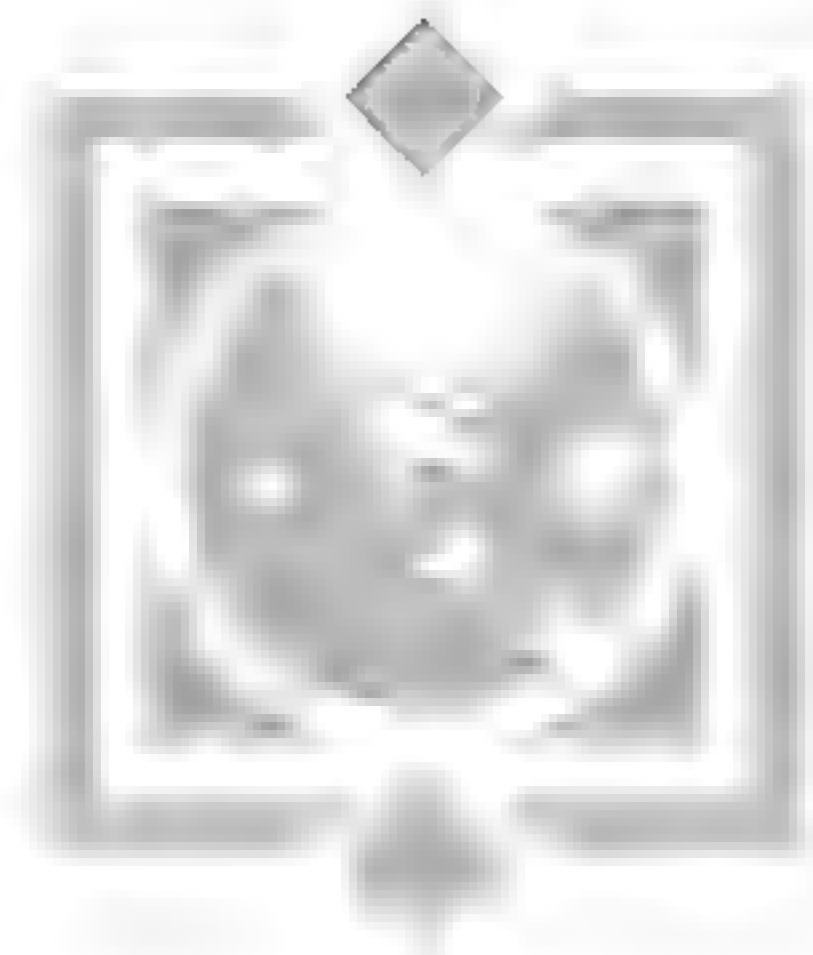
WHEN WE NEED BODIES TO THROW AT THE ENEMY OR LABORERS TO DIG GRAVES...THEN WE WILL HAVE A USE FOR HUMAN HELP.



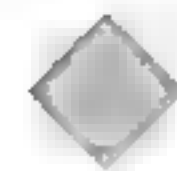
IN ENCOUNTERS WITH THE KREE, THE SPARTAX HAVE HISTORICALLY ACHIEVED VICTORY IN THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT OF MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS.

A PERCENTAGE MUCH LOWER THAN THE HUMANS.

I THINK WE SHOULD LISTEN TO WHAT THE CAPTAIN HAS TO SAY.



ALL THESE THINGS
WE'VE MADE



THE BUILDER ARMADA.

VESSEL RECOGNIZED.
ION DRIVE.
SINGLE LIFE-FORM.

VECTORIZING
TOWARDS
FLEET.

BUILDERS!
SHIP
INBOUND.

IS THE VESSEL
A THREAT?

NO ACTIVE
WEAPONS SYSTEMS,
AND IT APPEARS TO HAVE
TAKEN ITS CORE OFF-LINE
ONCE IT ENTERED OUR
LOCAL SPACE.

IN FACT,
IT'S BEEN STRIPPED
DOWN COMPLETELY.
AS IF TO SAY...LOOK
AT HOW HARMLESS
I AM.

WE
SHOULD
DESTROY
IT.

NO...LET'S SEE
HOW PREDICTABLE
THESE RESISTANT
WORLDS ARE.

LET'S SEE
WHAT THEY WANT
AND WHAT WE MIGHT
GAIN BY GIVING IT
TO THEM.

AH! AND
SPEAKING OF
THINGS TO
GAIN...

EX NIHLA
HAS BROUGHT US
SOMETHING QUITE
INTERESTING.



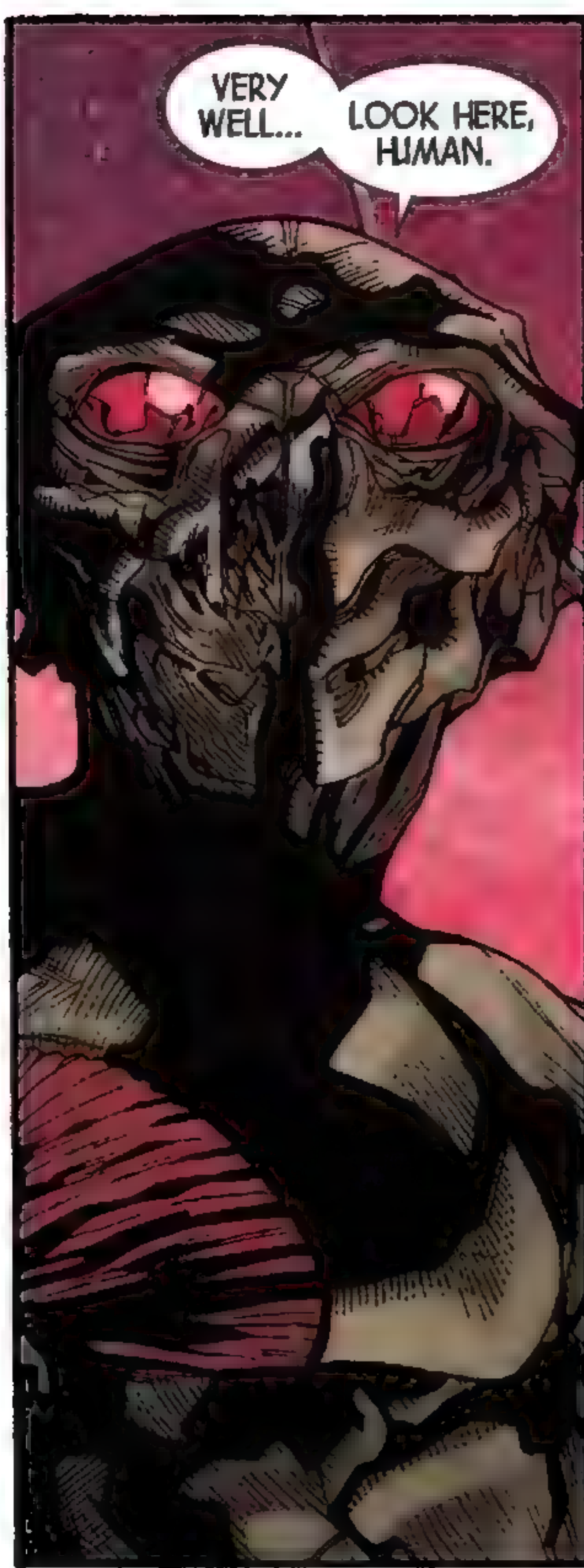
THIS IS THE ONE YOU CHOSE? YOU BELIEVE SHE HAS THE INFORMATION WE NEED?

THESE QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.

I WANT THE KNOWLEDGE JUST AS YOU DO, ENGINEER...

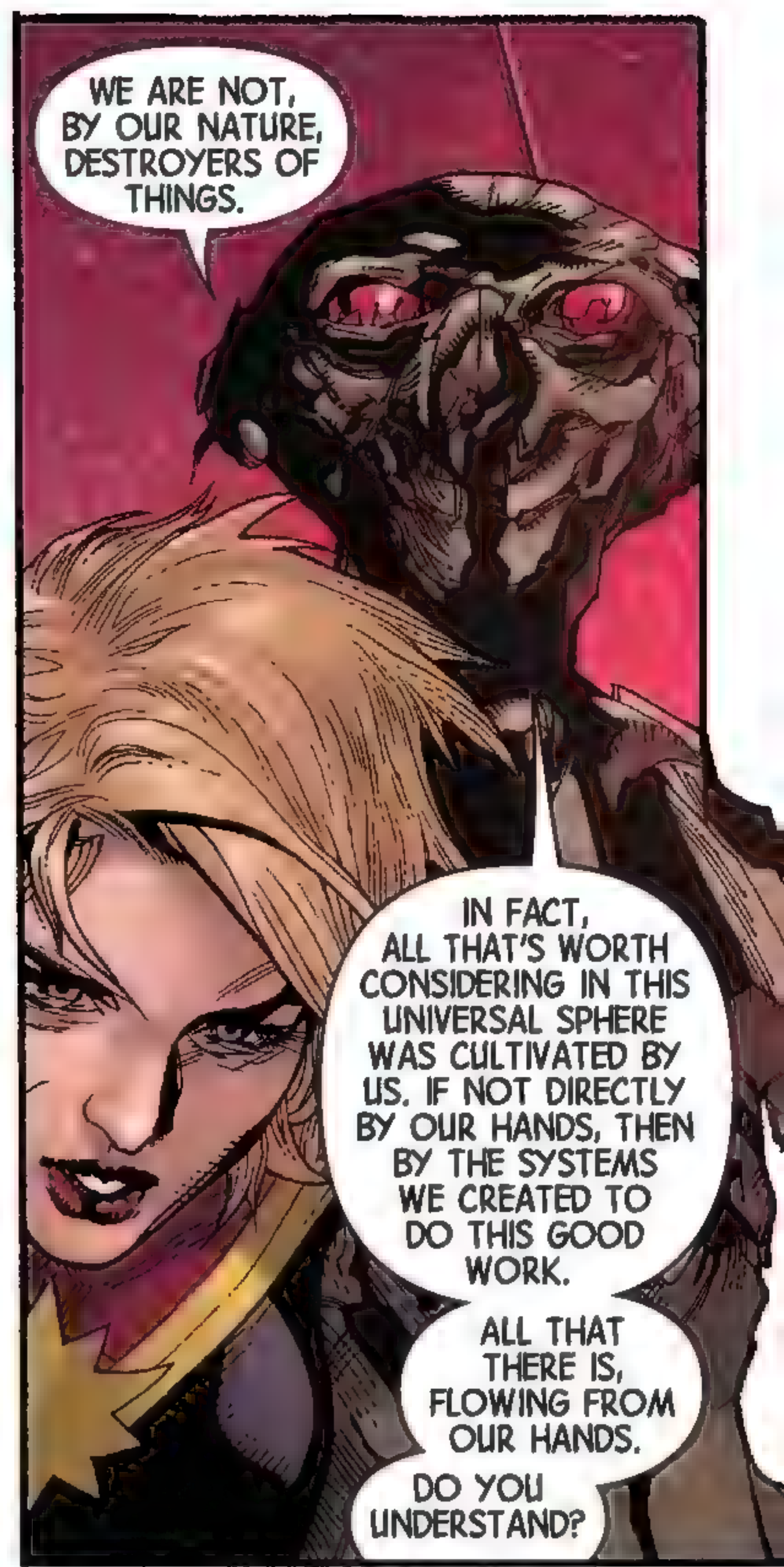
SHE WAS CLEARLY THE LEADER OF THE CAPTURED HUMANTYPES.

IF ANY OF THEM KNOW, SHE WILL.



VERY WELL...

LOOK HERE, HUMAN.



WE ARE NOT, BY OUR NATURE, DESTROYERS OF THINGS.

IN FACT, ALL THAT'S WORTH CONSIDERING IN THIS UNIVERSAL SPHERE WAS CULTIVATED BY US. IF NOT DIRECTLY BY OUR HANDS, THEN BY THE SYSTEMS WE CREATED TO DO THIS GOOD WORK.

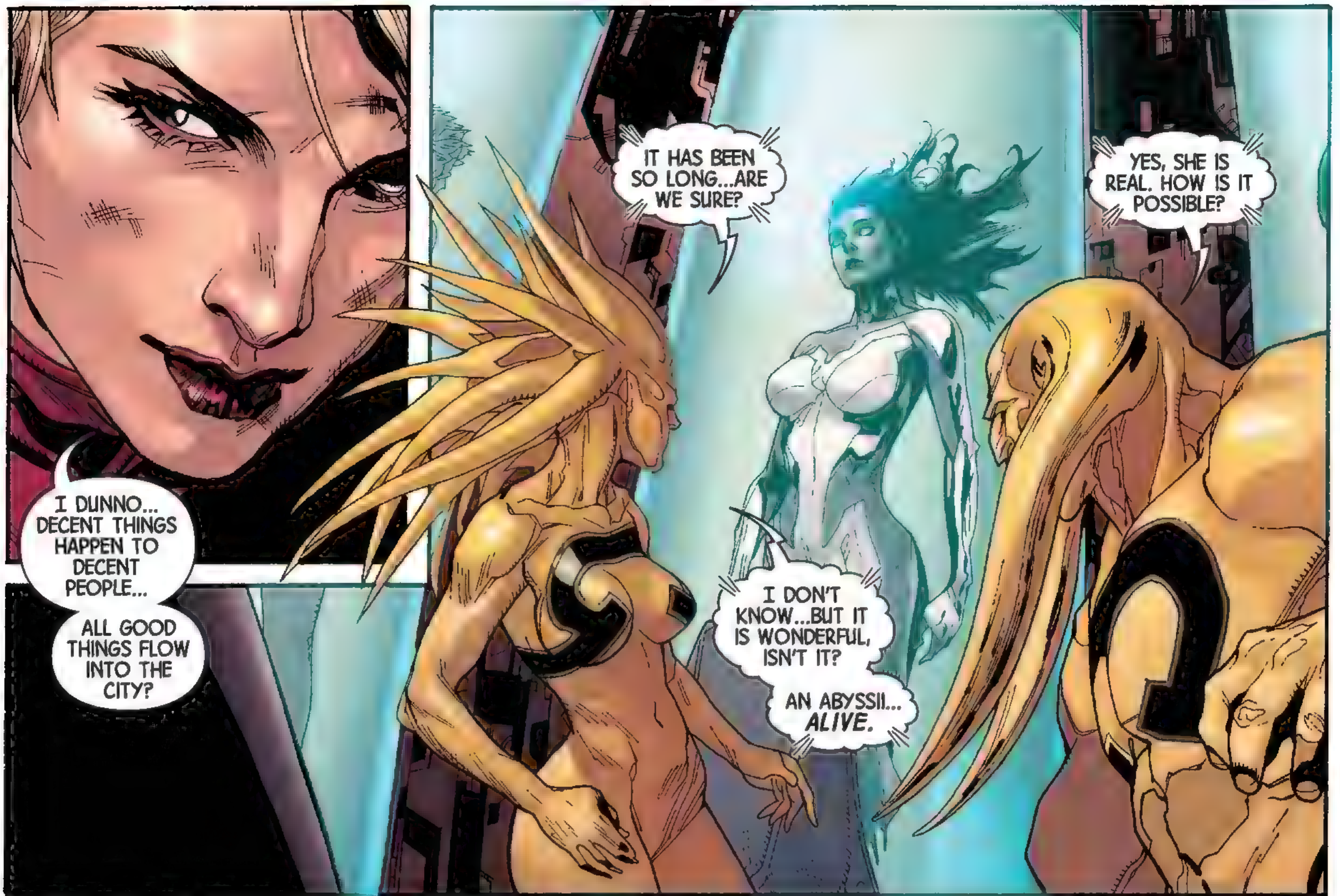
ALL THAT THERE IS, FLOWING FROM OUR HANDS.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



WE MADE THESE TO DO OUR WORK.

HOW DID YOU COME TO POSSESS THEM?



I DUNNO...
DECENT THINGS
HAPPEN TO
DECENT
PEOPLE...

ALL GOOD
THINGS FLOW
INTO THE
CITY?

IT HAS BEEN
SO LONG...ARE
WE SURE?

YES, SHE IS
REAL. HOW IS IT
POSSIBLE?

I DON'T
KNOW...BUT IT
IS WONDERFUL,
ISN'T IT?

AN ABYSSII...
ALIVE.

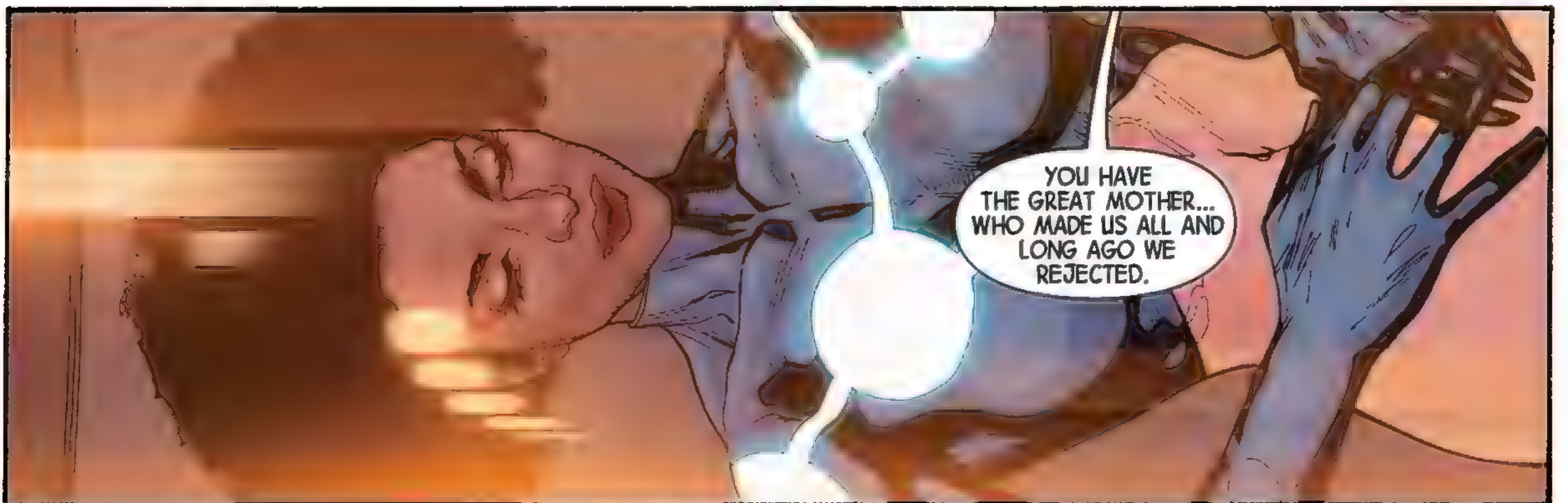


THE
SENTIENT
SYSTEMS ARE
ONE THING.

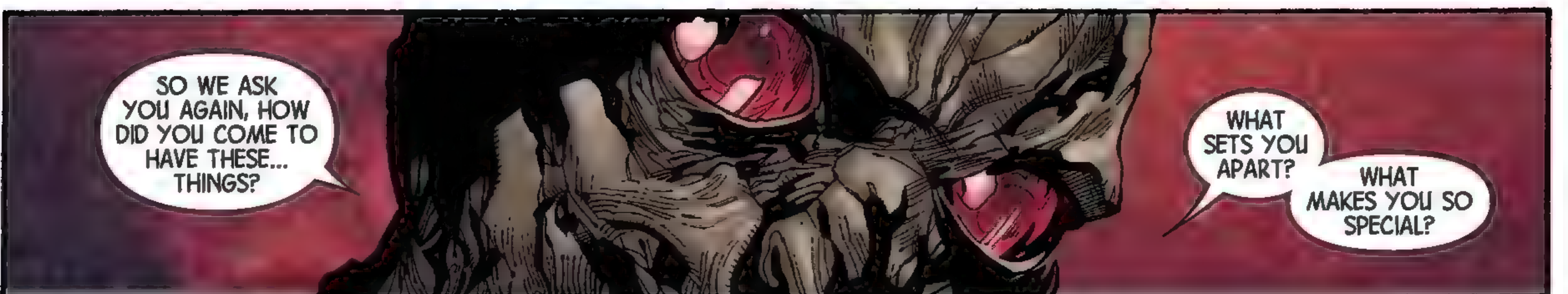
AN ANCIENT ABYSS,
ALL OF WHICH WERE LONG
THOUGHT LOST. A NIGHTMASK,
ARBITER OF THE CHANGE. AND
A STARBRAND, PLANETARY
DEFENSE WEAPON...

ALL OF THESE
ARE TOOLS YOU
SHOULD NOT
POSSESS.

BUT
THIS...THIS IS
HERETICAL.



YOU HAVE
THE GREAT MOTHER...
WHO MADE US ALL AND
LONG AGO WE
REJECTED.



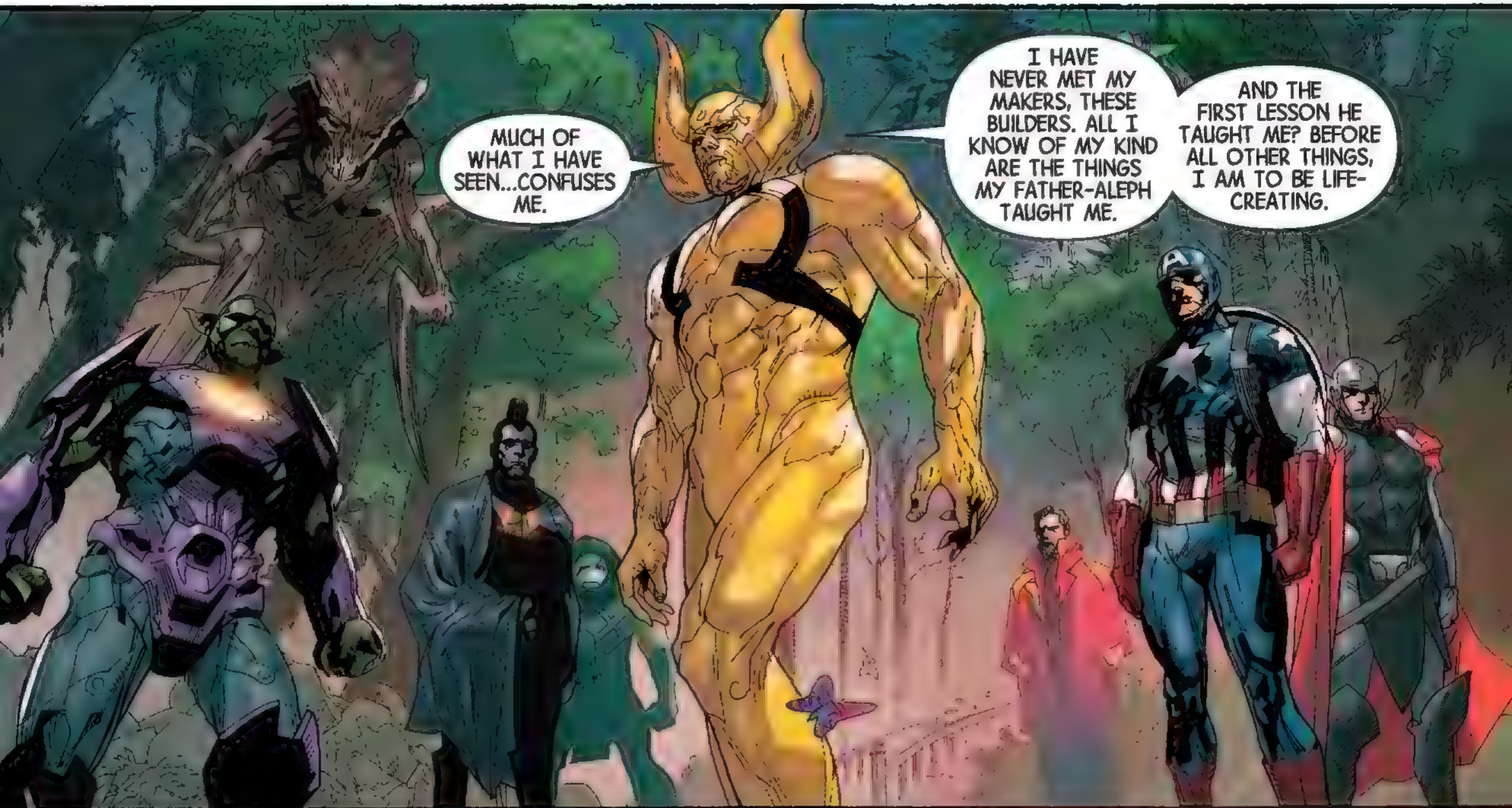
SO WE ASK
YOU AGAIN, HOW
DID YOU COME TO
HAVE THESE...
THINGS?

WHAT
SETS YOU
APART?

WHAT
MAKES YOU SO
SPECIAL?



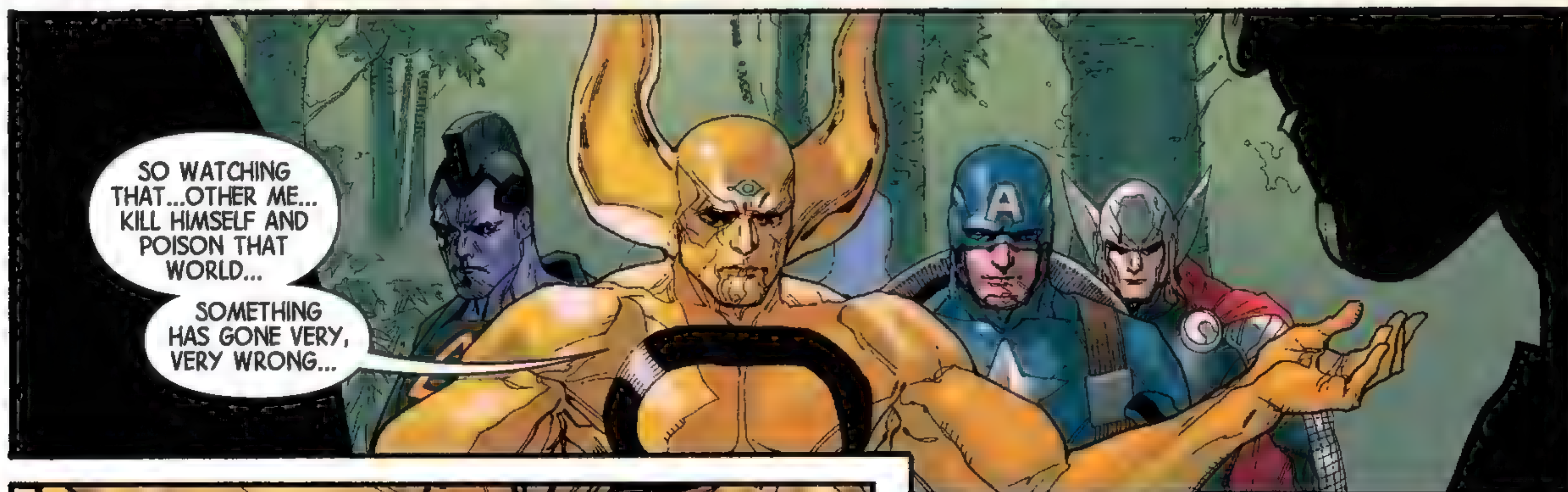
I DON'T KNOW.



MUCH OF WHAT I HAVE SEEN...CONFUSES ME.

I HAVE NEVER MET MY MAKERS, THESE BUILDERS. ALL I KNOW OF MY KIND ARE THE THINGS MY FATHER-ALEPH TAUGHT ME.

AND THE FIRST LESSON HE TAUGHT ME? BEFORE ALL OTHER THINGS, I AM TO BE LIFE-CREATING.



SO WATCHING THAT...OTHER ME... KILL HIMSELF AND POISON THAT WORLD...

SOMETHING HAS GONE VERY, VERY WRONG...



AND IT MUST BE STOPPED.

SO WHATEVER YOU MIGHT NEED FROM ME, YOU WILL HAVE IT.



WHY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

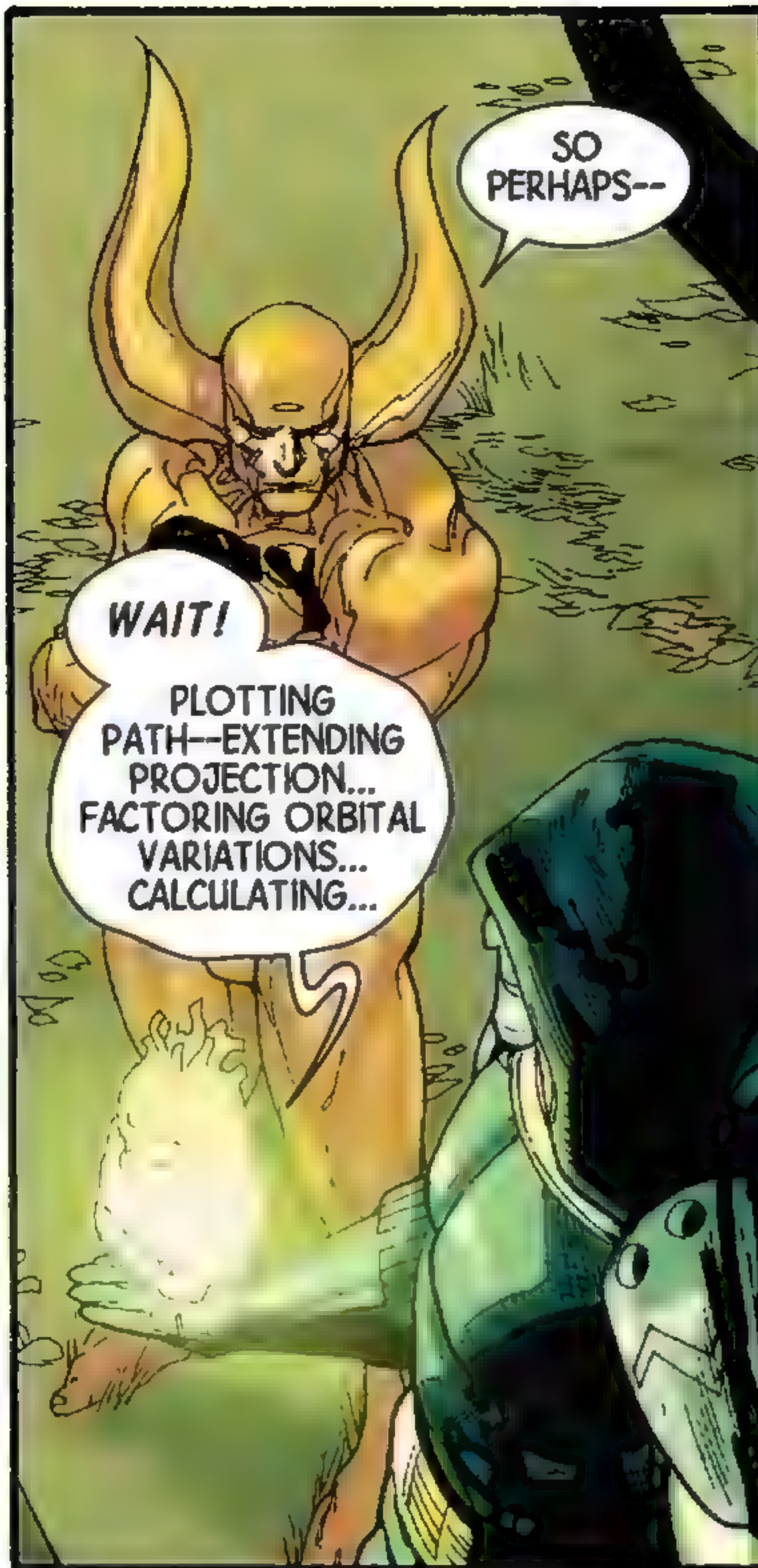
I MEAN, WHY?

WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS? WHAT DO THEY WANT?

WHAT IS THE DAMNED POINT?



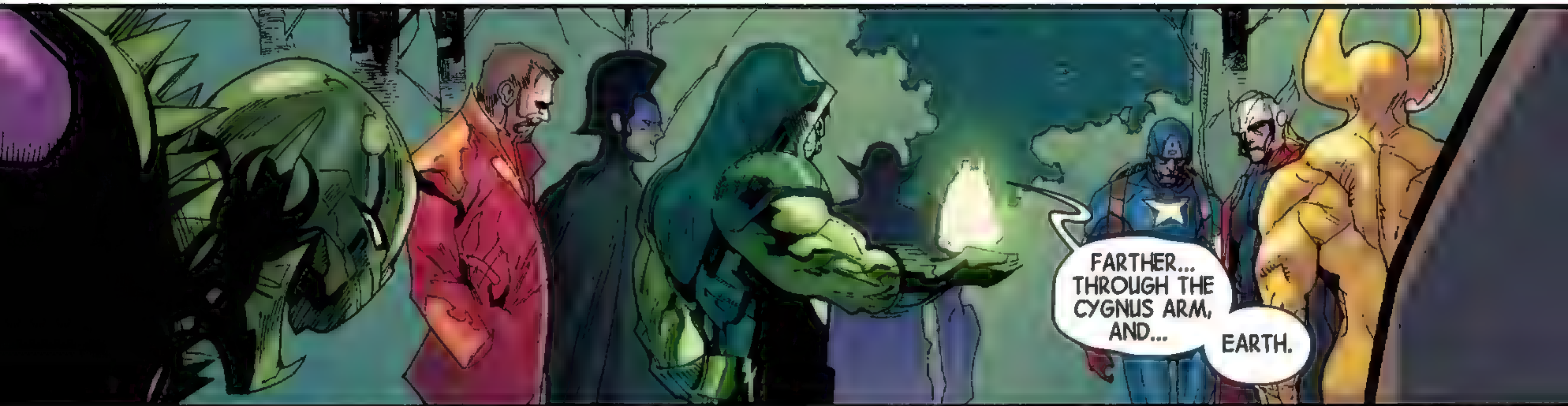
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT THEIR BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN PREDICTABLE, HASN'T IT?
THE BUILDERS ARE EFFICIENT. DIRECT. LINEAR.



SO PERHAPS--
WAIT!
PLOTting PATH--EXTENDING PROJECTION...
FACTORING ORBITAL VARIATIONS...
CALCULATING...



THE LINE EXTENDS DIRECTLY THROUGH KREE SPACE...
THROUGH OUR CAPITAL WORLD, HALA.
SUPREMO, ARE YOU SAYING THAT WE--
CALCULATING...
EXTENDING...



FARTHER...
THROUGH THE CYGNUS ARM,
AND...
EARTH.



SO THIS IS WHY YOU ARE HERE.



YES...



IT IS. BUT
IT'S WHY WE'RE
ALL HERE, ISN'T
IT?

THESE BUILDERS
APPEAR TO BE LIKE
GODS, WHO FOR REASONS
BEYOND MY UNDERSTANDING,
SEEM HELLBENT ON DESTROYING
EVERYTHING THAT LIES IN
FRONT OF THEM.

WHICH
INCLUDES ALL
OF YOU.

SO FAR, ALL
EVIDENCE POINTS
TO US BEING UNABLE
TO STOP THEM.



BUT MAYBE
THAT'S THE KEY TO
BEATING THEM.

ARE YOU
SUGGESTING
DECEPTION OF
SOME KIND?

IT'S TIME,
MY KING.



IF THE OTHERS
NEED ME, TELL THEM
I'LL BE BACK
MOMENTARILY.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
I HAVE TO
TAKE CARE
OF.

Hmm.



I THINK THEY'D
SEE RIGHT THROUGH ANY
ATTEMPTS AT SUBTERFUGE--
THERE'S PLENTY OF EVIDENCE
SUGGESTING THEY ARE
TACTICALLY SUPERIOR TO US
IN EVERY WAY.

AFTER ALL,
THEY'VE PROVEN
THAT, HAVEN'T
THEY?

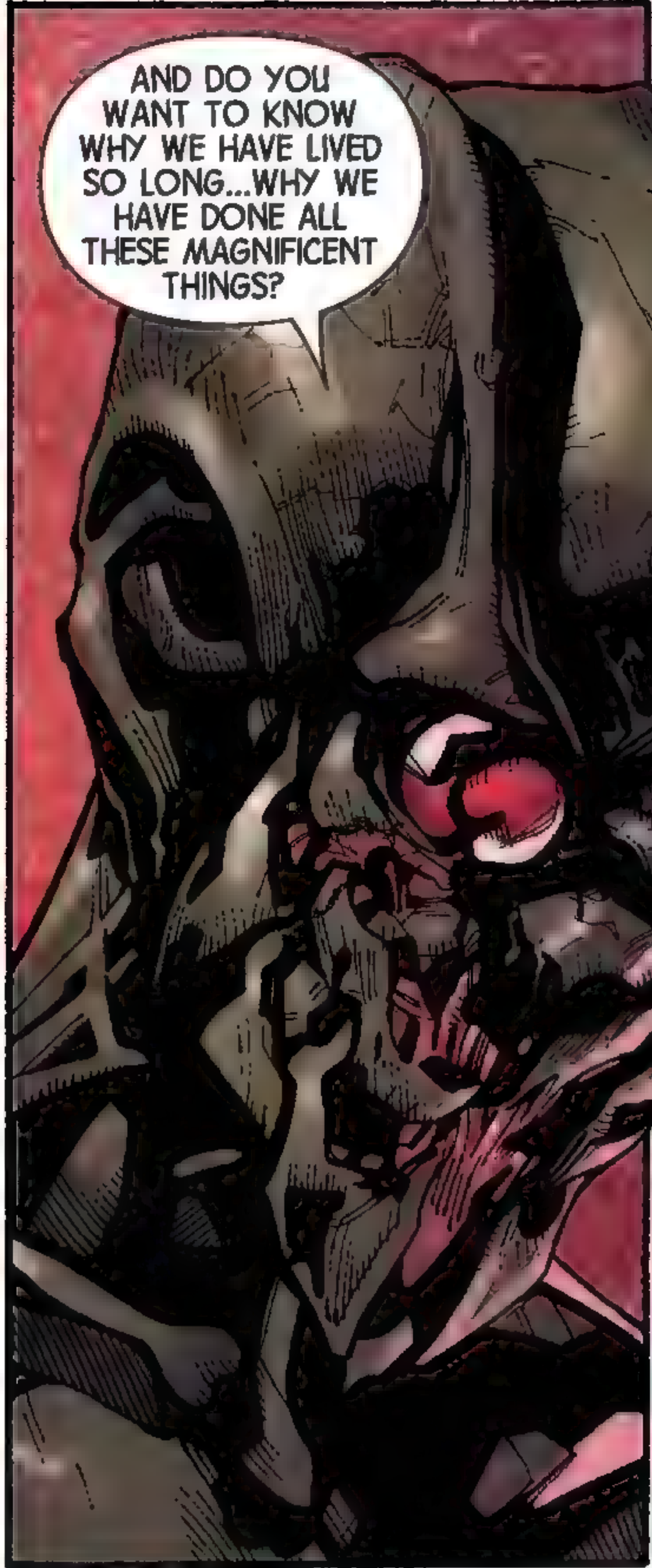
NO...I'M
THINKING MORE
ALONG THE LINE OF
AN EGG.

AHHHHH,
INFESTATIONNN.

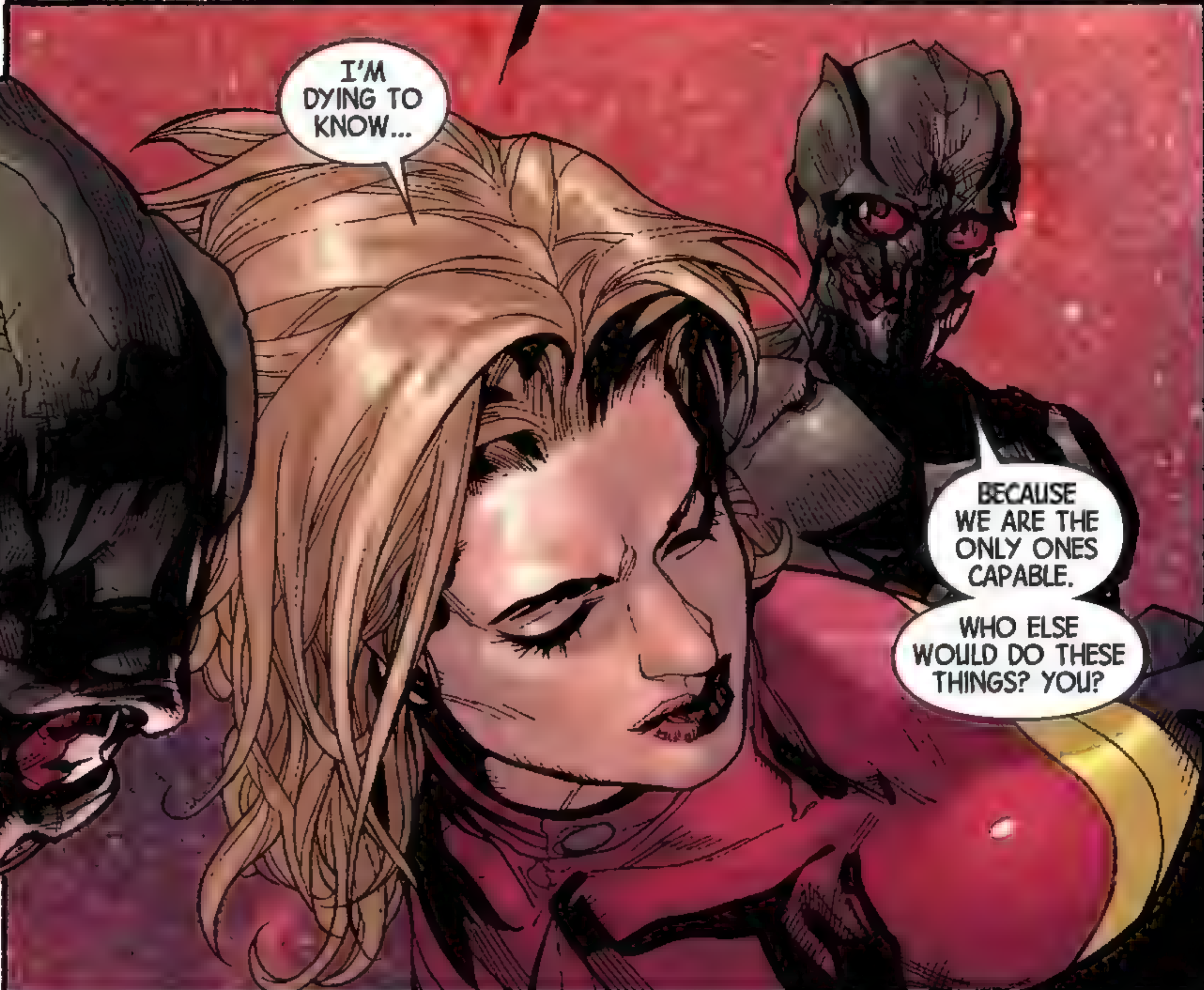


DELIVERY
CONFIRMED...

ESTABLISHING
A CONNECTION,
SIR.



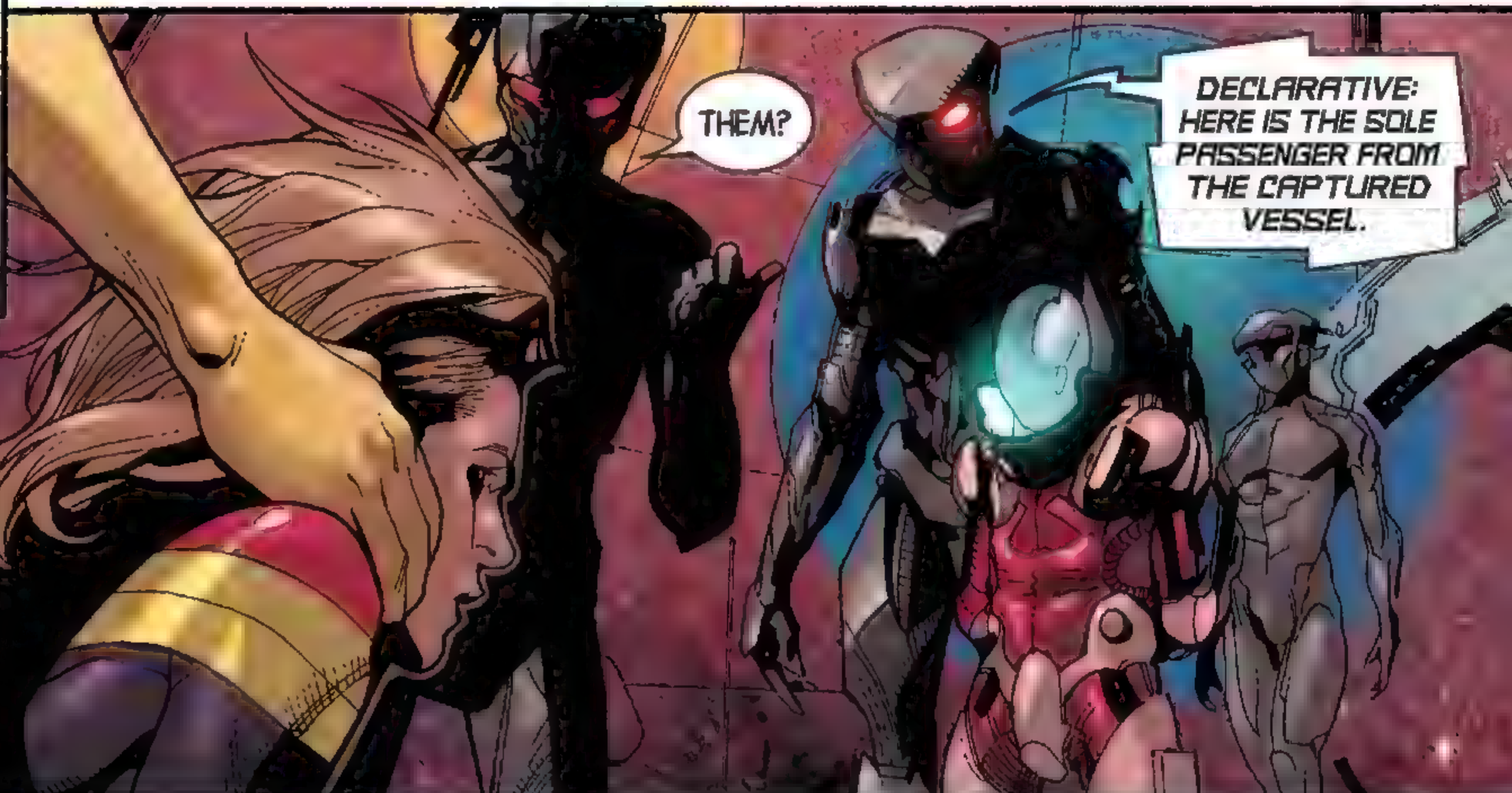
AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE HAVE LIVED SO LONG...WHY WE HAVE DONE ALL THESE MAGNIFICENT THINGS?



I'M DYING TO KNOW...

BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONLY ONES CAPABLE.

WHO ELSE WOULD DO THESE THINGS? YOU?



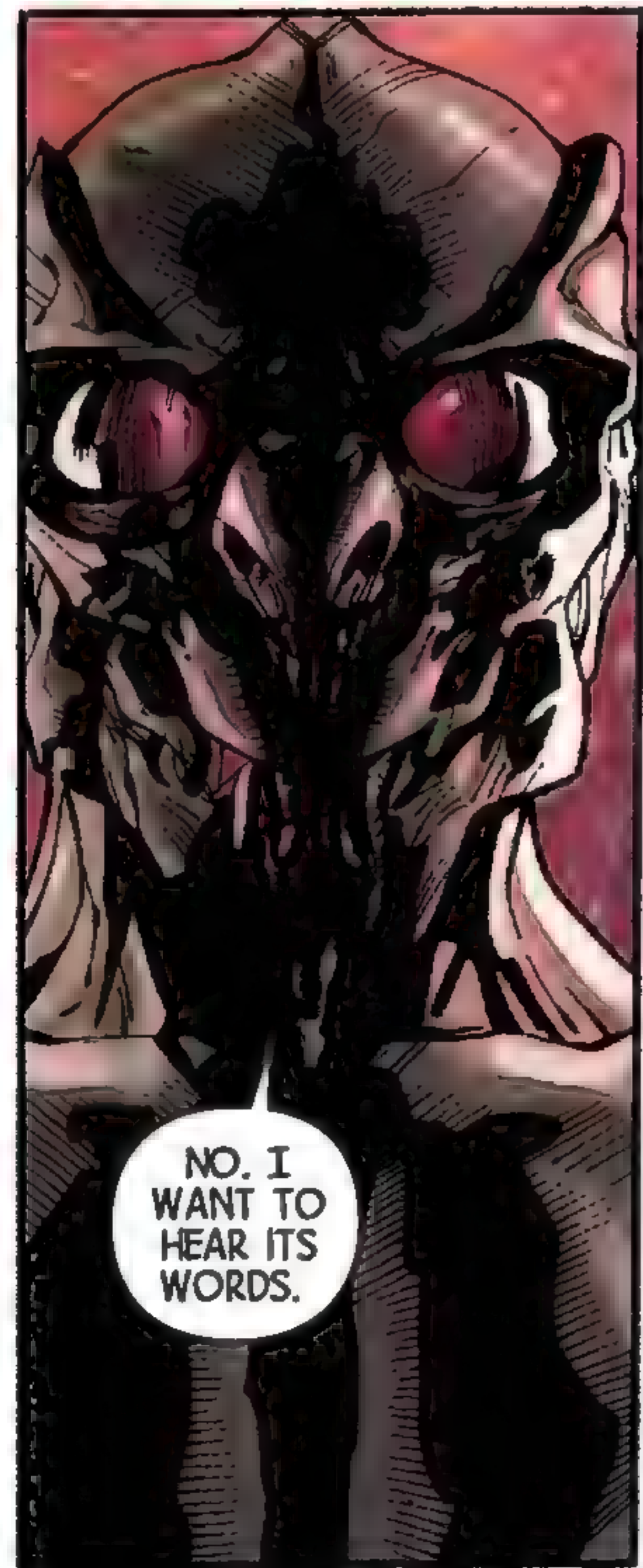
THEM?

DECLARATIVE: HERE IS THE SOLE PASSENGER FROM THE CAPTURED VESSEL.



DECLARATIVE: IT HAS A COMMUNICATION MECHANISM FUSED TO THE HOST. THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL WE DETECTED EARLIER.

QUERY: TERMINATE?



NO. I WANT TO HEAR ITS WORDS.

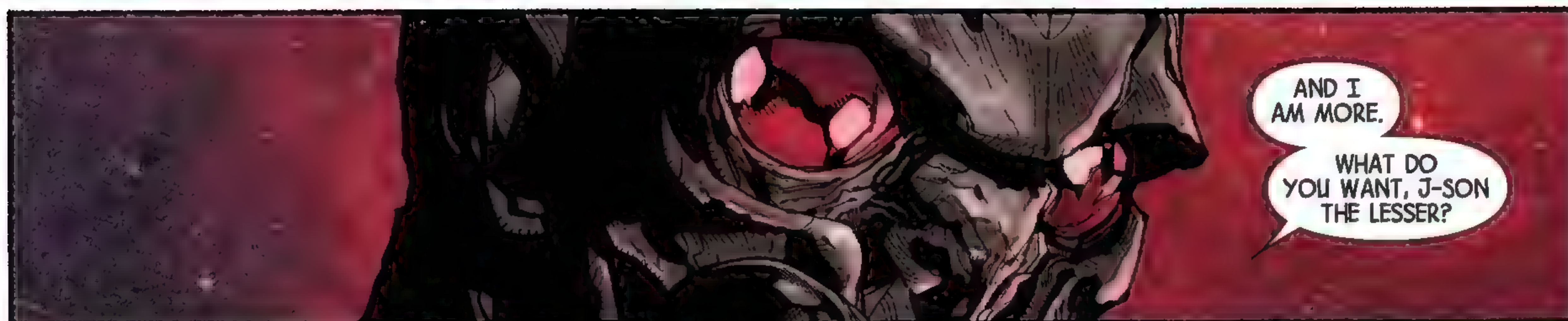


UGHFFF!



GREETINGS,
BUILDERS.

I AM J-SON,
KING OF THE
SPARTAX EMPIRE.



AND I
AM MORE.

WHAT DO
YOU WANT, J-SON
THE LESSER?



I SEEK...
A TRUCE.

TRUCE IMPLIES
WE BOTH HAVE
SOMETHING TO
GAIN AND
LOSE.

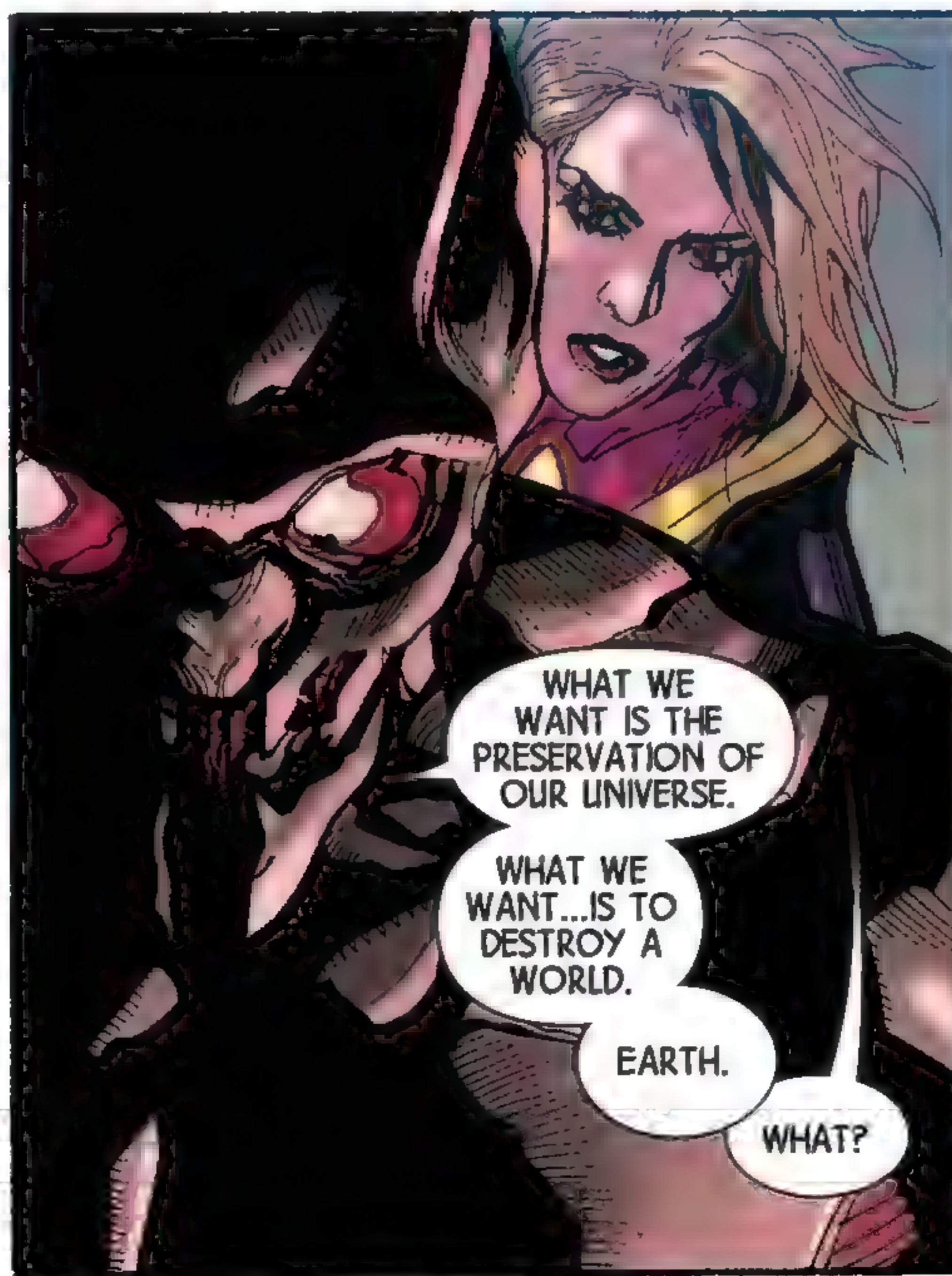
THIS DOES
NOT SEEM TO
BE OUR POSITION...
OR YOURS.

RIGHT NOW I
AM WITH ALL OF
THE OTHER COUNCIL
MEMBERS
PLANNING YOUR
DESTRUCTION.



I DO
NOT DENY THE
IMPRESSIVE NATURE
OF YOUR FLEET...
PERHAPS WE'LL FAIL, BUT
WE COULD GET LUCKY,
AFTER ALL...ALL
WAR IS RISK.

SO...
CERTAINLY,
THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING WE
CAN OFFER
YOU. CERTAINLY,
THERE MUST
BE SOMETHING
YOU WANT.



WHAT WE
WANT IS THE
PRESERVATION OF
OUR UNIVERSE.

WHAT WE
WANT...IS TO
DESTROY A
WORLD.

EARTH.

WHAT?



I KNEW
IT! ALL OF THIS...
OVER A USELESS,
BACKWATER...

I...I COULD
GIVE YOU EARTH.
I BELIEVE I COULD
DO THAT IF IT MEANS
YOU WOULD LEAVE MY
EMPIRE ALONE.

I WOULD
DO THAT IF IT
WOULD STOP THIS
WAR NOW.

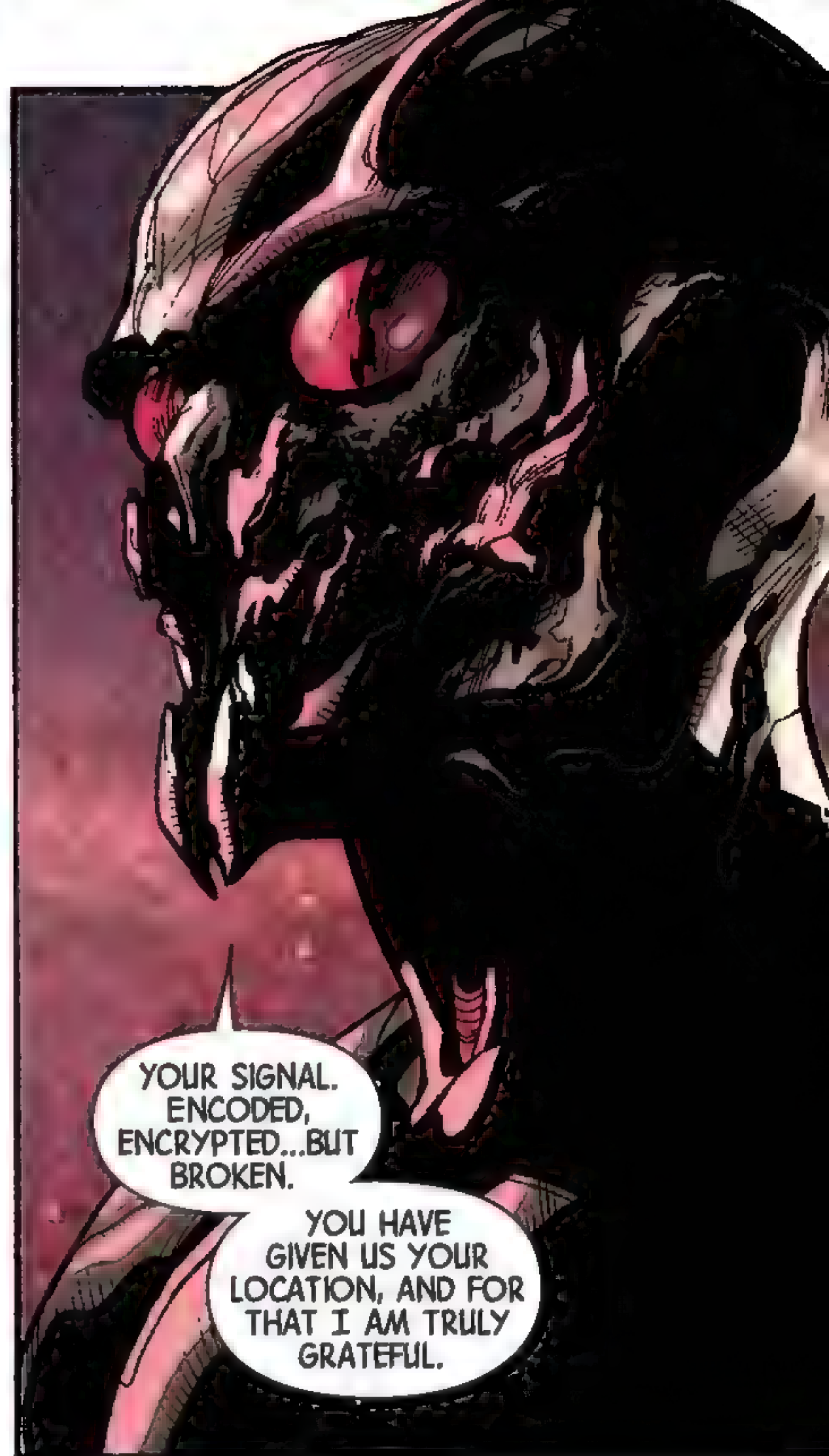


OH, YOU
INSIGNIFICANT
CREATURE...

THIS IS NOT
A WAR, IT IS A
CLEANSING...

AND WE DO
THANK YOU FOR
WHAT YOU HAVE
GIVEN US.

WHAT ARE
YOU--



YOUR SIGNAL.
ENCODED,
ENCRYPTED...BUT
BROKEN.

YOU HAVE
GIVEN US YOUR
LOCATION, AND FOR
THAT I AM TRULY
GRATEFUL.



QUERY: IS THIS
ONE AWARE OF WHAT
DAMAGE AN OBJECT
TRAVELLING AT 2 LIGHT
SPEED CAN CAUSE TO A
SUPERSTRUCTURE?



OH,
GODS...
NO.



DECLARATIVE:
YES.

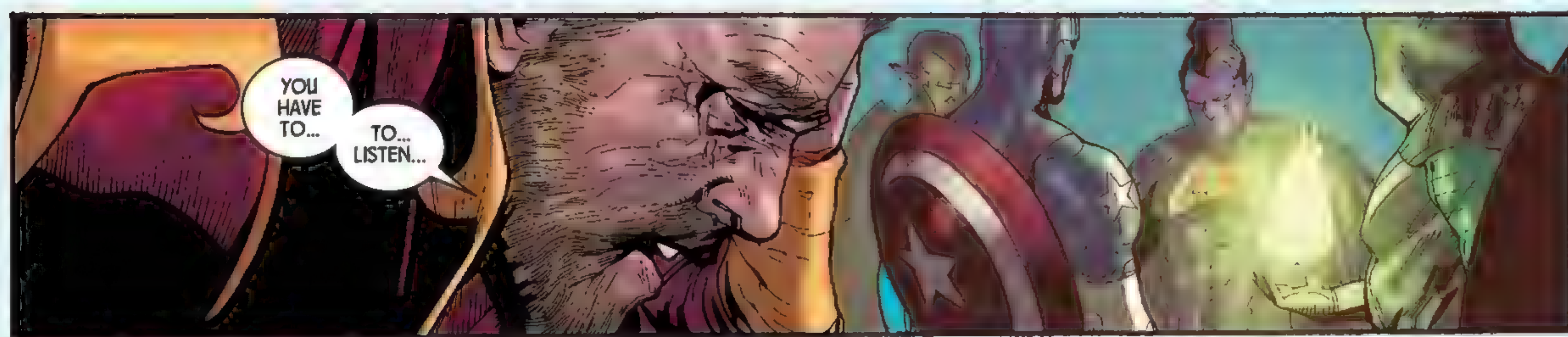


UGHH!



IT IS A GOOD PLAN, BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM...

IT WILL NOT WORK WITHOUT A BELIEVABLE FORWARD ACTION. THE PRICE WILL BE HIGH.



YOU HAVE TO...

TO... LISTEN...



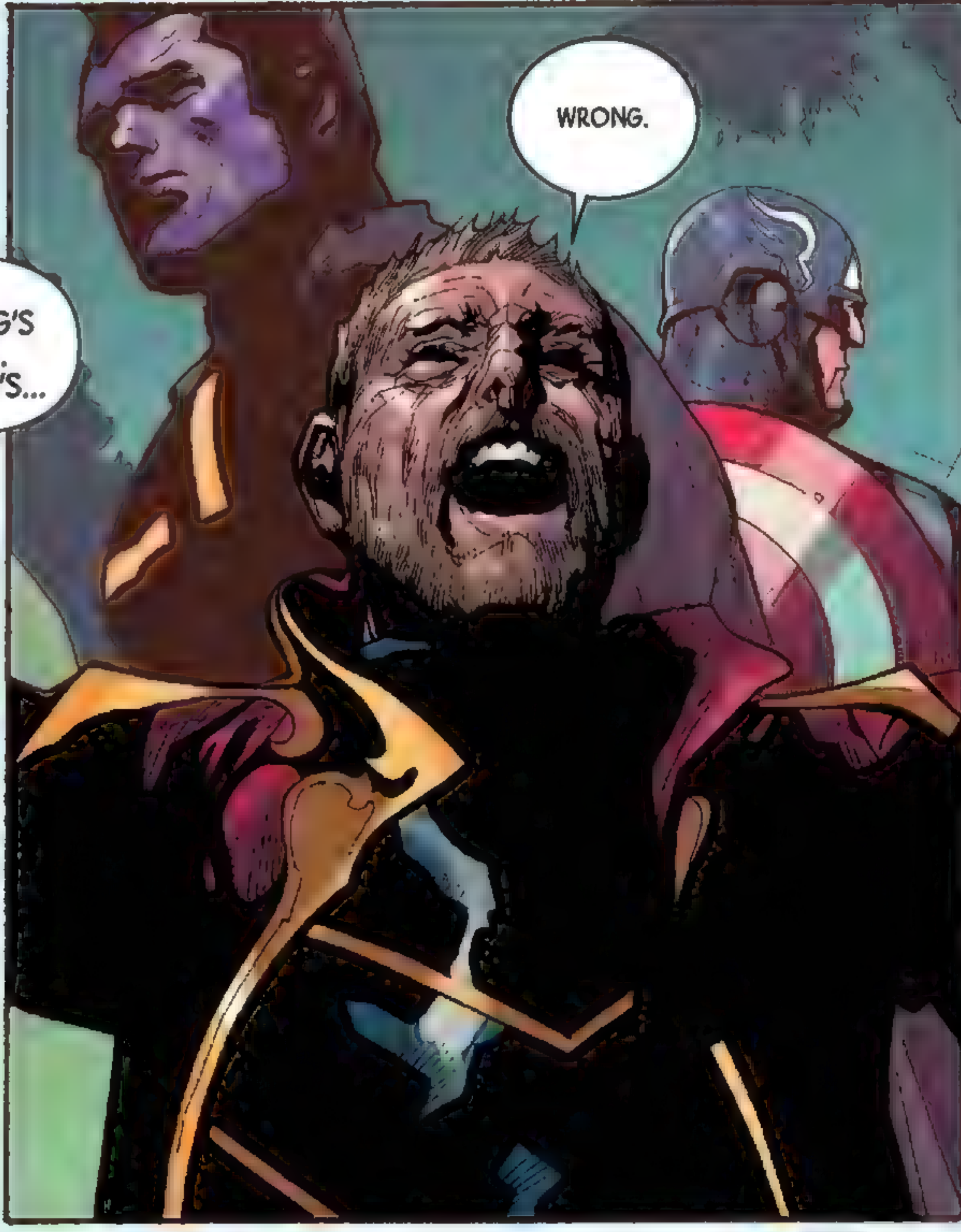
CAN WE PLEDGE THE FULL MIGHT OF THE ACCUSERS, RONAN?



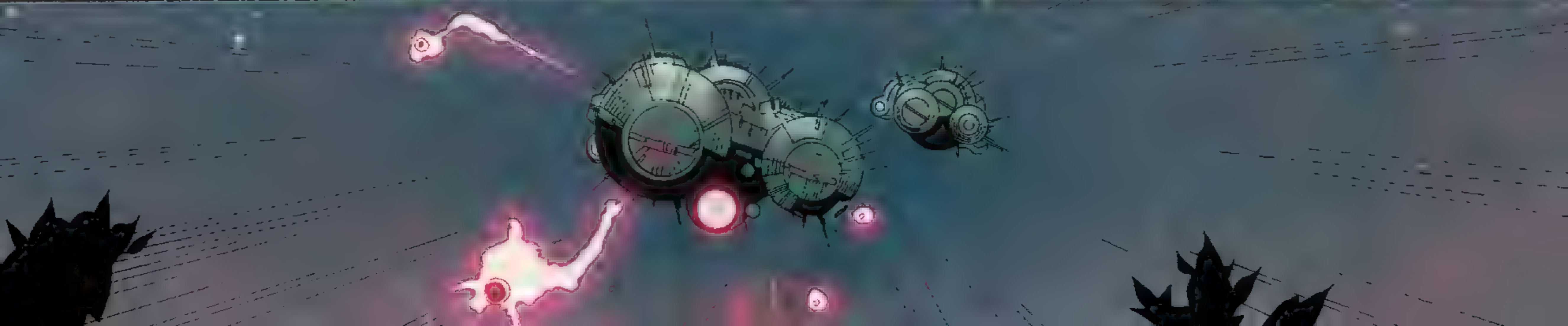
IF YOU CALL FOR IT, SUPREMOR, THE CORPS WILL ANSWER.

THEN IT IS SETTLED. WE WILL--

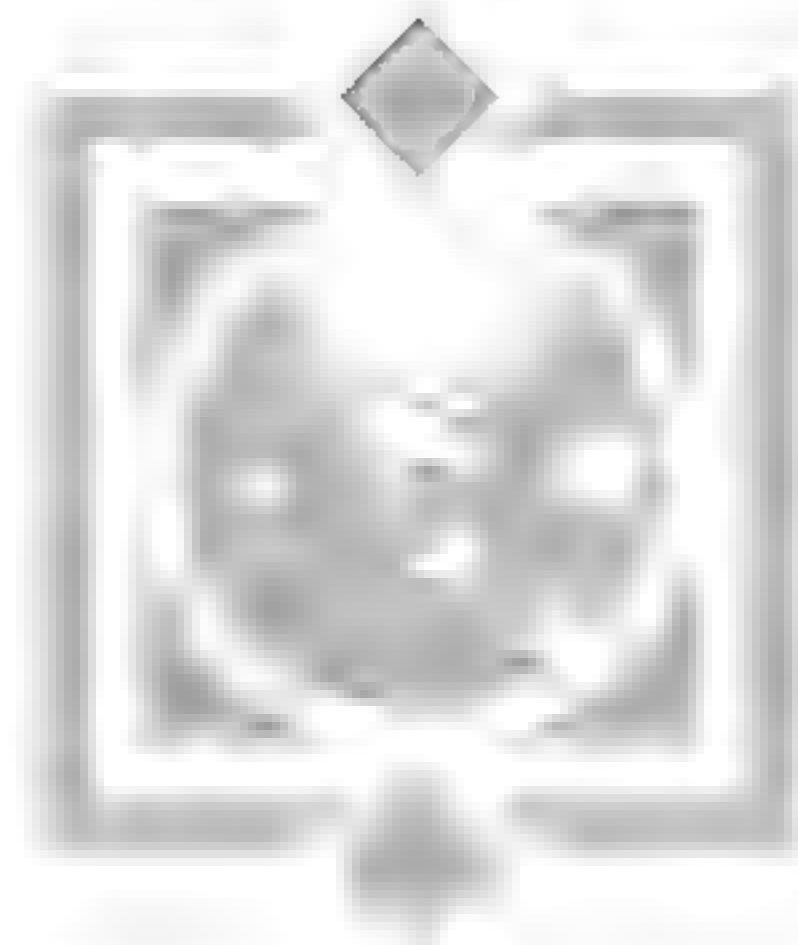
NO! SOMETHING'S WRONG... SOMETHING'S...



WRONG.

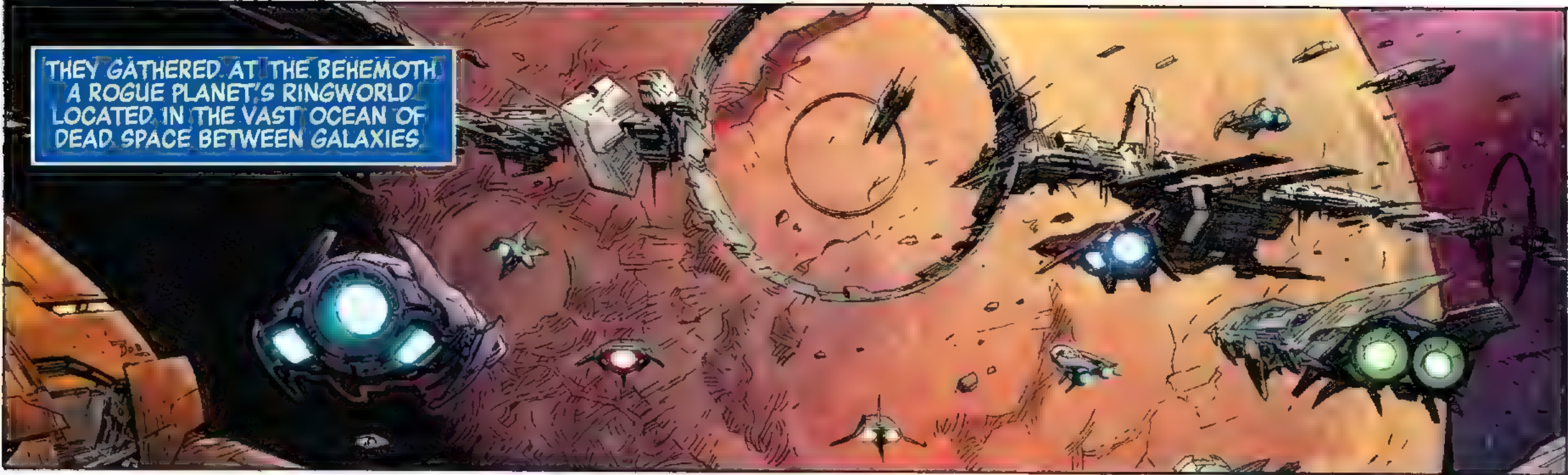






SUBMIT OR
PERISH





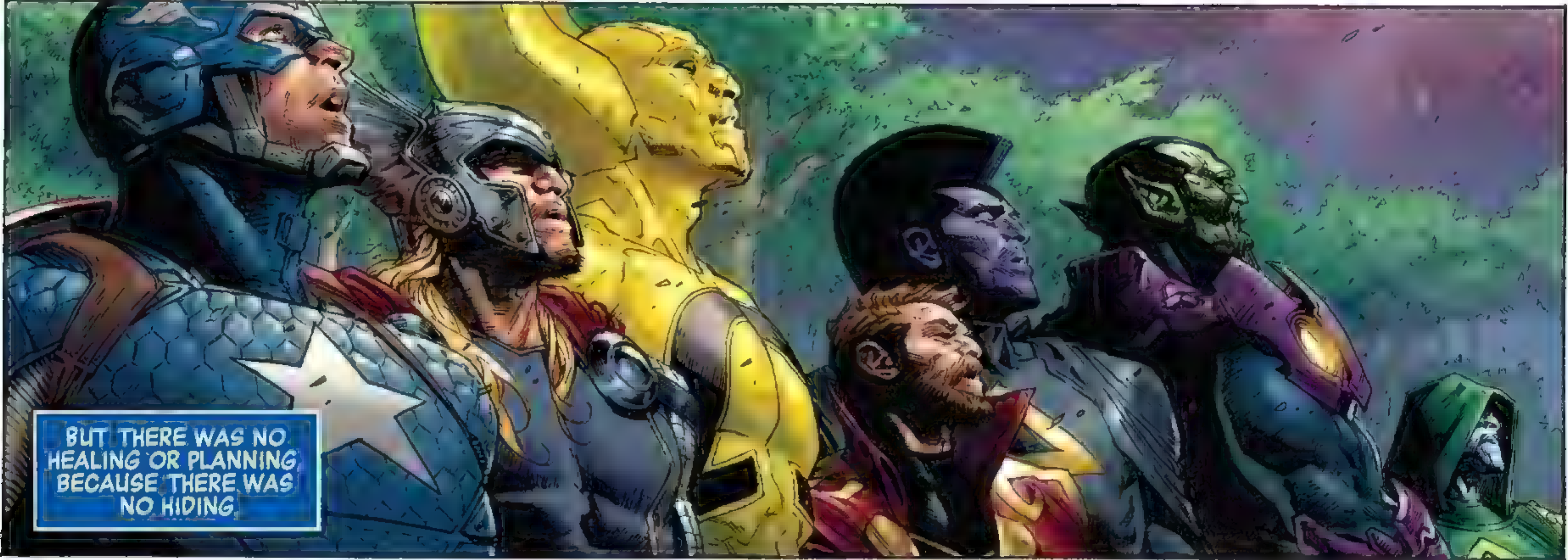
THEY GATHERED AT THE BEHEMOTH,
A ROGUE PLANET'S RINGWORLD
LOCATED IN THE VAST OCEAN OF
DEAD SPACE BETWEEN GALAXIES



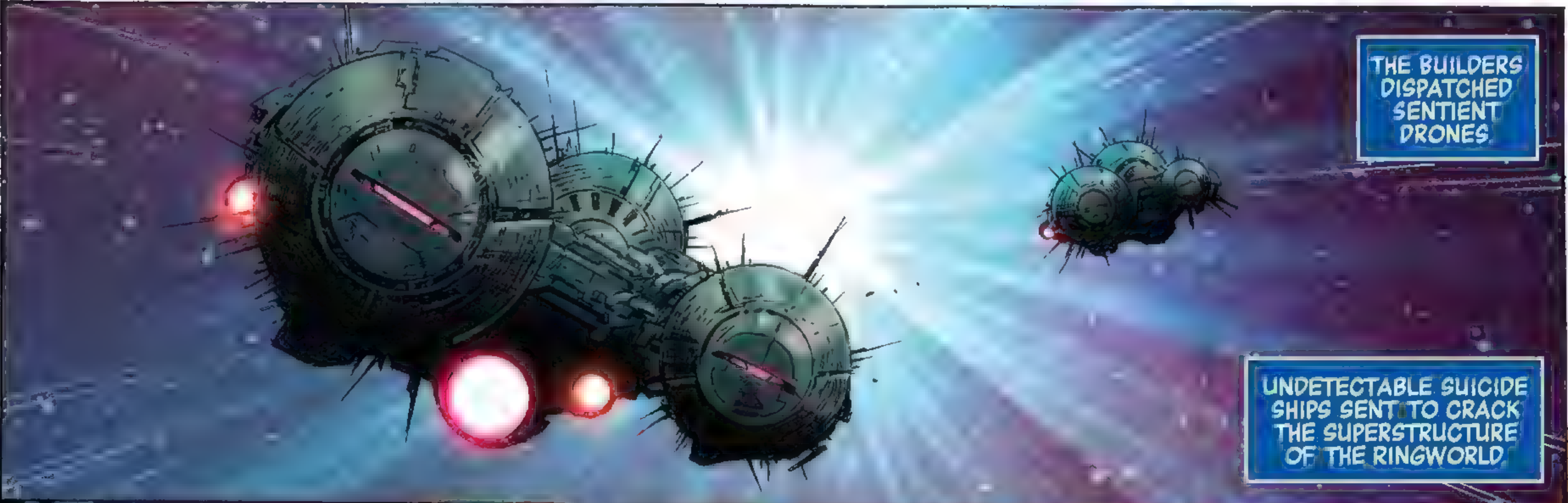
IT WAS A WAY STATION FOR BOTH
THE REFUGEES OF FALLEN WORLDS
AND THE BROKEN ARMADAS OF
THE GALACTIC COUNCIL

A PLACE TO HIDE WHERE
THEY COULD REGROUP,
THEY COULD HEAL

AND THEY
COULD PLAN

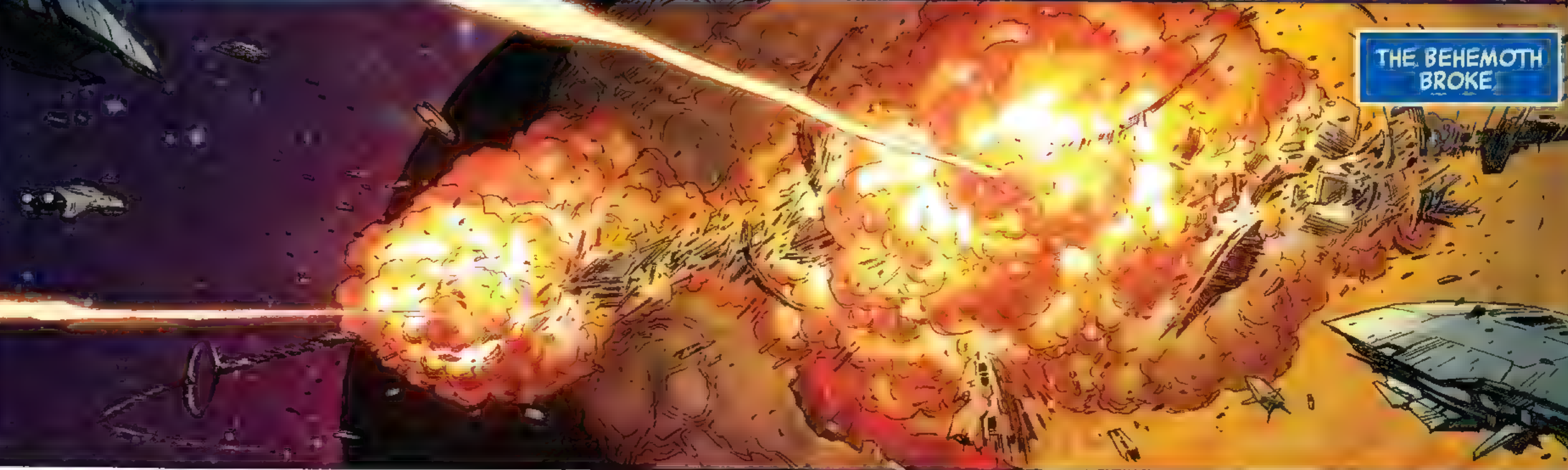


BUT THERE WAS NO
HEALING OR PLANNING
BECAUSE THERE WAS
NO HIDING

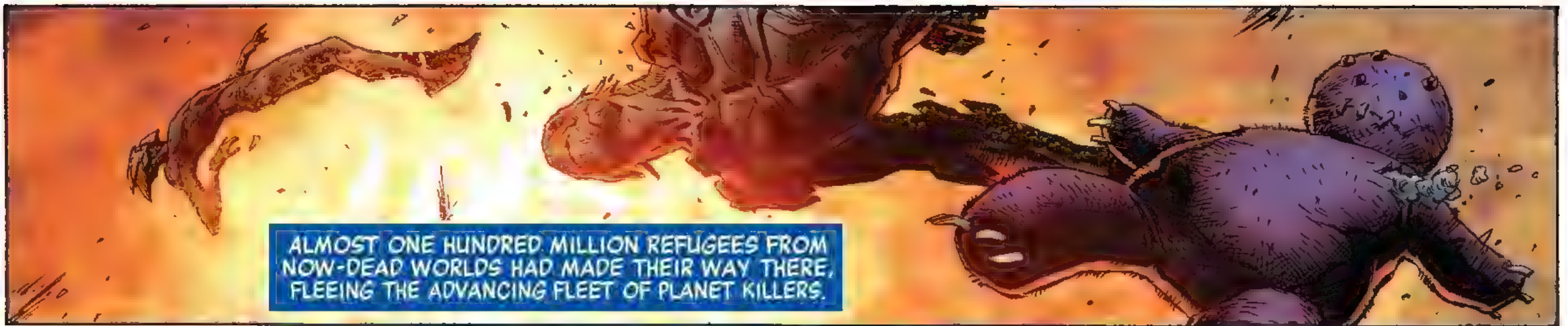


THE BUILDERS
DISPATCHED
SENTIENT
DRONES

UNDETECTABLE SUICIDE
SHIPS SENT TO CRACK
THE SUPERSTRUCTURE
OF THE RINGWORLD



THE BEHEMOTH
BROKE

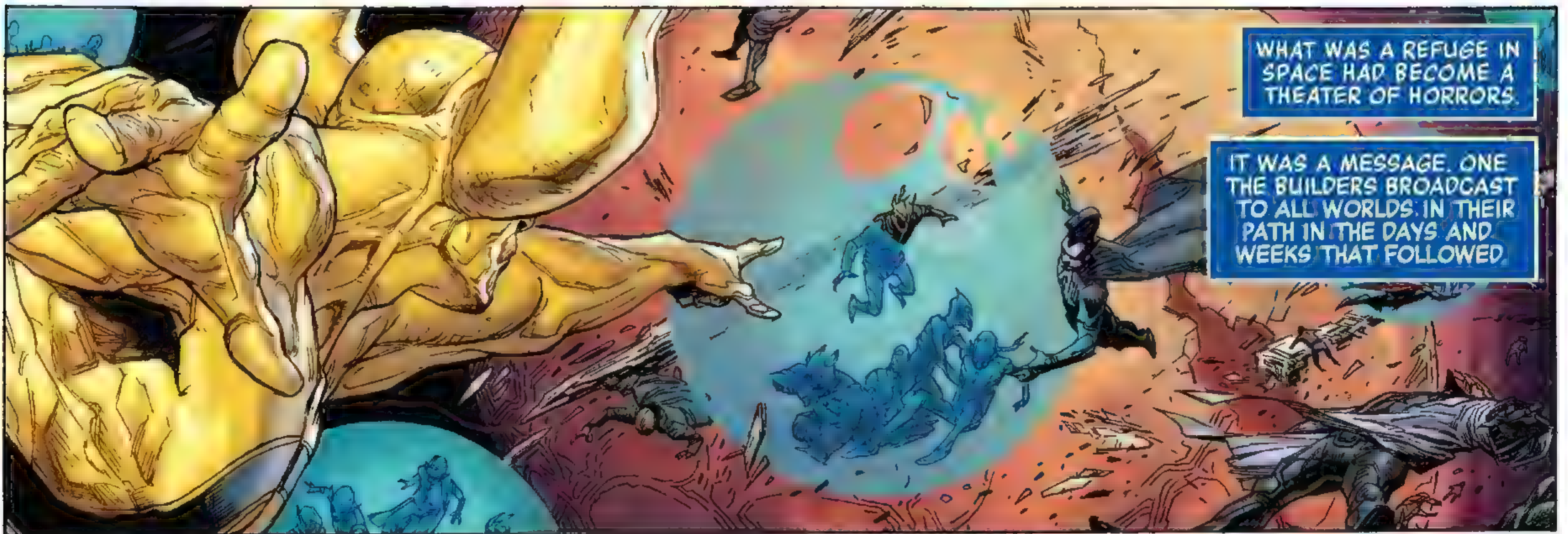


ALMOST ONE HUNDRED MILLION REFUGEES FROM NOW-DEAD WORLDS HAD MADE THEIR WAY THERE, FLEEING THE ADVANCING FLEET OF PLANET KILLERS.



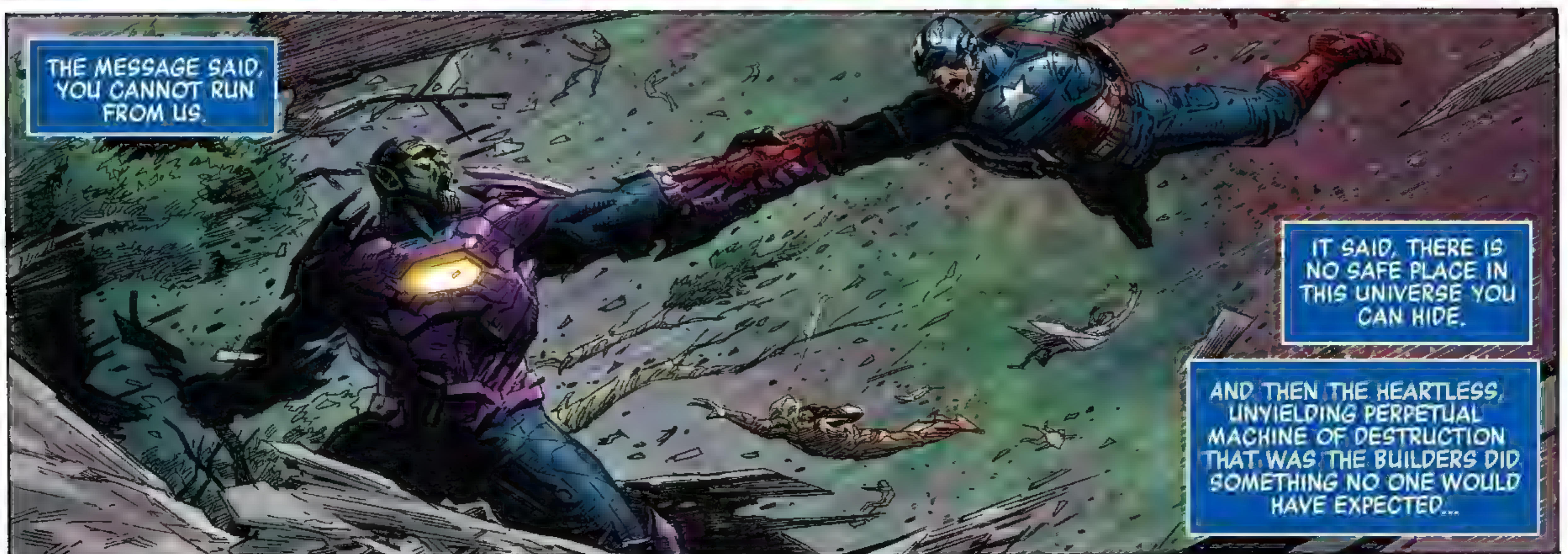
THE SUICIDE DRONES' DETONATION DESTROYED TWO FULL ARCS OF THE RING, AND CAUSED THE COLLAPSE OF THREE MORE.

OVER FORTY MILLION REFUGEES WERE LOST. LIFELESS BODIES TUMBLING THROUGH SPACE WAITING TO BE SNATCHED BY SOME GRAVITY WELL THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE.



WHAT WAS A REFUGE IN SPACE HAD BECOME A THEATER OF HORRORS.

IT WAS A MESSAGE. ONE THE BUILDERS BROADCAST TO ALL WORLDS IN THEIR PATH IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED.



THE MESSAGE SAID, YOU CANNOT RUN FROM US.

IT SAID, THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE IN THIS UNIVERSE YOU CAN HIDE.

AND THEN THE HEARTLESS, UNYIELDING PERPETUAL MACHINE OF DESTRUCTION THAT WAS THE BUILDERS DID SOMETHING NO ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED...



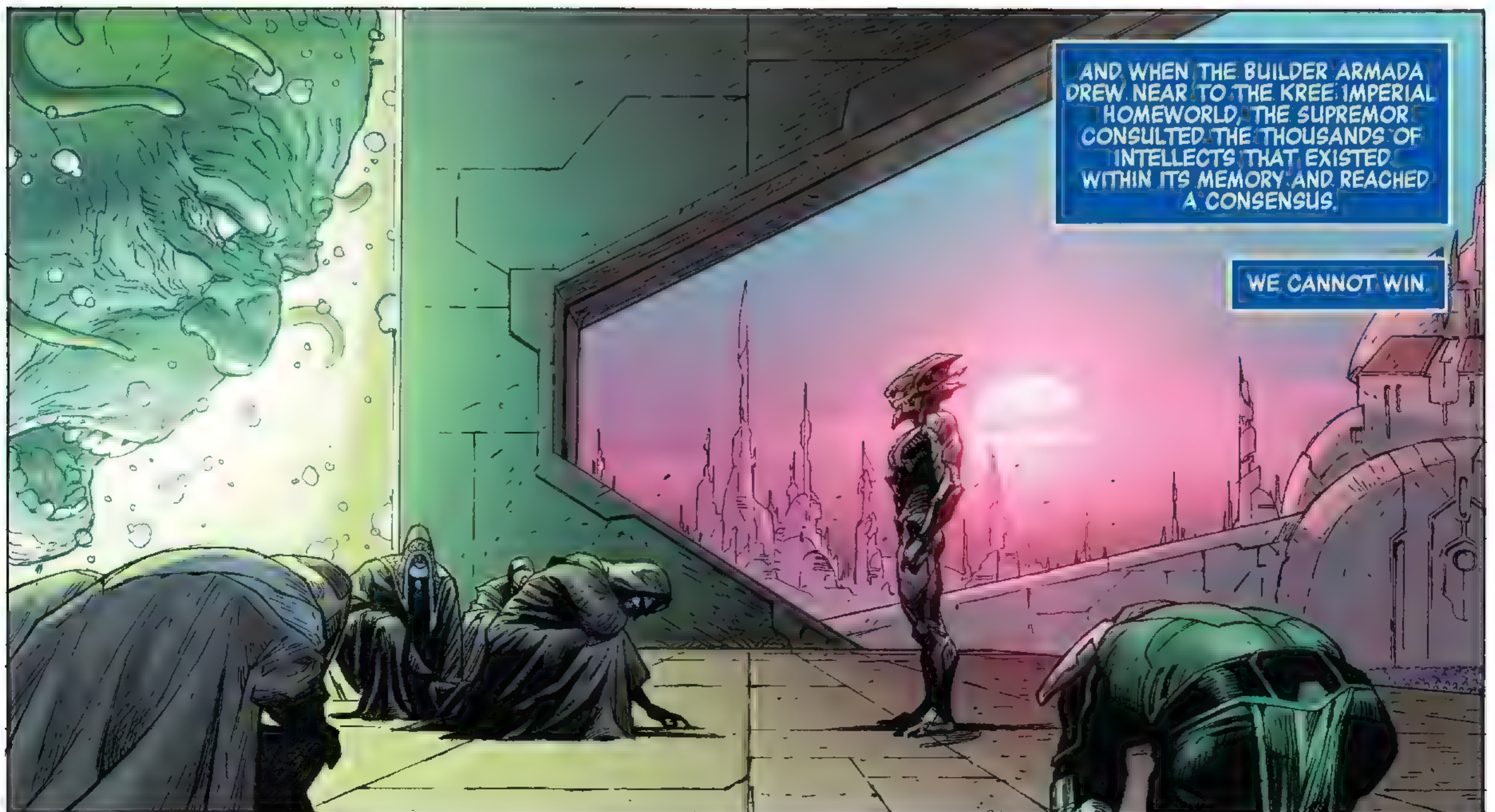
THEY OFFERED TERMS--
SURRENDER AND LIVE.

PROUD WORLDS, MILLENNIA OLD,
LOOKED AT THE FATE THAT HAD
BEFALLEN WORLDS EVEN OLDER
THAN THEY, AND MADE THE ONLY
ACCEPTABLE CHOICE WHEN
FACING DEATH.

LIFE. THE CENTAURIANS
KNEELED FIRST.



THE KYMELLIANS
FOLLOWED, AND ONE
HUNDRED WORLDS
FOLLOWED THEM.



AND WHEN THE BUILDER ARMADA
DREW NEAR TO THE KREE IMPERIAL
HOMELAND, THE SUPREMO
CONSULTED THE THOUSANDS OF
INTELLECTS THAT EXISTED
WITHIN ITS MEMORY AND REACHED
A CONSENSUS.

WE CANNOT WIN.



THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE HAS SURRENDERED.

I REQUESTED PERMISSION TO REMAIN HERE AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU, BUT IT SEEMS THE BUILDERS ARE REFUSING ANYTHING EXCEPT TOTAL AND COMPLETE SUBMISSION...

I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO RETURN HOME WITH WHAT REMAINS OF OUR FLEET.

THE REMNANTS OF THE BEHEMOTH.



SURRENDER IS A SHAMEFUL THING FOR A WARRIOR.

BETTER TO DIE HERE, FIGHTING ALONGSIDE YOU...BUT I DO NOT ANSWER ONLY TO MY CONSCIENCE.

DUTY, IT SEEMS, IS ALL I AM LEFT WITH.



TODAY I SEE LITTLE HONOR IN IT.

DIE WELL, HEROES... YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED.



THEN IT'S OVER. WE ARE CRIPPLED...AND WHAT WAS SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE NOW SEEMS TERMINAL--THE KREE REPRESENTED ONE-FOURTH OF OUR REMAINING FLEET.

THIS HAS BECOME POINTLESS...WE ARE GOING TO LOSE.

THE ONLY SANE COURSE OF ACTION IS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE BATTLE AS WELL. THE SPARTAX WILL FORTIFY OUR WORLDS--PREPARING FOR THE WORST. OUR SURVIVAL IS NOW ALL THAT MATTERS.



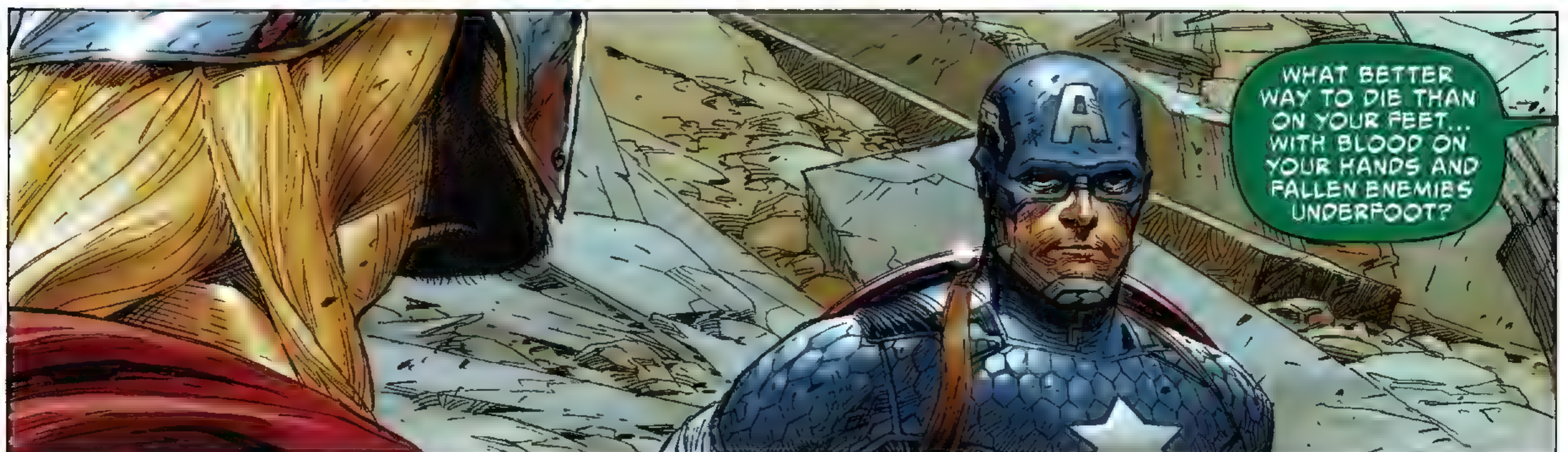
LIVE, BUT AS SOMETHING WE ARE NOT? NO.

THE SHI'AR WILL STAY AND FIGHT.

KL'RT?

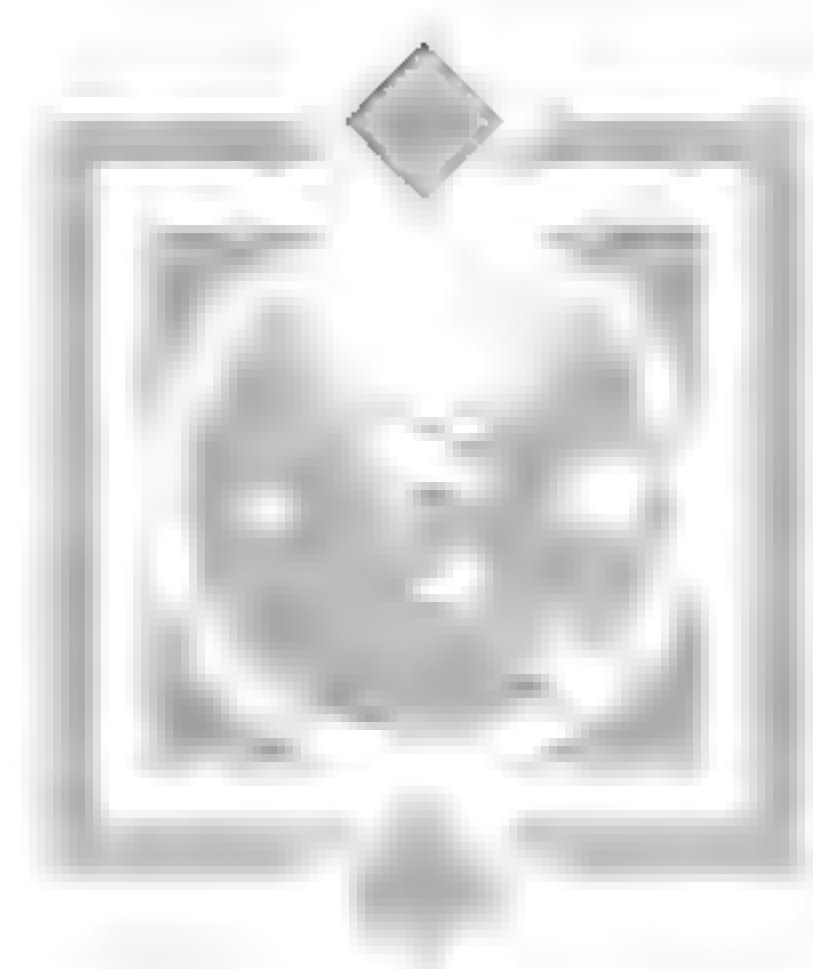
YOU CANNOT DOMESTICATE A H'LEARR. WE HAVE SEEN WHAT THESE BUILDERS ARE CAPABLE OF...THEY ARE PREDATORS POSING AS SOMETHING MERCIFUL.

AND EVEN IF I AM WRONG...



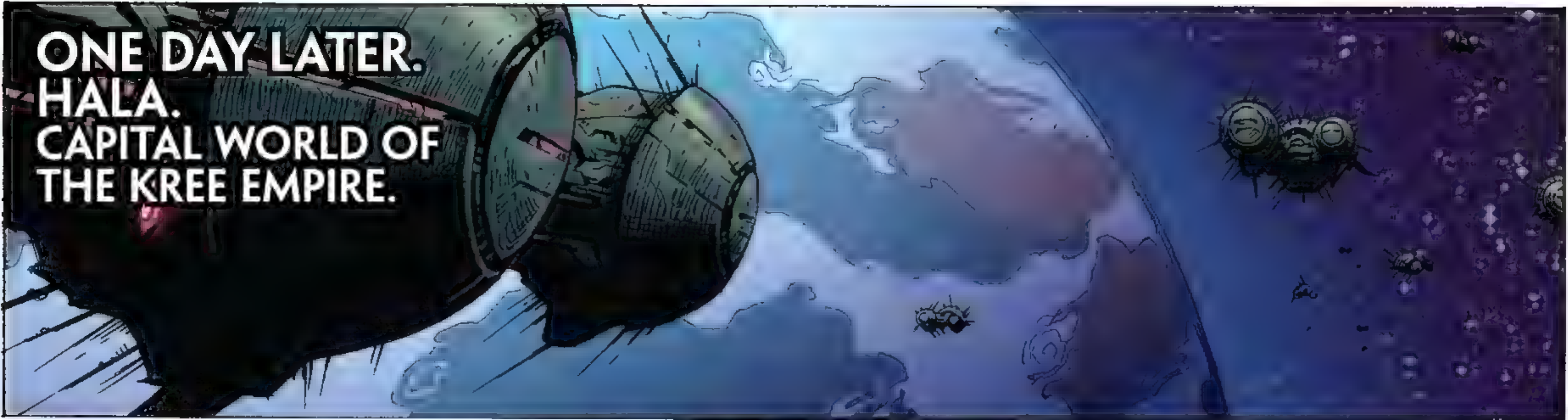
WHAT BETTER WAY TO DIE THAN ON YOUR FEET... WITH BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS AND FALLEN ENEMIES UNDERFOOT?





WORLD KILLERS





ONE DAY LATER.
HALA.
CAPITAL WORLD OF
THE KREE EMPIRE.



THE KREE FLEET HAS RETURNED.
THEIR WARMASTER, RONAN, IS LAYING
DOWN ARMS AS WE SPEAK.

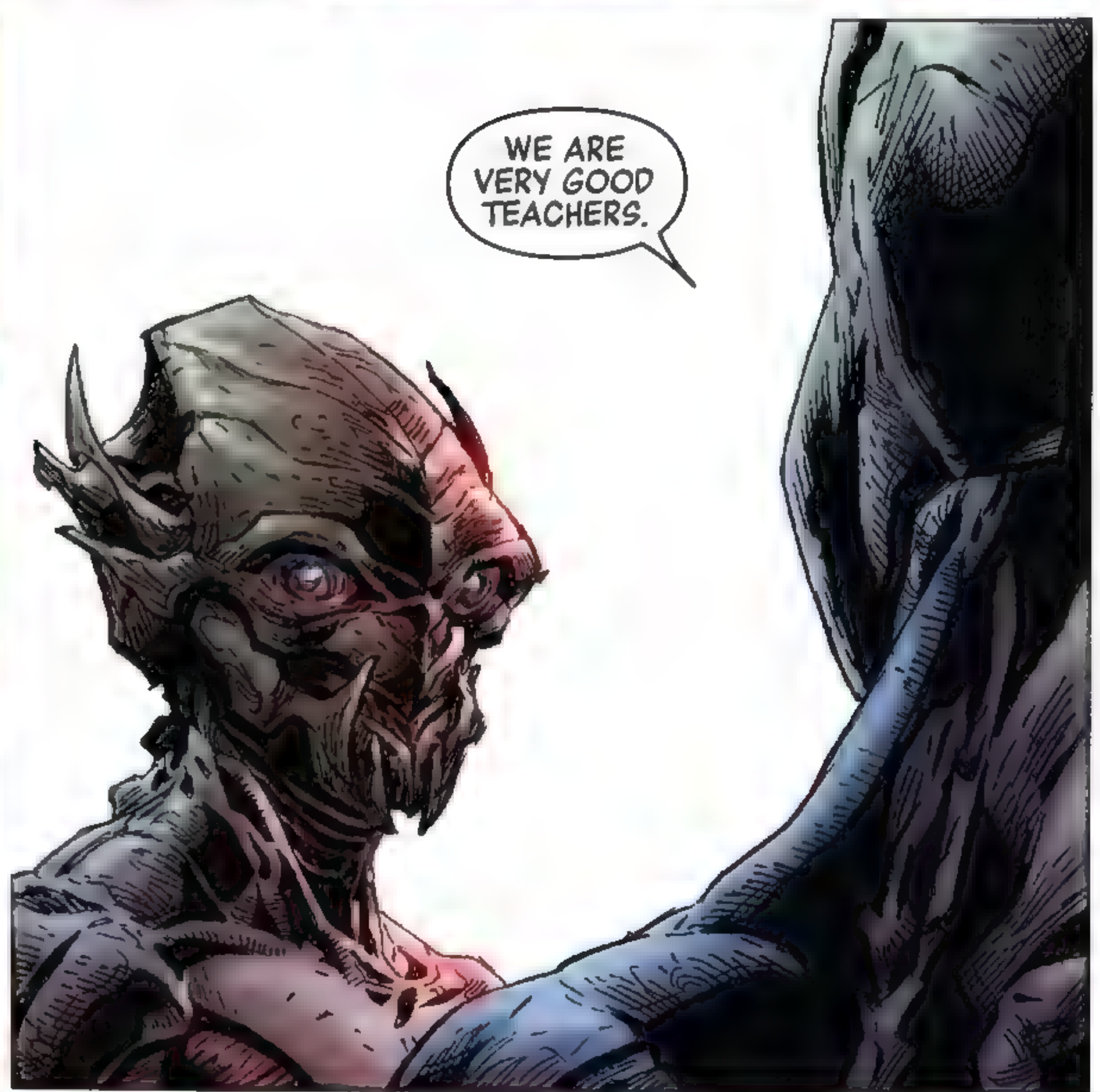
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU INSIST ON SUCH
PAGEANTRY. OUR
CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND
THE FLEET BE IN MOTION...
NOT STAGNANT.

CEREMONY
CALMS THE WATERS,
ENGINEER. IT SMOOTHS
THE JOURNEY...



"WHEN A WORLD SURRENDERS,
IT IS NOT TO AN ARMY, AND
NOT BECAUSE OF A SHOW OF
FORCE--IT IS TO A SINGLE BUILDER.

"SEE, WE ARE TEACHING THEM, ENGINEER--
IT ONLY TAKES ONE BUILDER TO BREAK A
WORLD...ONE OF US, TO HUMBLE AN EMPIRE."



WE ARE
VERY GOOD
TEACHERS.



SIGNATURE: 123.780
SIGNATURE: 120.981
SIGNATURE: 119.972
SIGNATURE: 119.883

SIGNATURE:
116.854

SIGNATURE:
115.843

BUILDERS...A
MASS OF SHIPS HAS
JUST ENTERED THE
SYSTEM.

THEY ARE
RIGHT ON TOP
OF US...



"IT IS THE
ENEMY FLEET."

WHY? THEY
MUST KNOW
THEY CANNOT
WIN.

WE HAVE HARRIED
THE BEAST TO ITS
BREAKING POINT,
ENGINEER--THIS IS THE
ANIMAL INSTINCT
TO FIGHT.

THESE
CHILDREN CRAVE
INSTRUCTION...



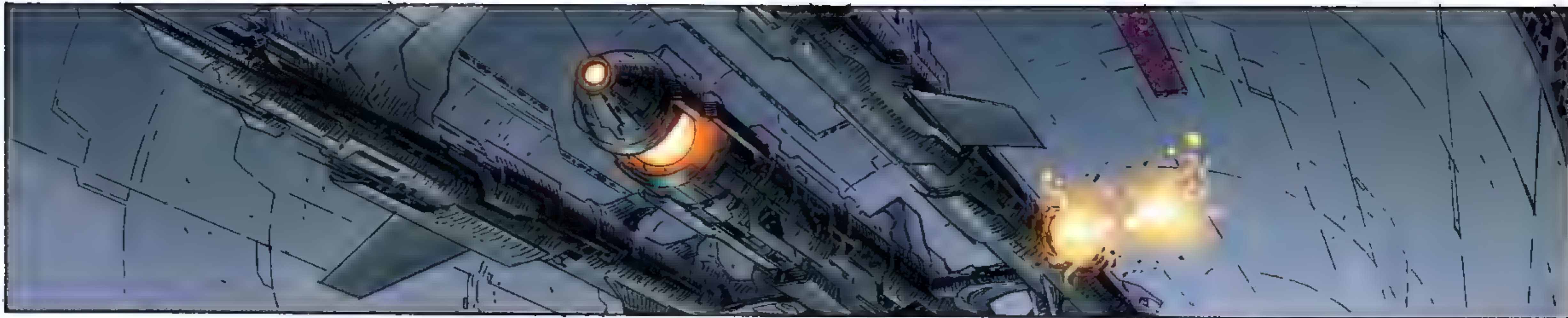
"SO LET US BEGIN
THEIR FINAL LESSON."



THEY'VE SENT THE BULK
OF THEIR ATTACK VESSELS
RIGHT TOWARDS US...ONLY
THE PLANET KILLERS HAVE
REMAINED BEHIND WITH
THE COMMAND SHIP.

IT SEEMS
THE BUILDERS
HAVE TAKEN
YOUR BAIT,
CAPTAIN.

GO.



IT'S BANNER.
WE'RE IN,
STEVE.

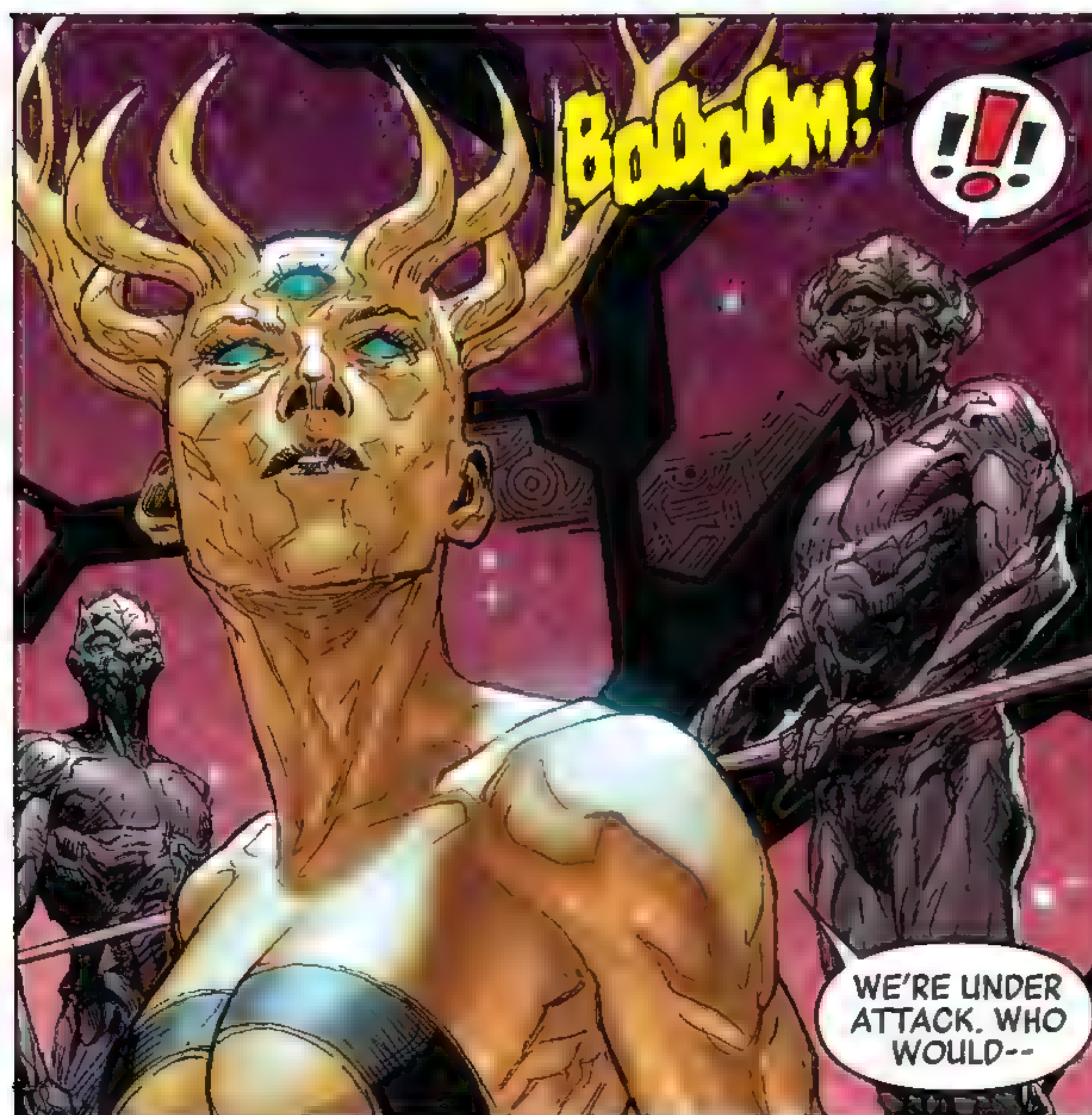
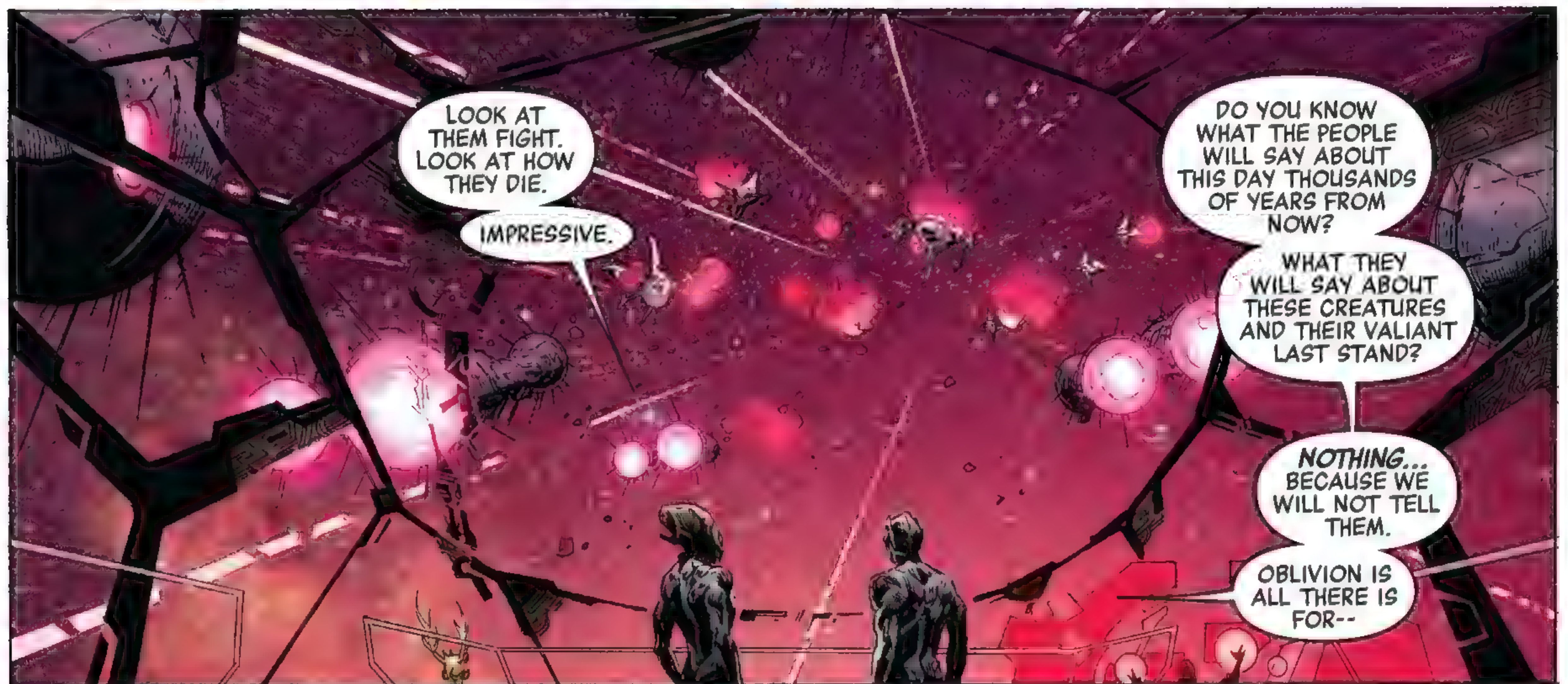
MANIFOLD BREACHED THE HULL AND SPACED
MOST OF THE CREW...WORKING ON ACCESSING
THE SYSTEM NOW.

CHAOTIC
ENCODING...IF WE
CAN'T USE FRIENDLY
CODES FROM THIS
MODIFIED ALEPH,
WE WON'T BREAK
IT IN TIME.

OKAY...



CAP...IT'S
GOING TO BE
TIGHT...
HOLD ON
AS LONG AS
YOU CAN.



"IT'S OUR OWN SHIPS."

"ONE OF THE WORLD KILLERS IS FIRING ON THE OTHERS."



LILANDRA...

WE HAVE BROKEN INTO THE BUILDER CONTROL SYSTEM ON THE WORLD KILLER...I'VE WIDECASTED THE FIRING CODES...



RRRRRRRR!

BUT OUR USEFULNESS HERE MAY HAVE BEEN SHORT-LIVED.

WE'VE LOST CONTROL OF THE WORLD KILLER'S WEAPON SYSTEMS.



THEY'VE DESTROYED TWO OF THE ENEMY PLANET KILLERS, BUT DID YOU HEAR...THEY'VE LOST CONTROL....

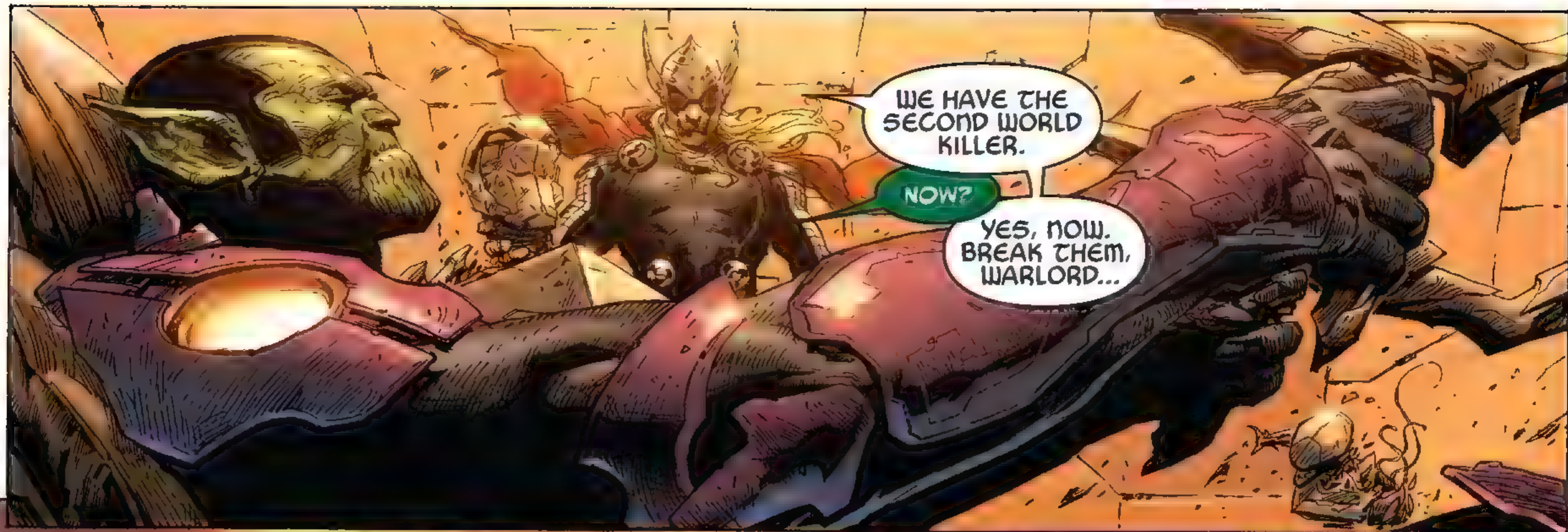
YEAH.

GOOD THING I SENT THE SECOND TEAM.

THOR...DO YOU HAVE CONTROL YET?

AYE.





WE HAVE THE
SECOND WORLD
KILLER.

NOW?

YES, NOW.
BREAK THEM,
WARLORD...

"STRIKE LIKE
LIGHTNING ON THE
DARKEST NIGHT,
SCORCH THE
HEAVENS..."

"RAIN FIRE
DOWN ON
THEM."



WE HAVE LOST EIGHT OF THE
GREAT WEAPONS, BUILDERS--AND
OUR COMMAND SHIP IS SHIELDLESS
AND NOW INCAPABLE OF ESCAPING
THIS THEATER OF BATTLE.

THE ROGUE PLANET
KILLERS HAVE TURNED
TO FIRING AT THE
FLEET.

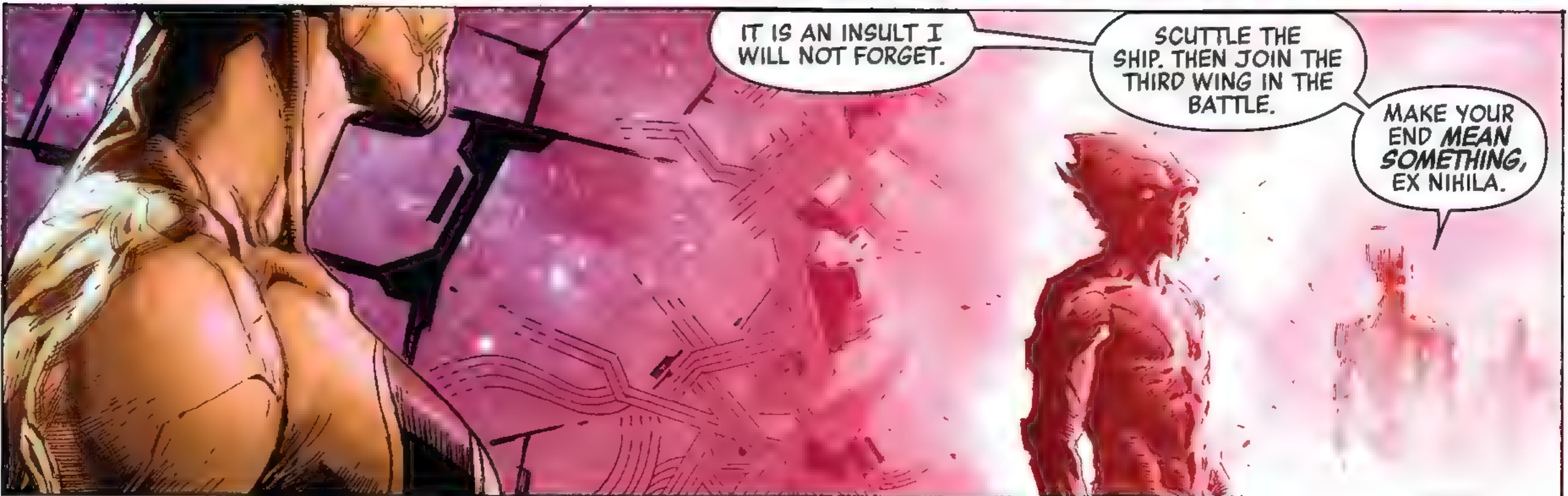
WHAT ARE
YOUR COMMANDS,
CREATOR?



GIVE THE ORDER FOR THE BULK OF THE VESSELS
TO LEAVE THE SYSTEM. THE THIRD WING IS TO
STAY HERE TO DEAL WITH THE RABBLE
AS BEST THEY CAN.

YOU MUST LEAVE AS
WELL, CREATOR...THIS SHIP
WILL NOT LAST LONG
AGAINST THE GREAT
WEAPONS.

WE HAVE
BEEN STUNG HERE
TODAY...



IT IS AN INSULT I
WILL NOT FORGET.

SCUTTLE THE
SHIP. THEN JOIN THE
THIRD WING IN THE
BATTLE.

MAKE YOUR
END *MEAN*
SOMETHING,
EX NIHILA.



MOST OF THE
BUILDER FLEET IS
JUMPING OUT
OF THE SYSTEM,
MAJESTOR.

THANK THE
GODS.

NOT
QUITE
YET.

GIVE ME SOME
GOOD NEWS, EDEN.



WE'VE
LIBERATED THEM,
SIR.

ACKNOWLEDGED.
I WANT YOU TO
JUMP EVERYONE
OUT OF THERE,
RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE STILL
IN THE MIDDLE OF
A FIRE FIGHT.



OKAY. CAP
SAYS WE'VE
GOT TO GO.
NOW.

EVERYONE
GET--

WAIT.
HOLD ON...

THERE'S STILL
A BATTLE GOING
ON OUT THERE...

PEOPLE--OUR
FRIENDS, OUR
COMRADES--ARE
DYING. IT'S TIME,
KEVIN.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKIN--

THAT THING IN YOUR
HAND--WHAT YOU ARE--
THE STARBRAND...YOU
HAVE THE POWER TO
END THIS.

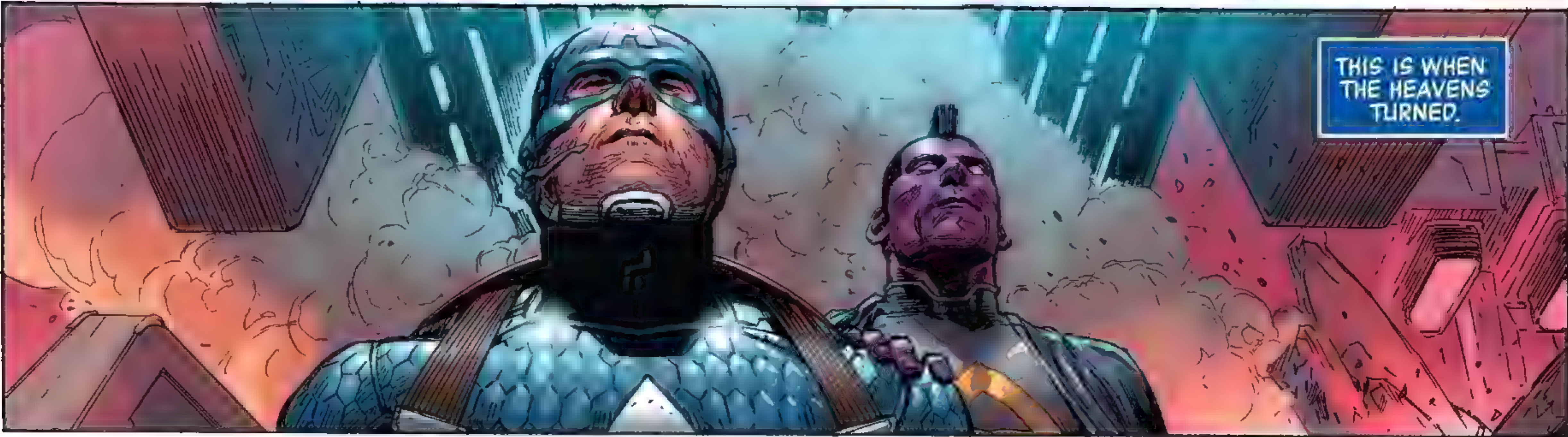
EVER SINCE YOU
GOT THE BRAND,
YOU'VE BEEN ASKING
YOURSELF "WHY ME?"...
WELL, WHY DON'T
YOU SHOW US?



I CAN
TRY.

I THINK
YOU CAN DO
A HELL OF A LOT
MORE THAN
THAT...

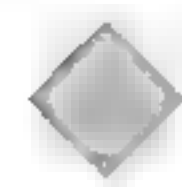




THIS IS WHEN
THE HEAVENS
TURNED.



WHAT MAXIMUS
BUILT



EARTH.

THERE IS NO LAW
AMONG THE LAWLESS.

AS THE EYES OF THANOS
TURNED TO ATTILAN, HIS
ARMY OF PIRATES AND
BUTCHERS CONTINUED TO
PLUNDER THE WORLD.



THIS, HOWEVER, WAS
EARTH, AND SHE WAS
NO EASY PREY--SHE
WAS A PLANET FULL
OF HEROES.

THOSE THAT
WOULD FIGHT...LIKE
LIGHTNING.



THOSE THAT
STOOD TOGETHER,
AS THE MIGHTY!



BUT WHAT OF
THE ILLUMINATI'S
SEARCH FOR
THANOS' SON?

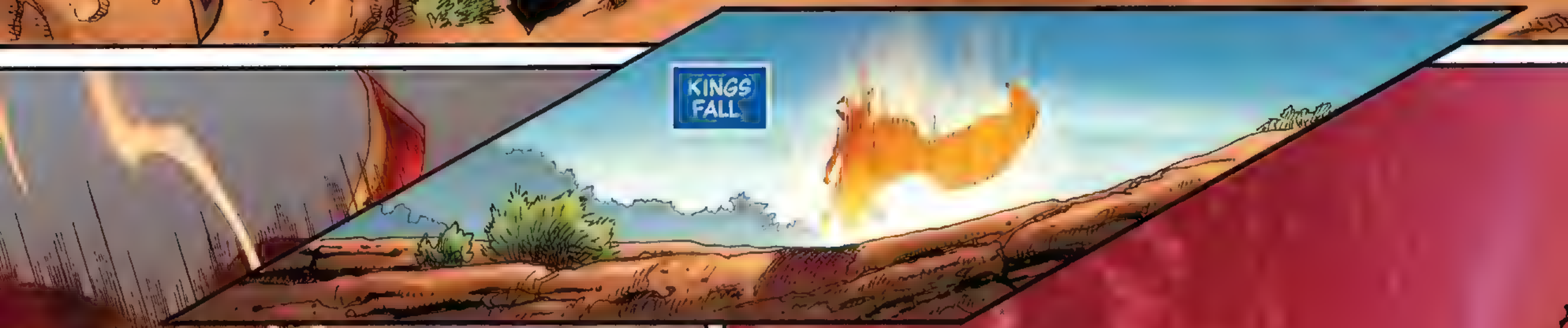
INTERRUPTED BY
AN EVEN GREATER
THREAT.

THE INCURSION OF
ANOTHER PARALLEL
UNIVERSE.

EMPIRES
COLLAPSE



KINGS
FALL



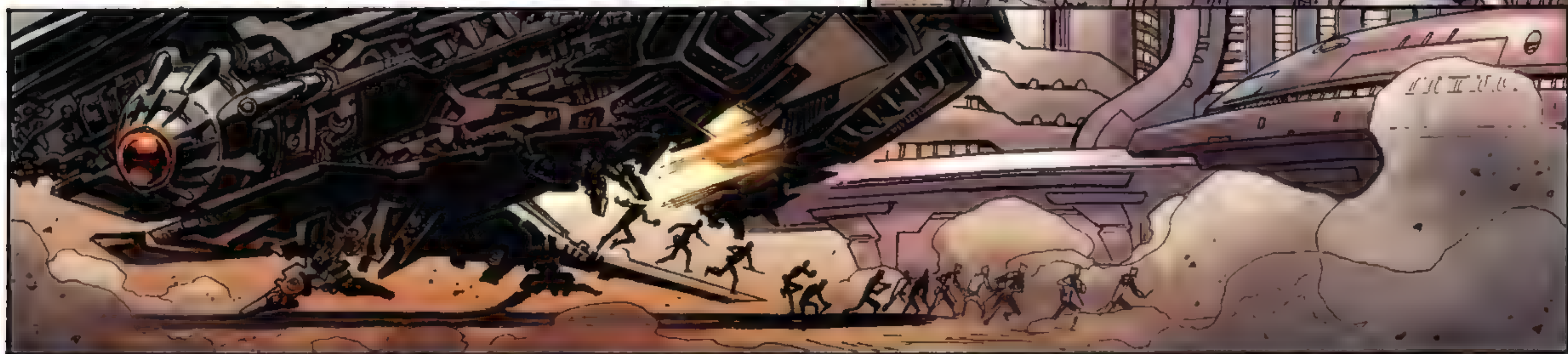
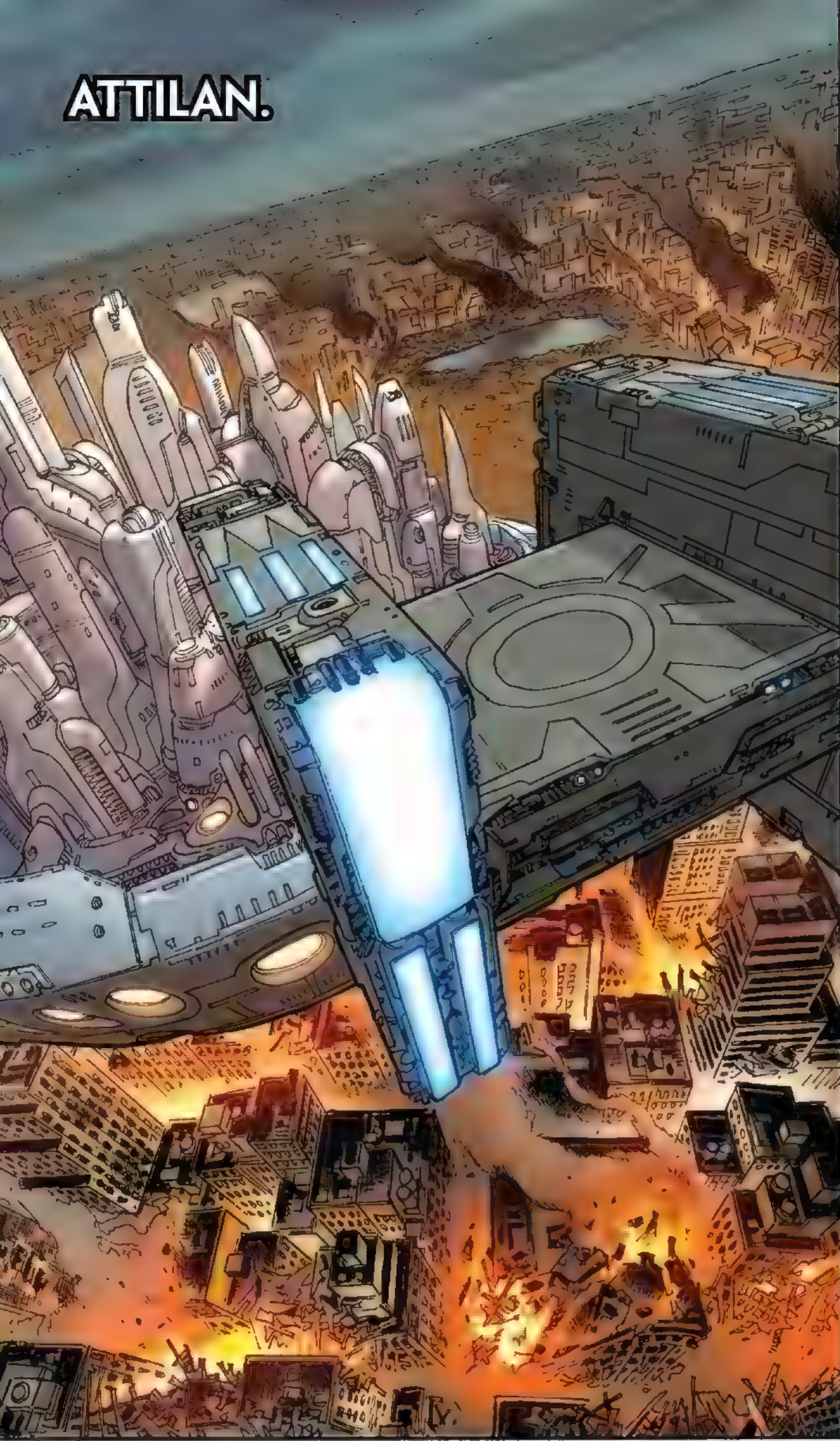
AND MEN
PERISH

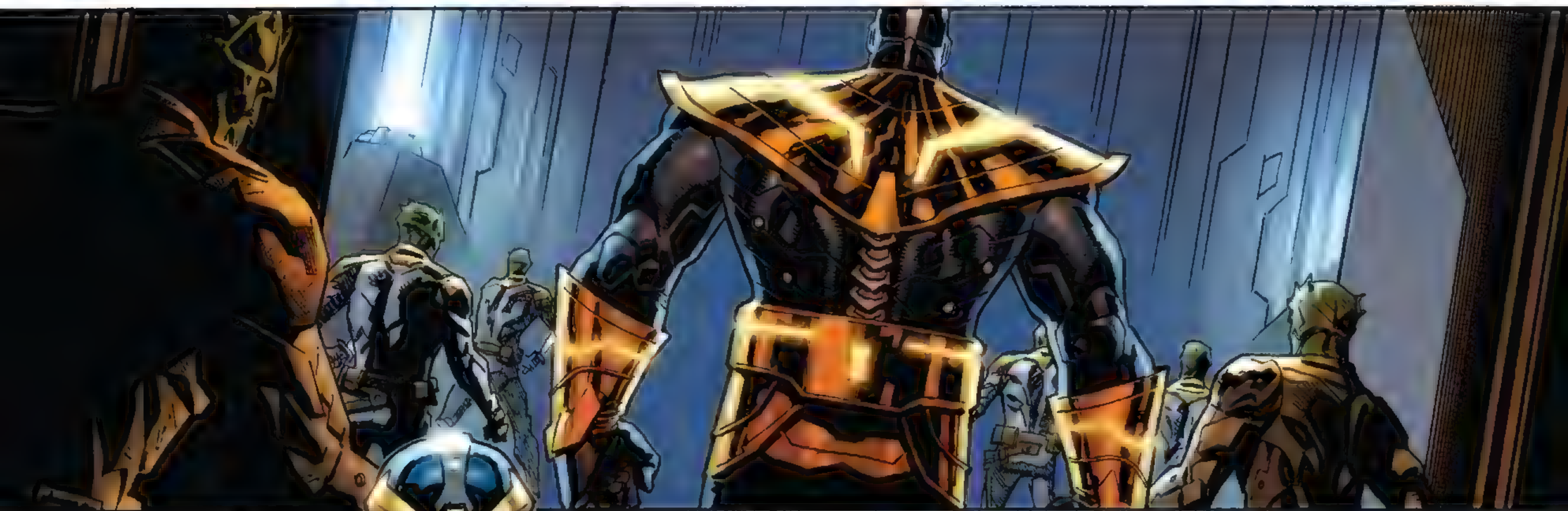
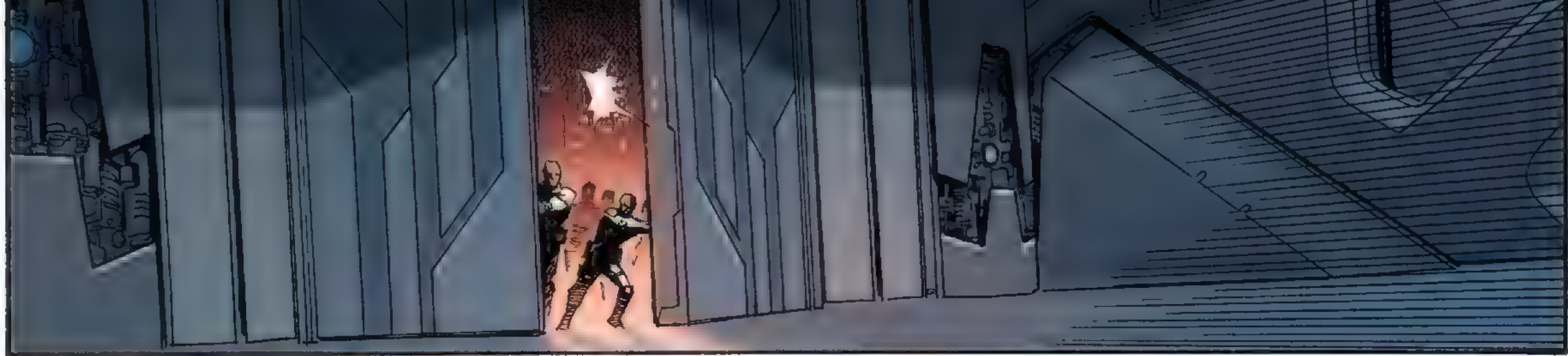


EVERYTHING
DIES



ATTILAN.





DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF ATILAN.

IT'S THE FALL OF EMPIRES.

HURRY...

NOT LONG NOW BEFORE IT ALL TUMBLES DOWN.

SO I HAVE TO SEND YOU OFF, SISTER. THE KING HAS...SPOKEN.

WHERE IS ELDRAC SENDING US, MAXIMUS?

SOMEWHERE FAR FROM HERE...

AND EACH TRIP, TO SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT.

WHERE YOU ARE GOING, MEDUSA...IS RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.

BUT WHEN YOU GET THERE, MAKE SURE YOU LOOK UP INTO THE SKY...

"...IT'S GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF A SHOW."



RUFF.

INDEED.



THEY ALL SAY
THIS IS THE GOLDEN
AGE OF OUR PEOPLE,
LOCKJAW.

I CALL IT
SOMETHING
ELSE...

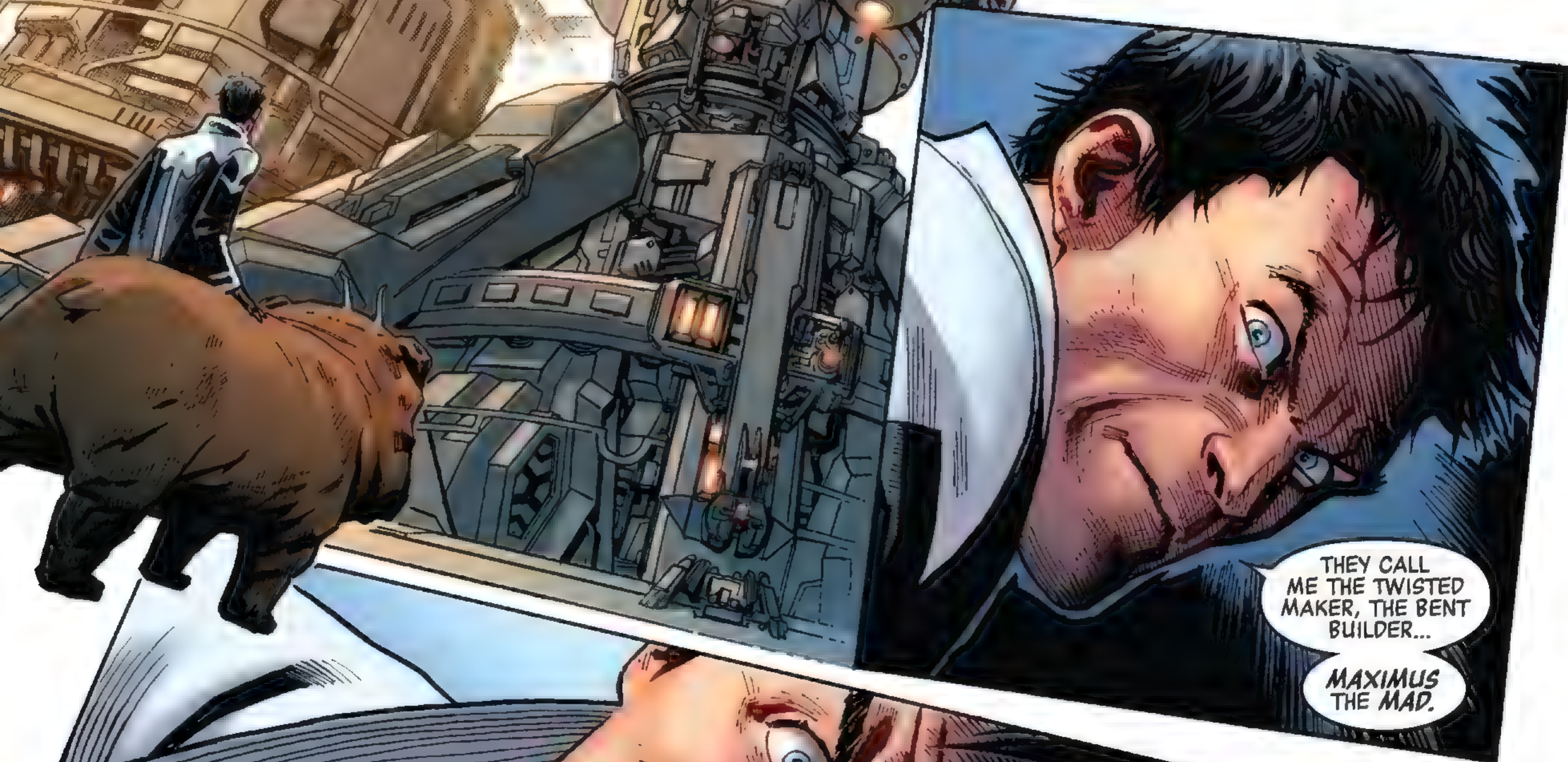


THE LAST
INHUMAN
AGE.

LOOK
AT ALL THE
THINGS WE HAVE
BUILT...



LOOK AT
WHAT WE HAVE
CREATED.



THEY CALL
ME THE TWISTED
MAKER, THE BENT
BUILDER...

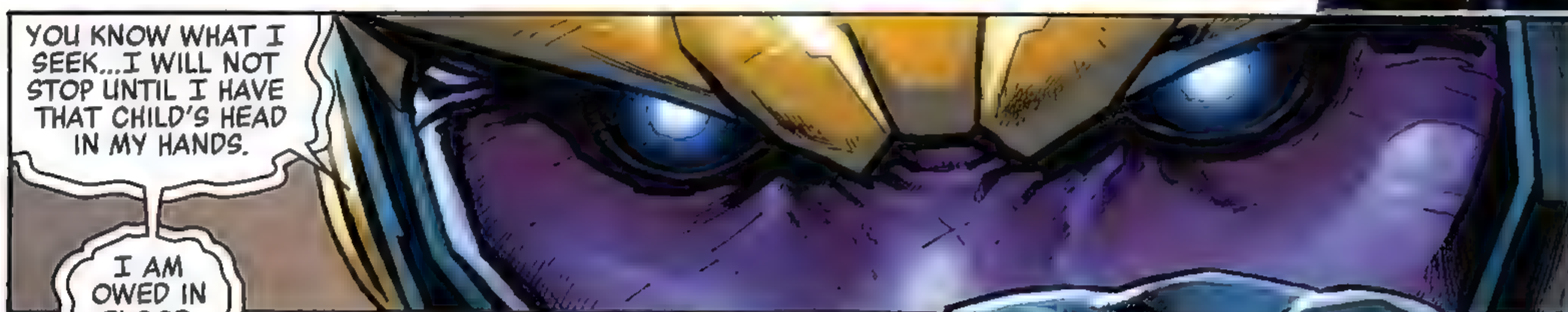
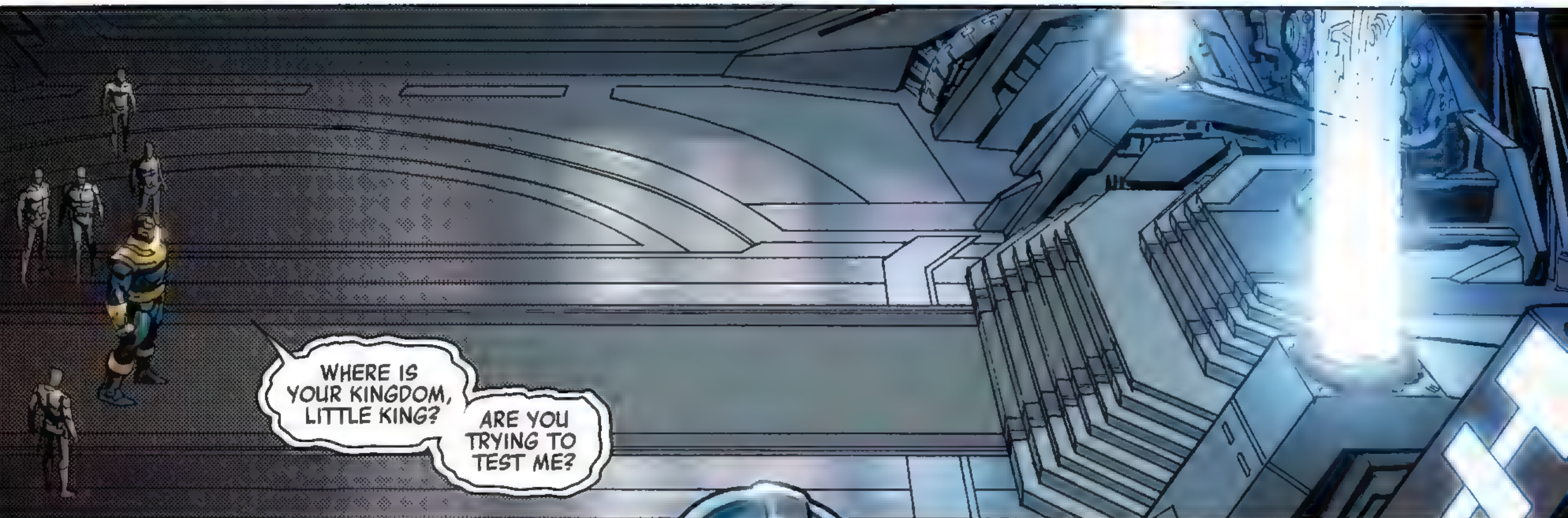
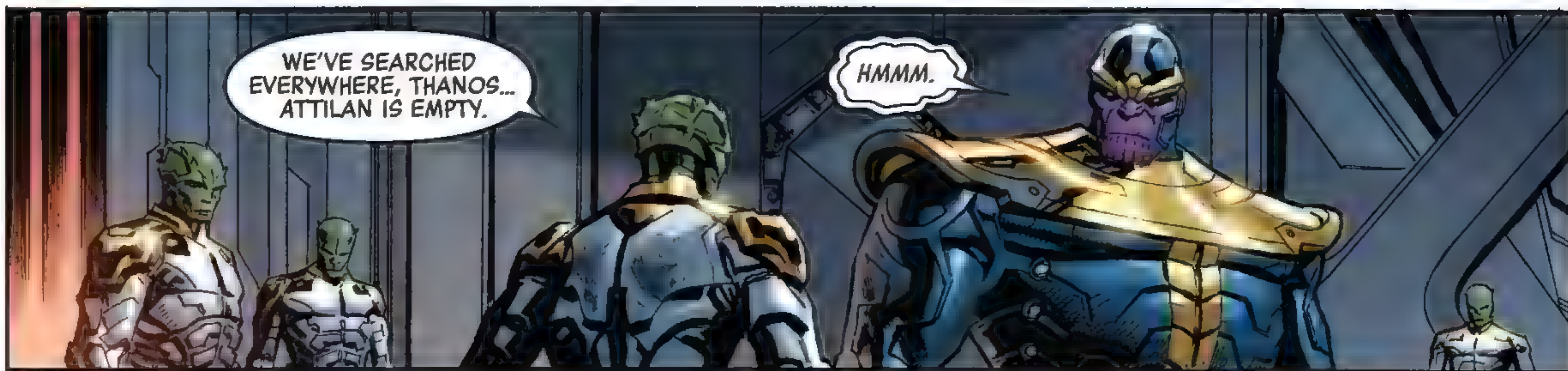
MAXIMUS
THE MAD.

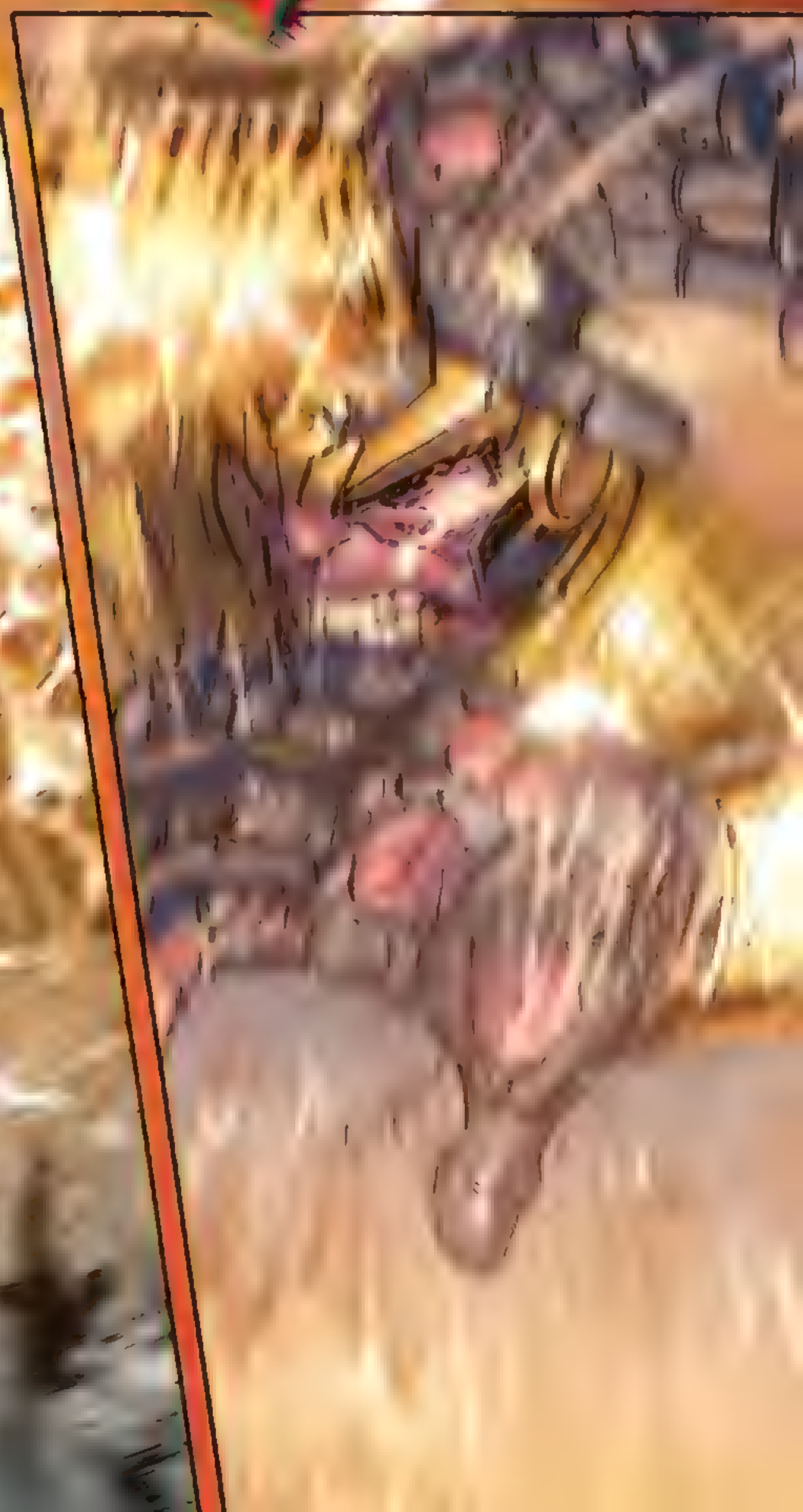
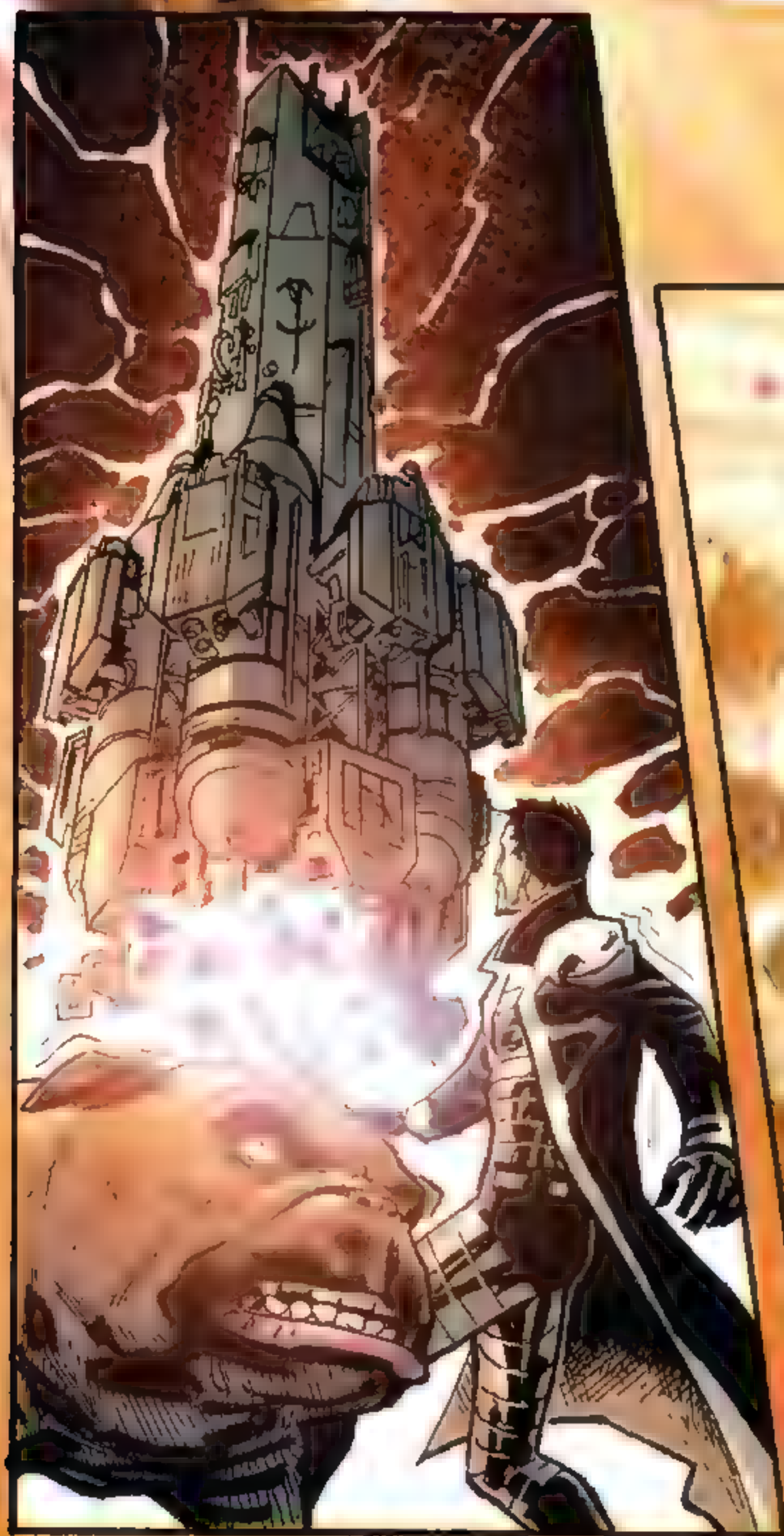


I TELL YOU
TRULY...

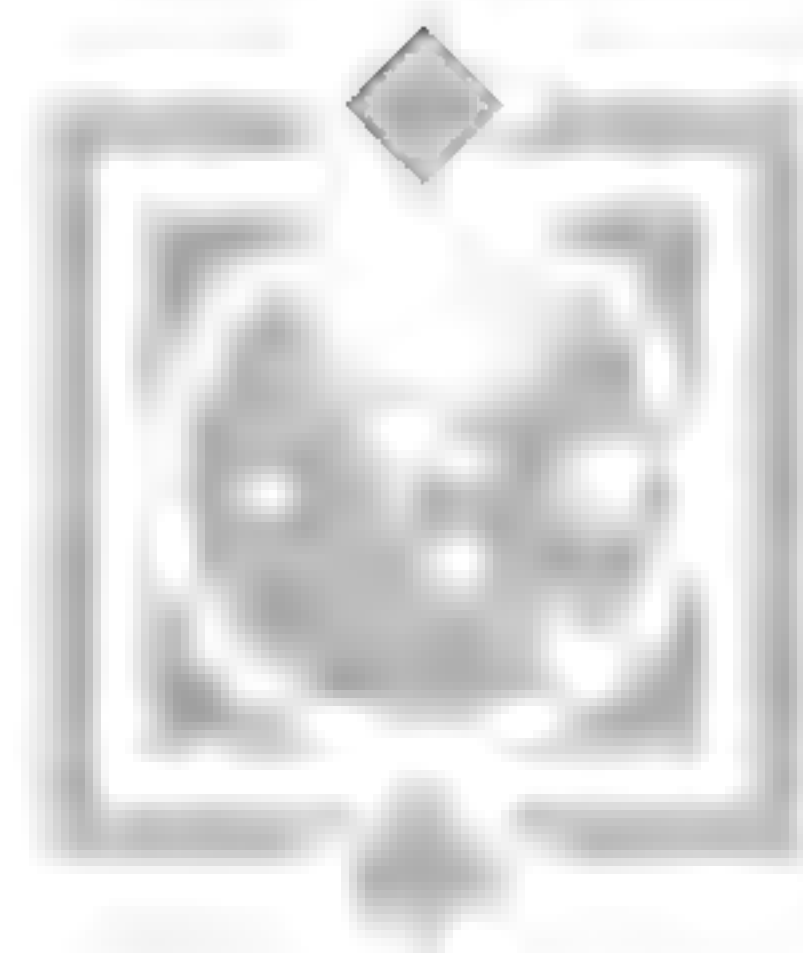
I AM ONLY
MAD...BECAUSE
I HAVE SEEN
MADNESS.

I HAVE
ARMED THE
DEVICE.



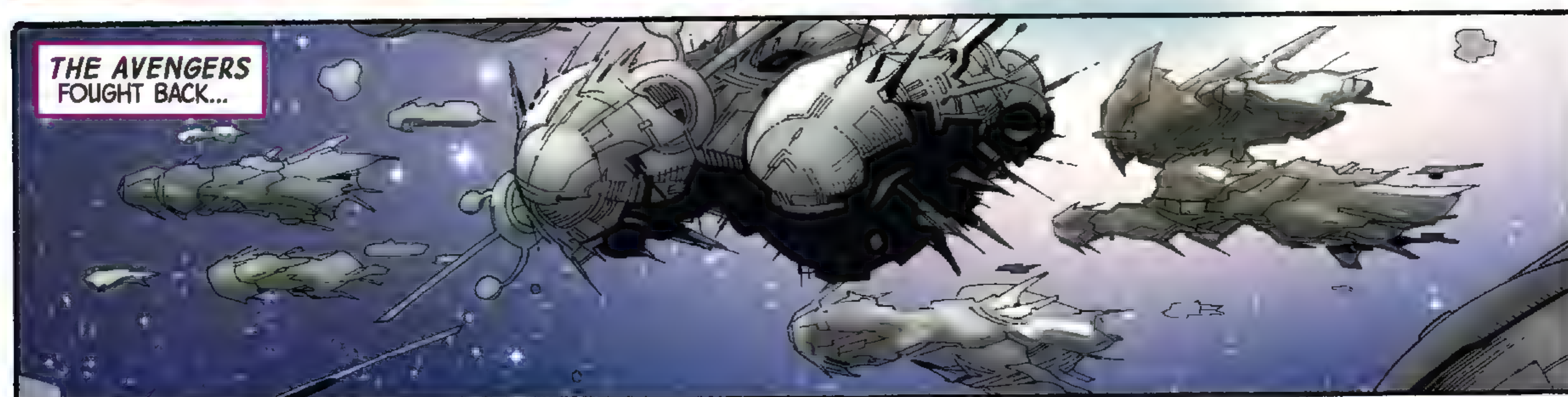
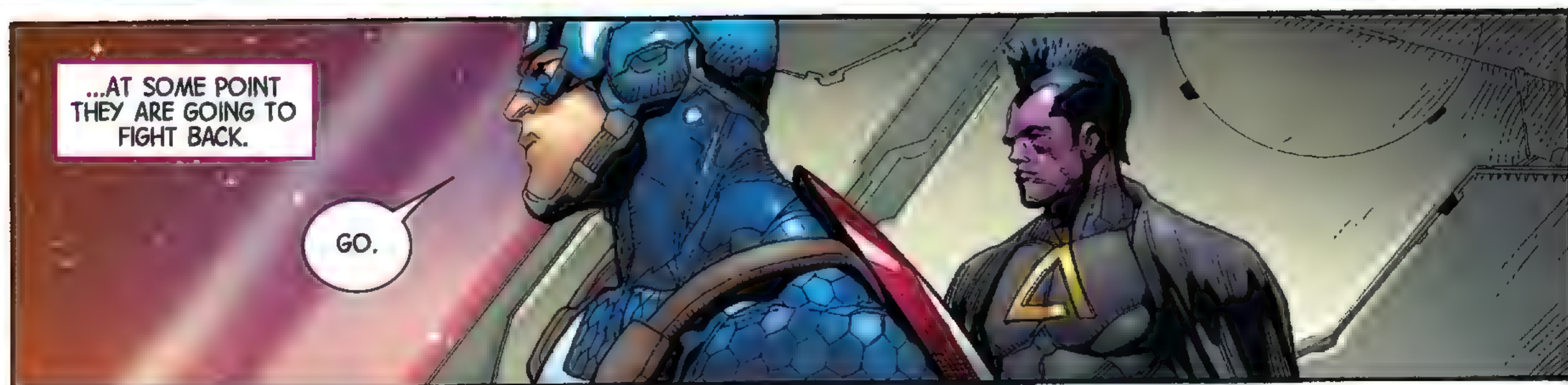
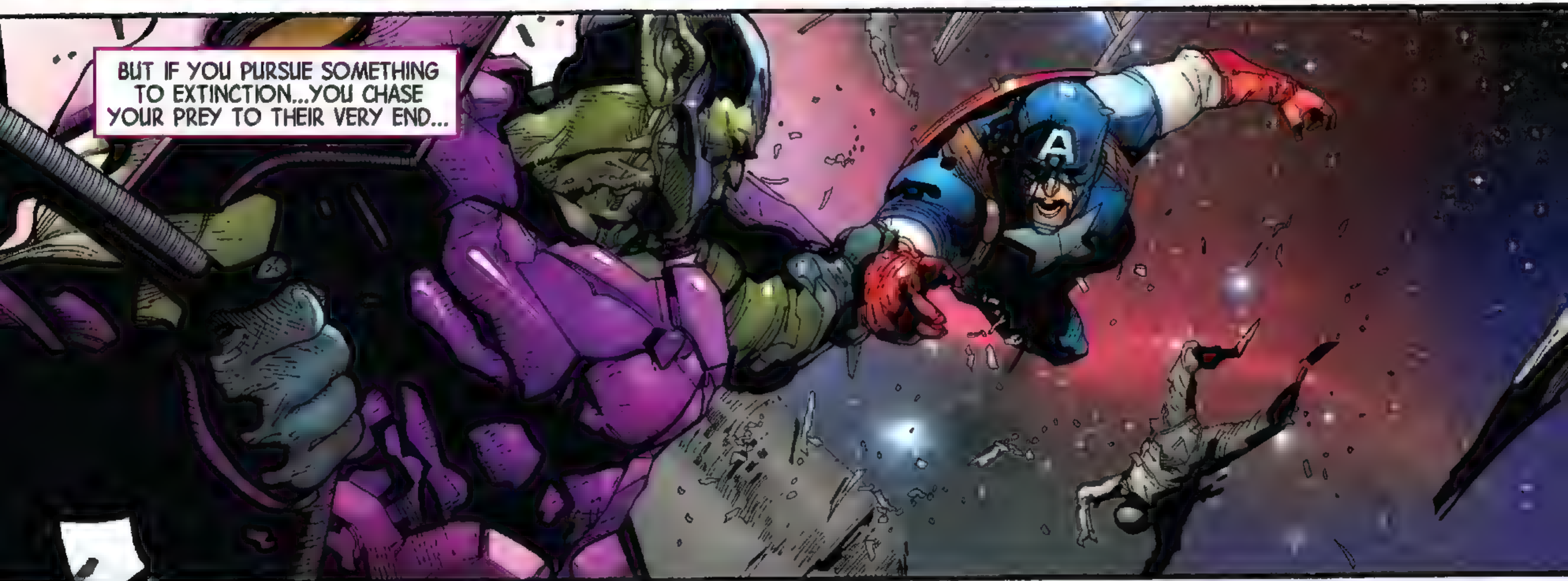
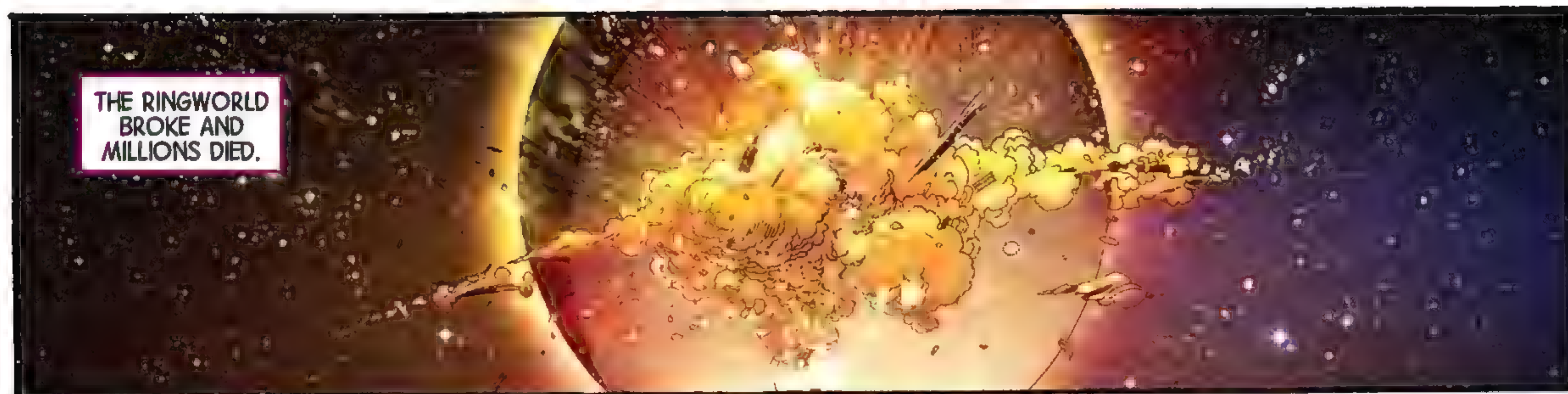






THE WORDS OF A GARDENER





[illegible]

AND KILLED THE WORLD KILLERS...

RRRUUUUMMBLLLLL

RECOVERING WHAT WAS LOST.

WHAT'S THAT NOISE, SAM?

I THINK THE SHIP'S UNDER ATTACK. WHICH PUTS US IN A TOUGH SPOT...

BAD GUYS' BOAT GETS DESTROYED, WE DIE...BAD GUYS WIN, WE DIE LATER.

WELL THEN... I HOPE THEY BLOW THIS THING TO BITS, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS FIRST.

WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

DECLARATIVE: TERMINATION ORDER GIVEN.

DECLARATIVE: PROXIMITY AL--

[illegible]

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WE'VE GOT COMPANY.

DECLARATIVE: TERMINATION ORDER GIVEN.

DECLARATIVE: PROXIMITY AL--



HELLO,
FRIENDS...

REST
EASY. ALL
IS WELL.



LET'S GET
YOU FREE, AND
THEN MANIFOLD WILL
JUMP US BACK OUT
OF HERE.

WE CAN'T
LEAVE YET,
JESS...

WE'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONES
HERE.



"WE HAVE TO
SAVE THE OTHERS
AS WELL."

THE BRIDGE OF THE BUILDERS' COMMAND VESSEL.



UUGGFF!

THERE THEY ARE--WE'VE GOT THEM...

LET'S GET THEM OUT OF THOSE TUBES AND THEN WE CAN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

ARE YOU IN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR FLEET, WIDOW?

YES, WE'RE ALL WIRED INTO CAP.

TELL HIM WE'RE GOING TO SEND A MESSAGE.

MINUTES LATER.

HOW YOU FEEL, CHAMP?

YOU KNOW THAT THING WHERE YOU WAKE UP AND IT'S LIKE A DOG CRAPPED IN YOUR MOUTH?

YES.

NO...

YES.

THIS IS WORSE.

WAKE UP, EVIL PRINCESS... NIGHTMARE'S OVER.

IT'S ONLY US AVENGERS HERE.

NO...

IT'S NOT.

LOOK.



AND
THEN WHAT
HAPPENED,
ABYSS...?

WHAT
DID SHE
DO?

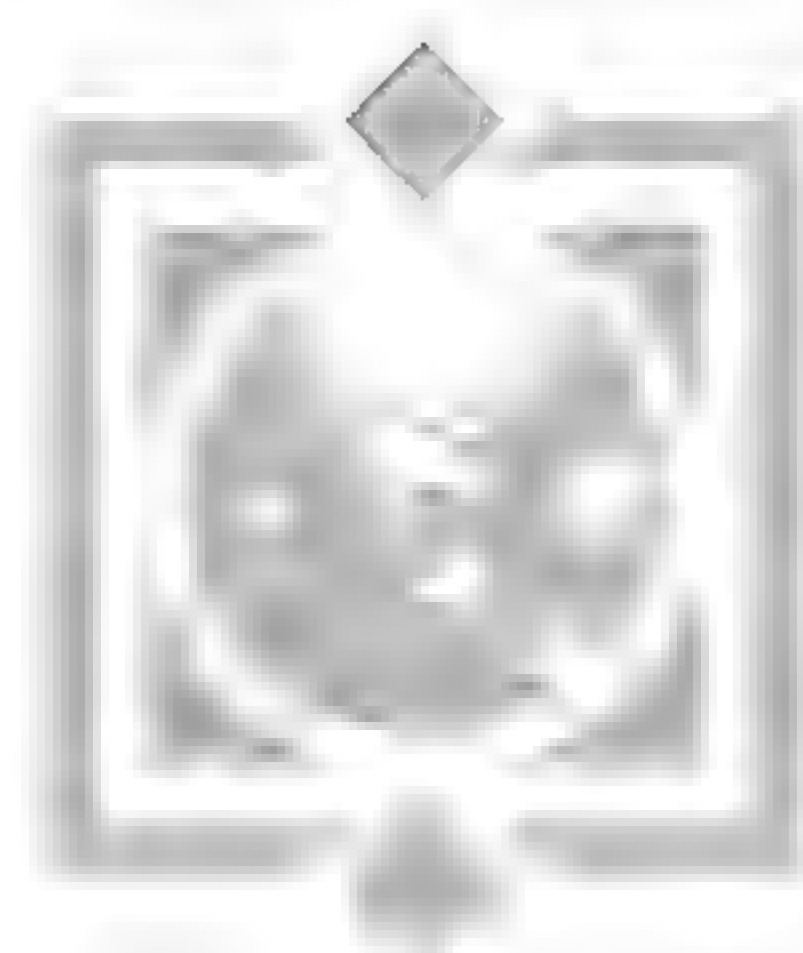
THE OTHERS
SAW HER TURN
AND LEAVE...BUT
THERE WAS
MORE...



SHE SPOKE
TO ME IN MY
MIND.

SHE
SAID...COME
FIND US.





THE EDGE OF ANNIHILATION





ABOVE BUILDER-CONTROLLED HALA.

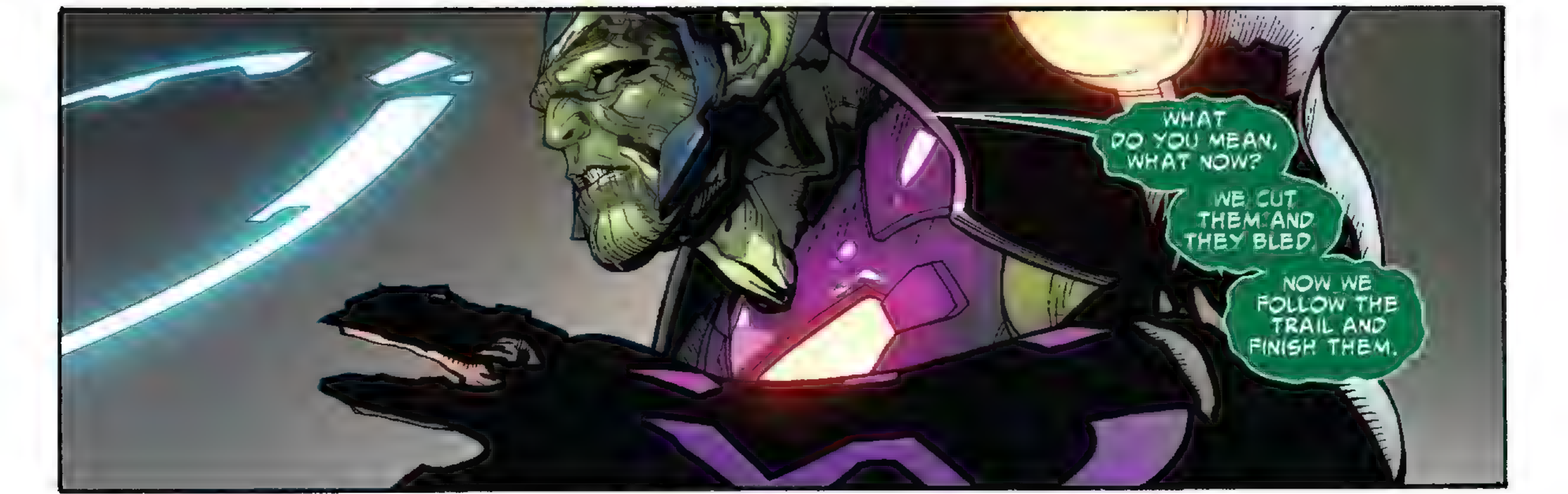


WHEN THE BUILDERS FLED, I SENT A SUPERGUARDIAN TASK FORCE TO TRACK THEM.

WE KNOW THAT THEIR FLEET REASSEMBLED HERE--SEVERAL LIGHT YEARS FROM HALA--AND THEN CONTINUED ON THEIR PREVIOUS OUTBOUND PATH.

GUARDSMAN MANTA HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THEIR SINGLE REMAINING WORLD KILLER WENT CRITICAL FROM THE DAMAGE SUSTAINED IN OUR BATTLE--SO THE BUILDERS HAVE LOST THEIR ABILITY TO DESTROY A WORLD.

IT SEEMS OUR ONE VICTORY WAS ACTUALLY TWO...THE QUESTION IS, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT NOW?

WE CUT THEM AND THEY BLED.

NOW WE FOLLOW THE TRAIL AND FINISH THEM.



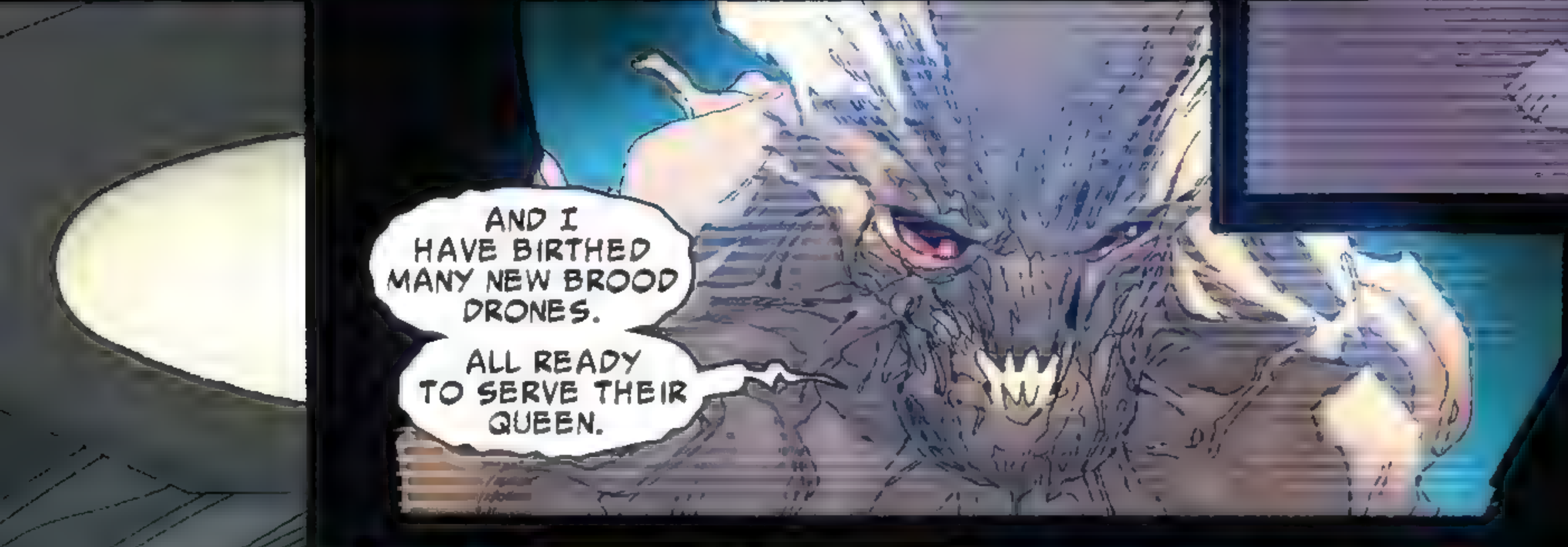
I'M STILL CATCHING UP, BUT HUNDREDS OF WORLDS LOST, MORE THAN HALF OUR FLEET GONE...AND YOU WANT TO TRY AND HUNT THEM DOWN?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH?



DEATH ISSSSS ITSSS OWN REWARD... AND ONE WORTH SSSSEEKING.

I HAVE ASSSSEMBLED MY ANNIHILATION WAVE.



AND I HAVE BIRTHED MANY NEW BROOD DRONES.

ALL READY TO SERVE THEIR QUEEN.



THE BROOD HORDE ARE LOCATED HERE. IS THERE A STARGATE WE CAN CONVERT AT THE EDGE OF THIS SPIRAL GALAXY, MENTOR?

IT'S A DEEP SPACE CONDUIT, MAJESTOR...THERE ARE ACTUALLY THREE.

OUR IN-TRANSIT SUPERGUARDIAN TEAM CAN JUMP AHEAD OF THE BUILDER FLEET AND REACH THEM IN TIME.



THEY CAN BE RECONFIGURED TO ACCESS THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

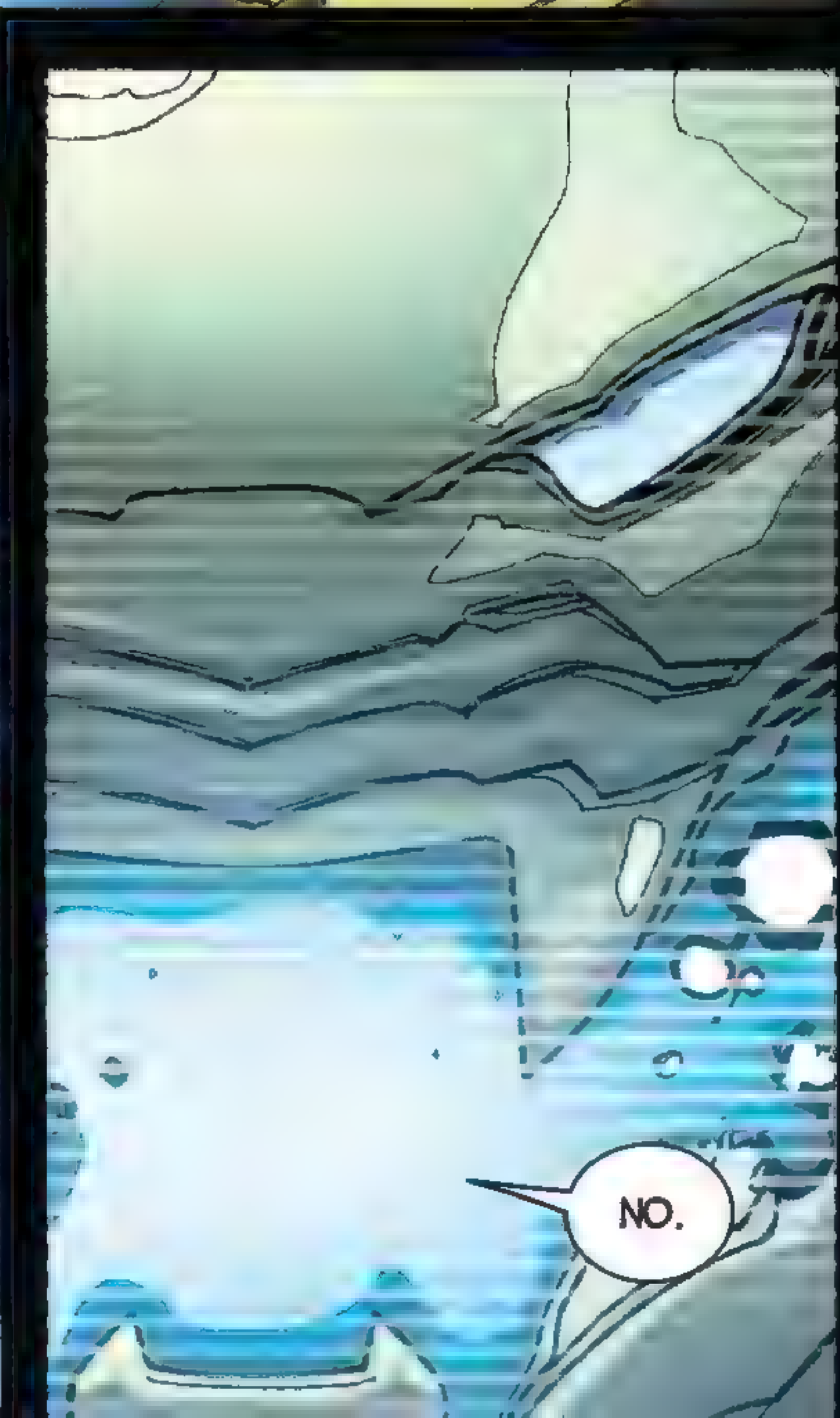
IF YOU WISH IT.



AT WHICH POINT WE WILL UNLEASH A SECOND GREAT ANNIHILATION WAVE INTO THIS UNIVERSE.

THE FIRST OF WHICH WAS ALMOST THE END OF US ALL...

CAN YOU CONTROL THE WAVE, ANNIHILUS?



NO.



SO WE
RISK ALL OF
THIS...

FOR THE
POSSIBLE PURPOSE
OF SAVING YOUR
WORLD.



ALL OUR
WORLDS,
GLADIATOR.

EVEN IF IT'S
TRUE THEY'RE AFTER
EARTH...LOOK AT WHAT
THEY HAVE DONE--LOOK AT
WHAT THEY HAVE TAKEN--
AS THEY MOVED
THROUGH THIS
UNIVERSE.

WE HAVE
BEEN FORCED
INTO THIS. OUR
CHOICES ARE
LIMITED.



CHOICES.

YOU THINK
THERE ARE MORE
THAN ONE?

YES,
I DO.

IT'S TRUE
WE COULD DO WHAT
YOU'RE PLANNING--WE
CAN ALWAYS FIGHT.
WE'RE ALL VERY GOOD
AT FIGHTING.

BUT MAYBE
SINCE WE'VE GAINED
THE APPEARANCE OF
AN UPPER HAND...

MAYBE
WE TALK TO
THEM.



NO! THIS HAS
GONE TOO FAR FOR
IT TO END WITHOUT
THEM BLEEDING OUT
ON THE END OF
MY--

HOLD,
WARLORD
KL'RT.

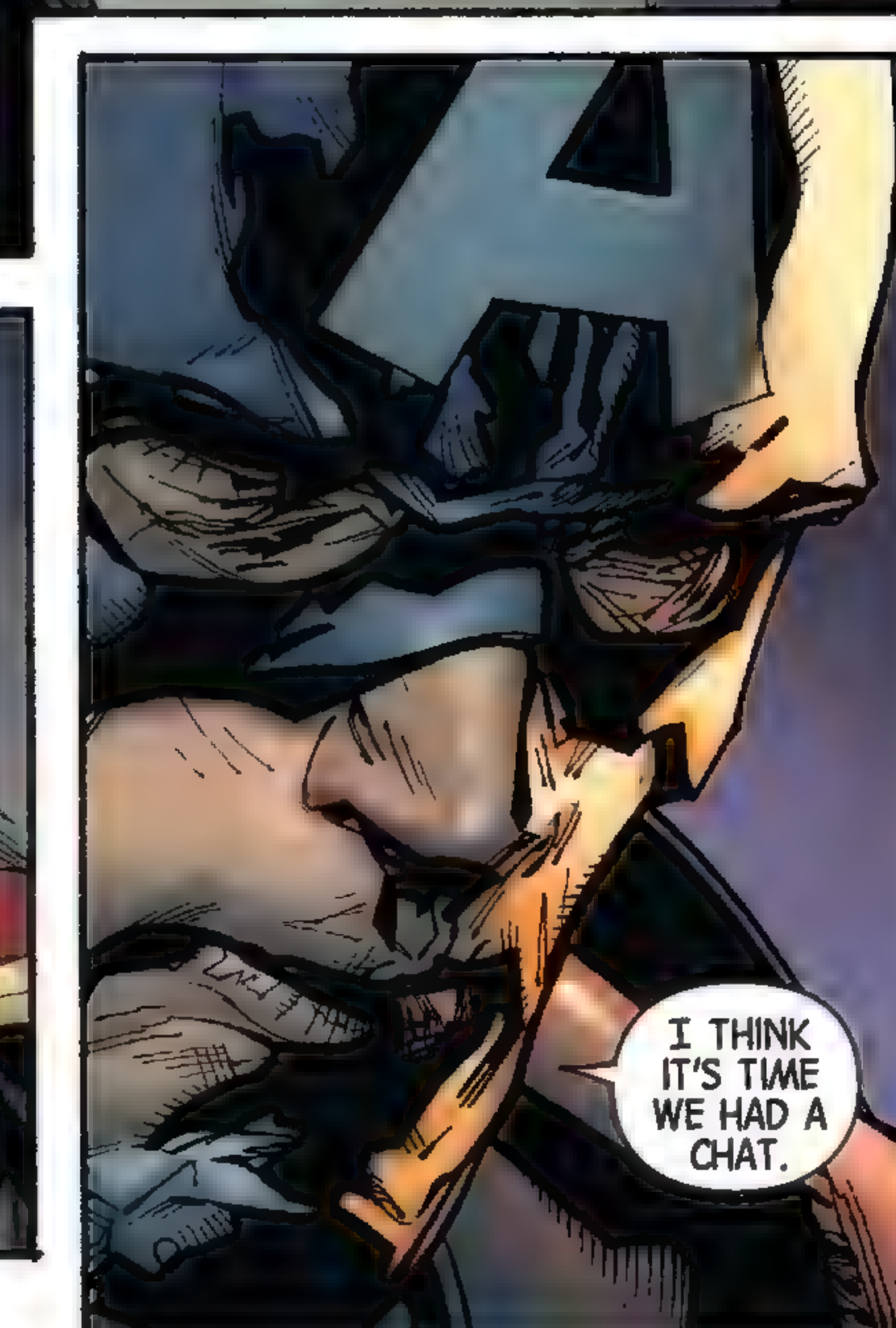
THE BOLD CAPTAIN
HAS WON THE
DAY ONCE ALREADY. I
WANT TO HEAR WHAT
HE PLANS...

ESPECIALLY
SINCE THE BUILDERS
HAVE REJECTED ALMOST
EVERY ATTEMPT AT
COMMUNICATION
TO DATE.



UP UNTIL
NOW, WE HAVEN'T
HELD THE SKY ABOVE
A THRONE WORLD
UNDER THE CONTROL
OF A BUILDER.

WHAT ARE
YOU THINKING,
STEVE?



I THINK
IT'S TIME
WE HAD A
CHAT.

HALA.



I KNOW
THAT LOOK...

YOU HAVE
A QUESTION,
DON'T YOU?

WHY DO YOU STAY?

I AM OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS OLD, ACCUSER RONAN.

THERE ARE MANY PLACES I HAVE STAYED... MANY I HAVE LEFT...

ASK A MORE DIRECT QUESTION.

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF COUNCIL SHIPS IN ORBIT AROUND HALA.

SHIPS THAT DEFEATED YOUR FLEET. SHIPS CAPTAINED BY GREAT WARRIORS WHO CERTAINLY SEE THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EMPIRE AND ARE NOT AFRAID TO ACT ON IT.

WHY DO YOU STAY?

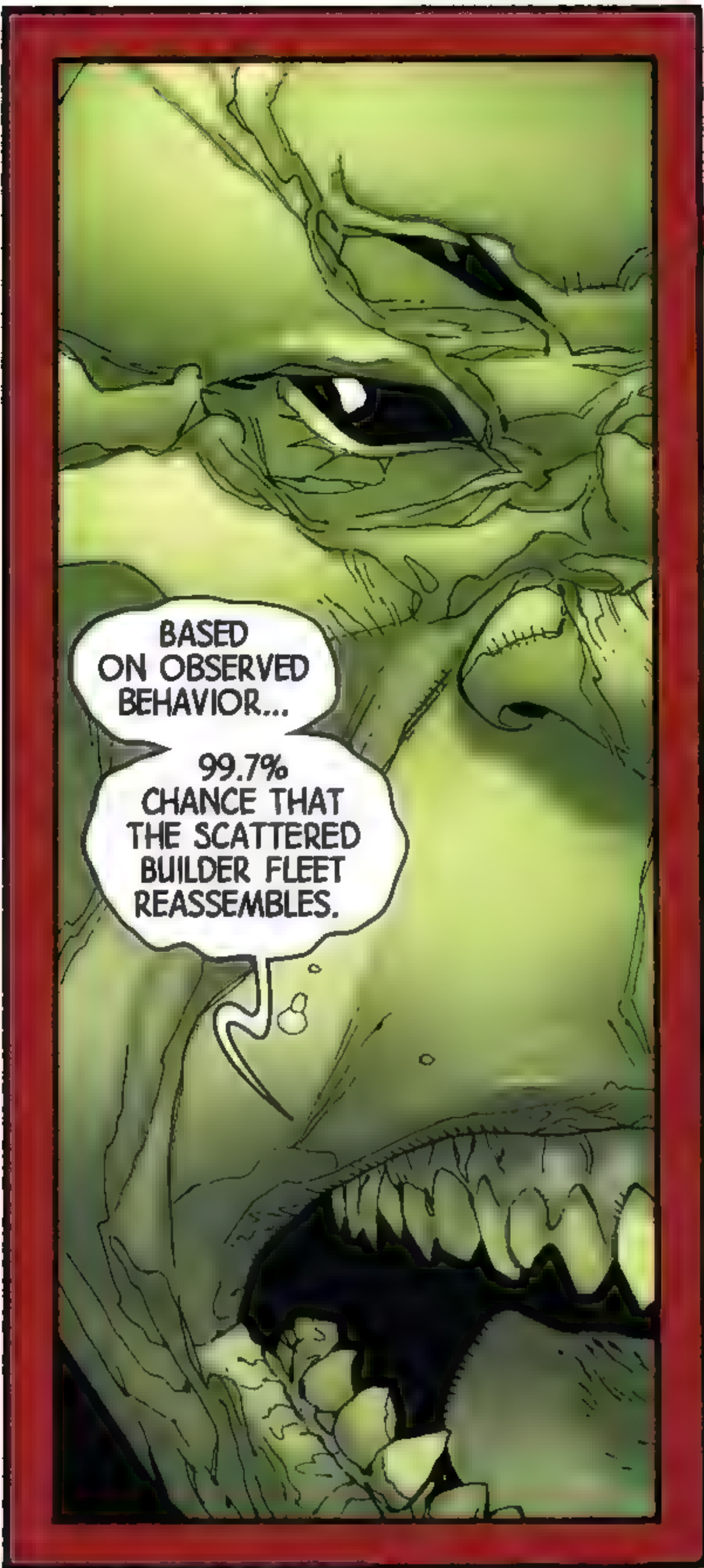
BECAUSE THIS IS MY WORLD.

BECAUSE YOU BENT YOUR KNEE.

AND YOU DO NOT REALIZE YOUR POSITION...

SUPREMOR. TELL YOUR ACCUSER HOW BEATEN WE BUILDERS ARE.

TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.



BASED
ON OBSERVED
BEHAVIOR...

99.7%
CHANCE THAT
THE SCATTERED
BUILDER FLEET
REASSEMBLES.

REASSEMBLY A
CERTAINTY, THERE IS
A 72.5% CHANCE THAT
THE BUILDER FLEET
CONTINUES ON ALONG
THEIR PREVIOUSLY
PROJECTED PATH.

THERE IS A
27% CHANCE THAT
THE BUILDER FLEET
RETURNS TO DEAL WITH
THE REMAINING COUNCIL
ARMADA.

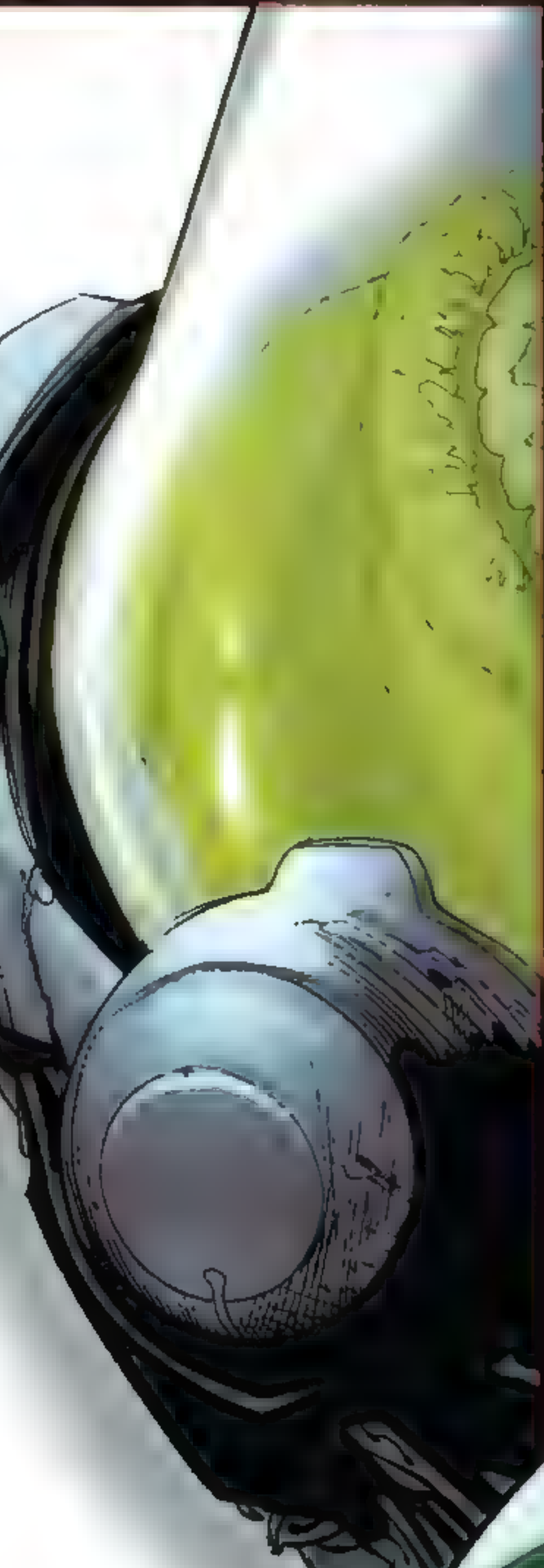
SUCH A
CONFLICT WOULD
RESULT IN COUNCIL
DEFEAT IN 83.2%
OF SIMULATED
BATTLES.

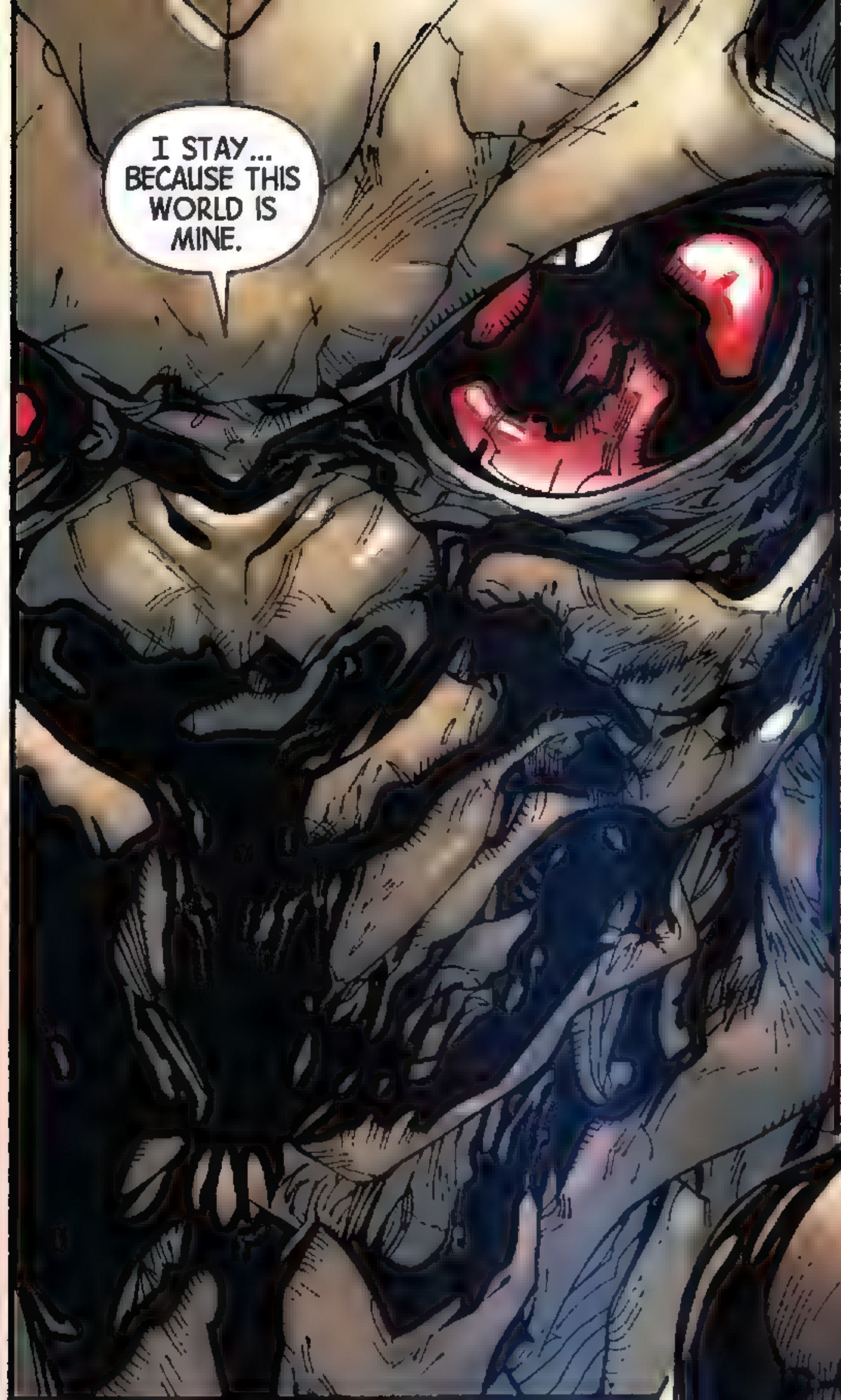
YES.



AND UNDER ALL
OF THESE SCENARIOS,
WHAT IS THE PROJECTED
PERCENTAGE THAT YOU
KREE REMAIN UNDER
BUILDER CONTROL?

ASSUMING
NATURAL ATTRITION
OF INSIGNIFICANT WORLDS
AND PRIORITIZING OF
SIGNIFICANT WORLD
GROUPS...70.1%





I STAY...
BECAUSE THIS
WORLD IS
MINE.



BETTER FOR
THE KREE THAT I
DO NOT HAVE TO
BREAK IT
MAINTAINING ITS
PROPER PLACE.

WHAT IS...
THIS?



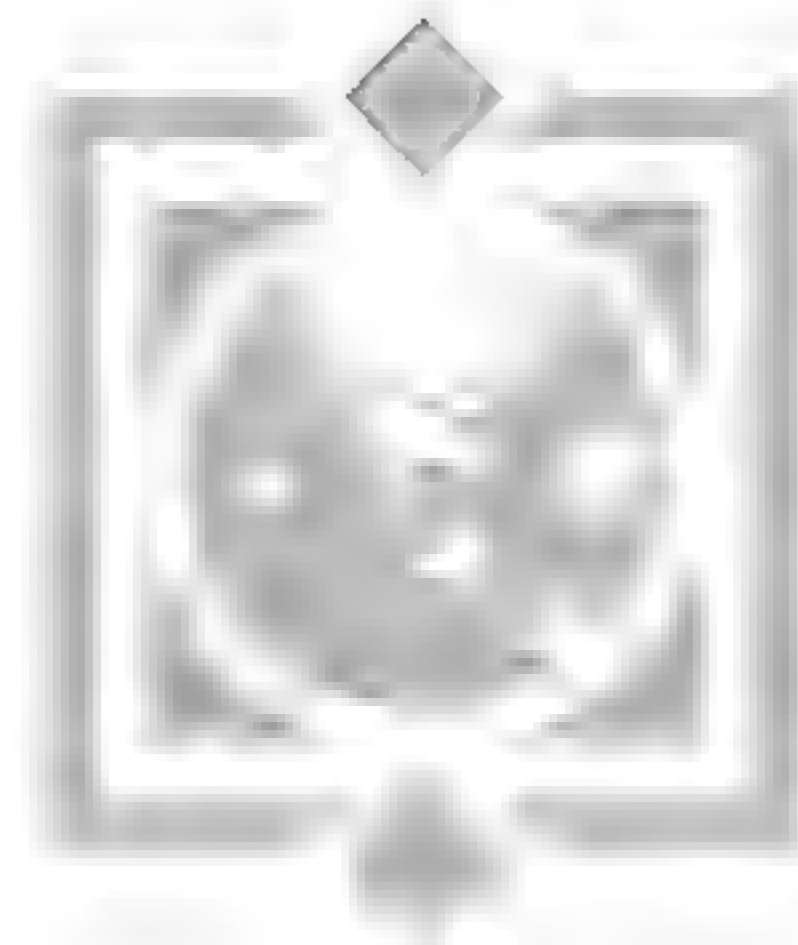
BURB
BURB
BURB

TO
THE BUILDER
HOLDING THE
WORLD
BELOW.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

I AM
GLADIATOR,
MAJESTOR OF
THE SHI'AR
EMPIRE...
AND WE
WISH TO
PARLEY.



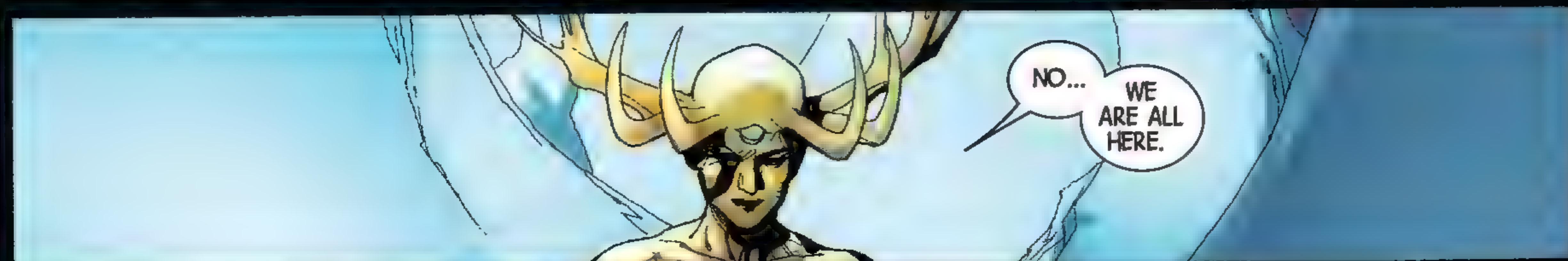
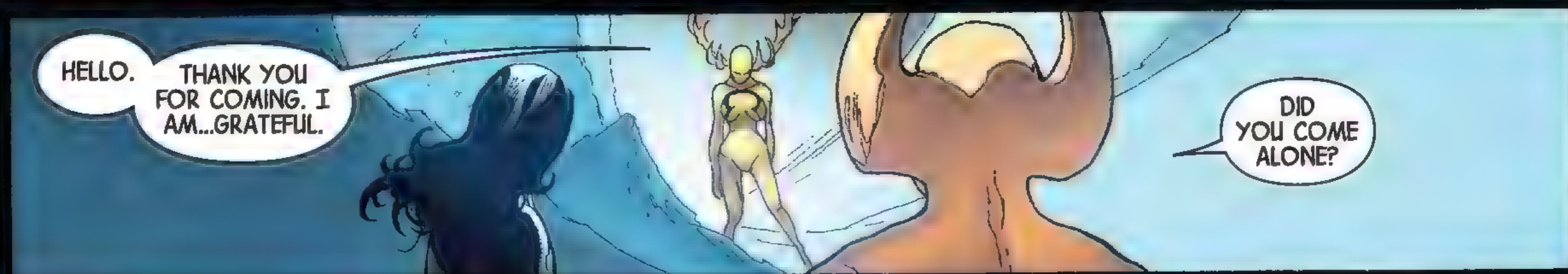
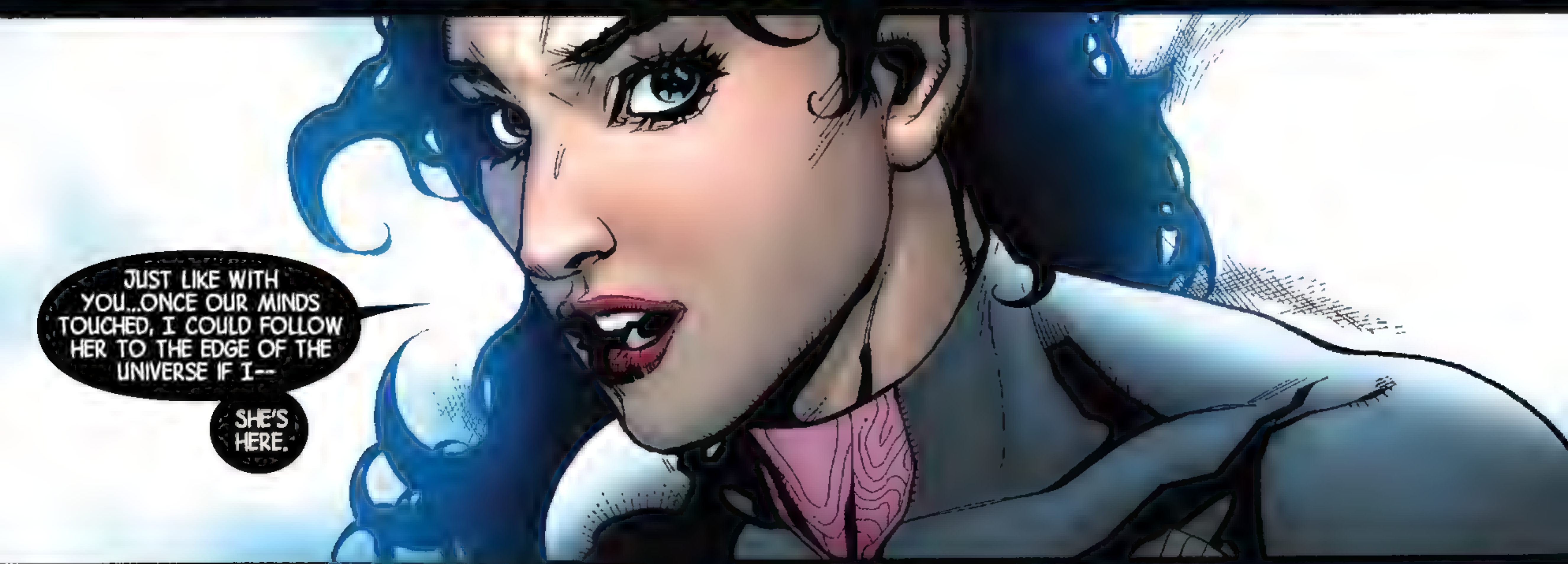


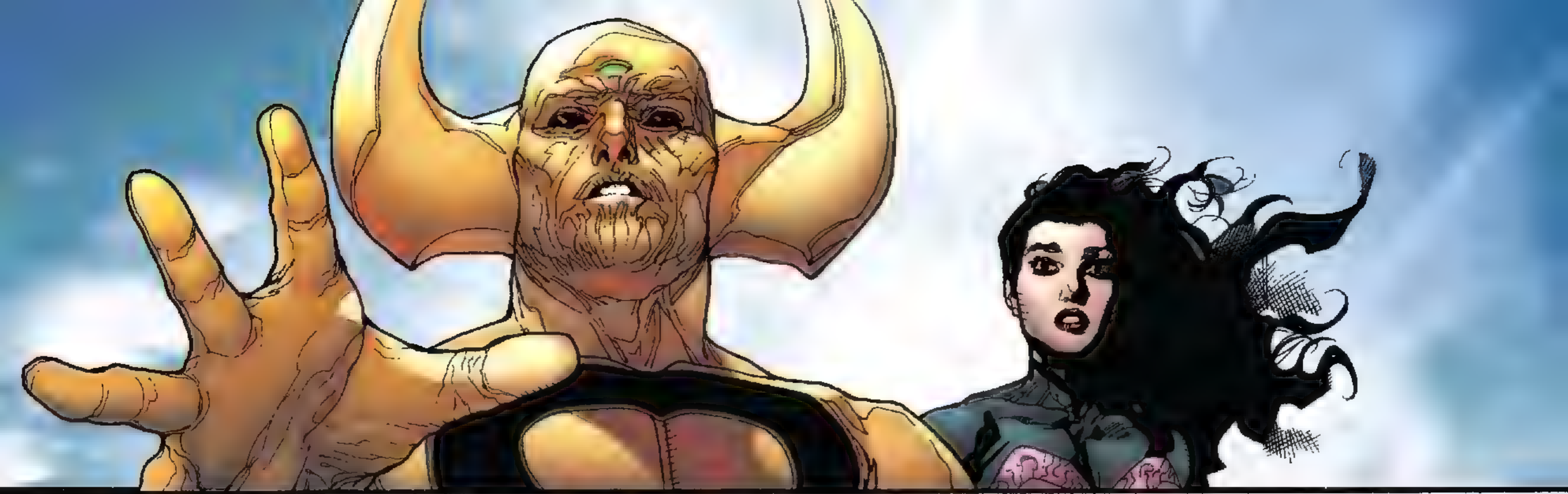
WITHOUT JUDGES
WE ARE LOST

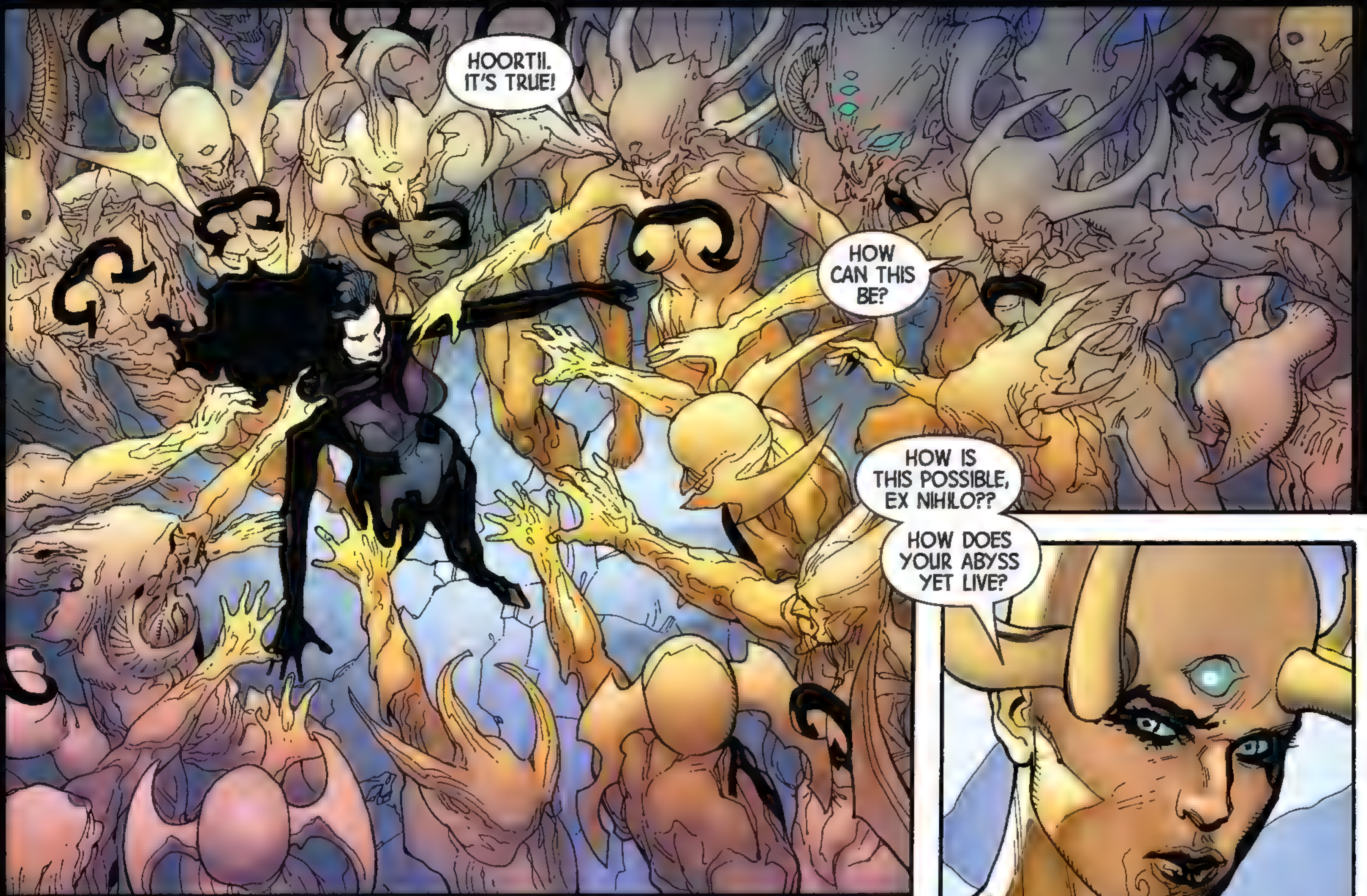


ELSEWHERE.







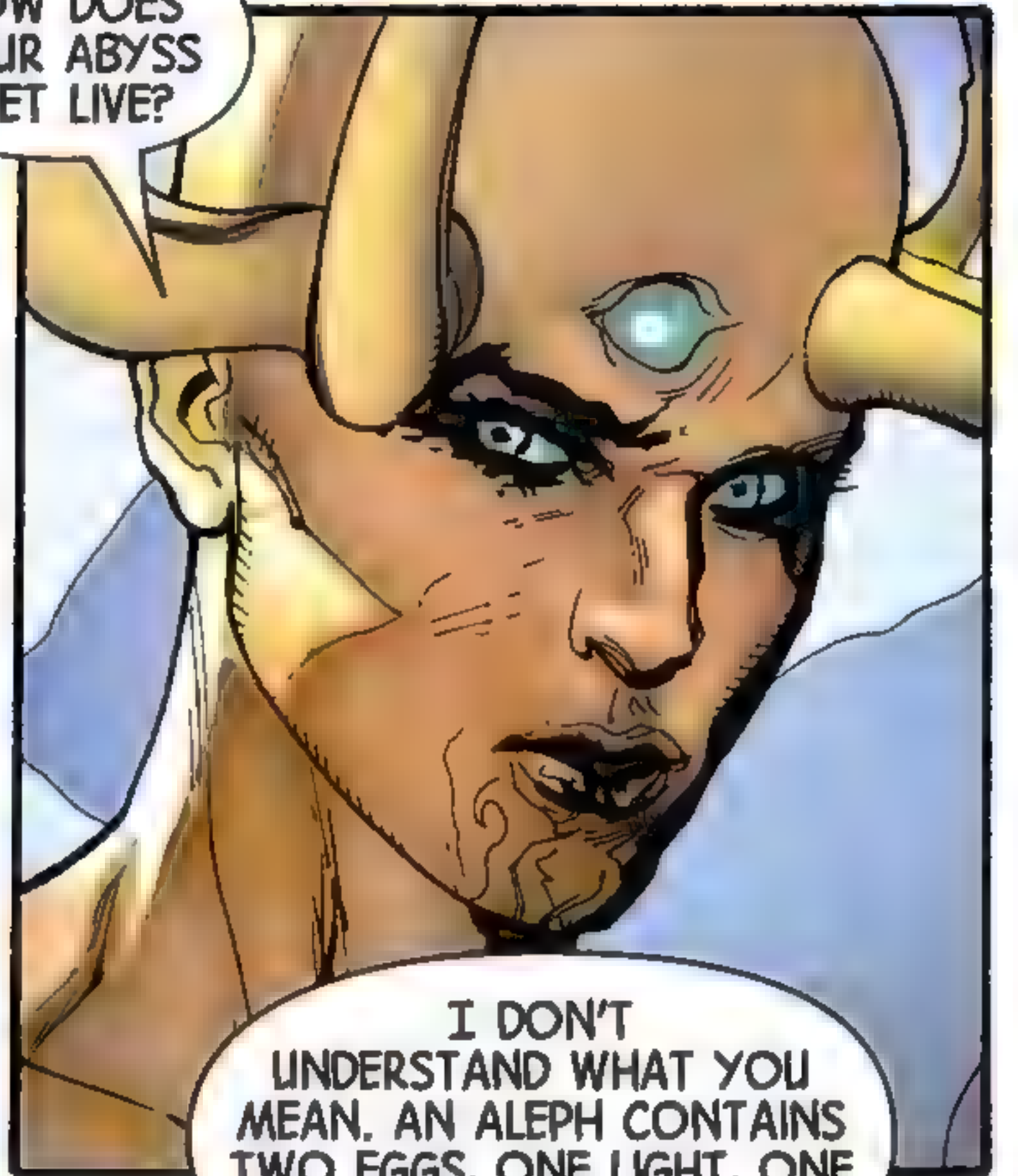


HOORTII.
IT'S TRUE!

HOW
CAN THIS
BE?

HOW IS
THIS POSSIBLE,
EX NIHILO??

HOW DOES
YOUR ABYSS
YET LIVE?



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU
MEAN. AN ALEPH CONTAINS
TWO EGGS, ONE LIGHT, ONE
DARK. ONE DAY,
ONE NIGHT.

I AM EX NIHILO,
SHE IS ABYSS. WE
ARE AS WE HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN--
TWO, NOT
ONE.



WE HAVE
NOT BEEN THAT
WAY FOR A VERY
LONG TIME.

ALL OF OUR
ABYSSI DIED
MYSTERIOUSLY
THOUSANDS AND
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
AGO...

I HAVE TO
KNOW...WHAT
MAKES THE TWO
OF YOU SO
SPECIAL?



I
CREATE
LIFE.



SHE
JUDGES THE
WORK.

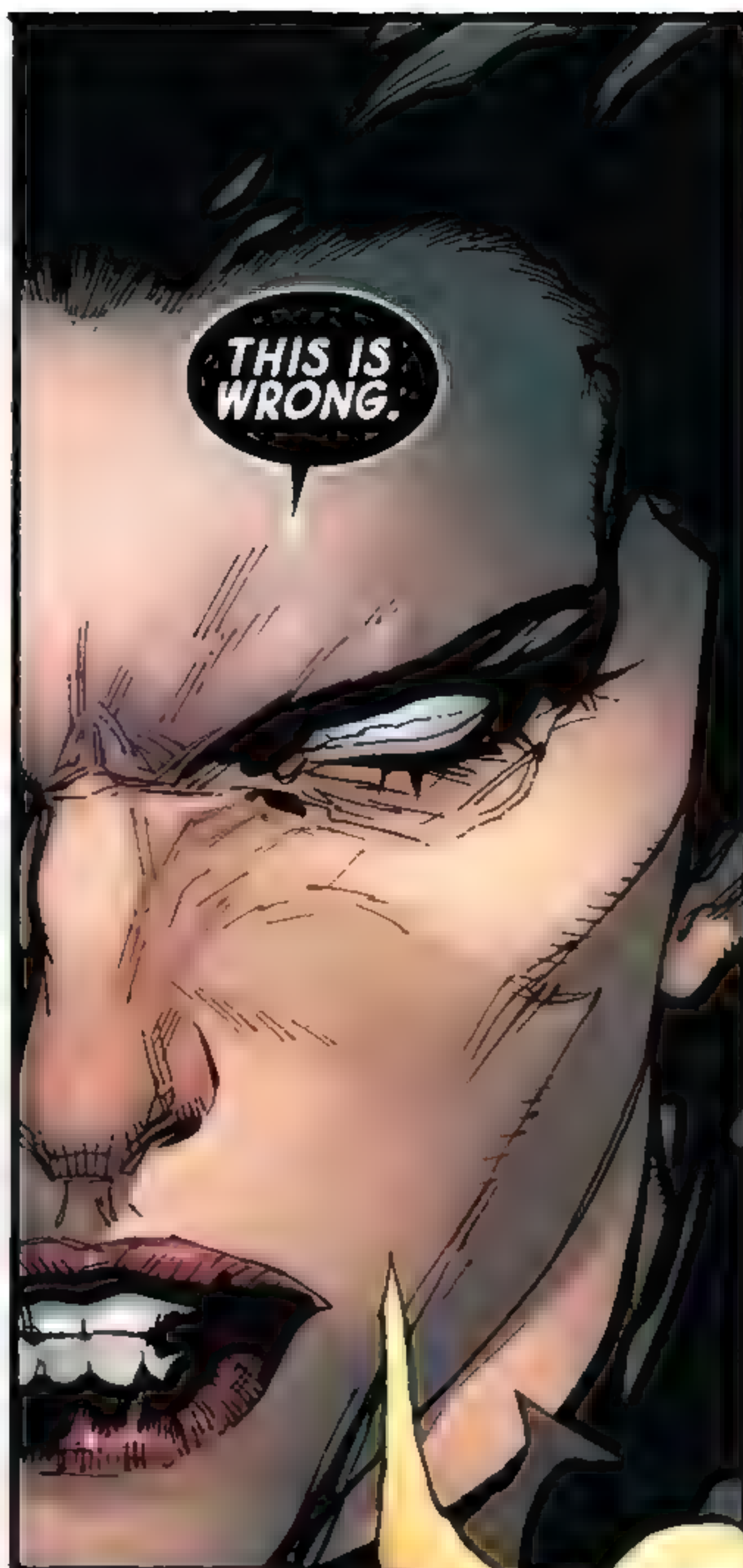
HOW DID
YOUR ABYSSI
DIE?



DON'T YOU SEE, EX...

THE BUILDERS MADE THEM STOP SEEDING WORLDS.

WHO AM I WITHOUT YOU, AND WHAT ARE YOU IF NOT LIFE-GIVING?



THIS IS WRONG.



IS THIS TRUE?

YES.

WHEN THE NEW UNIVERSAL SUPERSTRUCTURE WAS CREATED, WE WERE ALL RECALLED AND FORBIDDEN FROM HARVESTING WORLDS. NO MORE GARDENS.



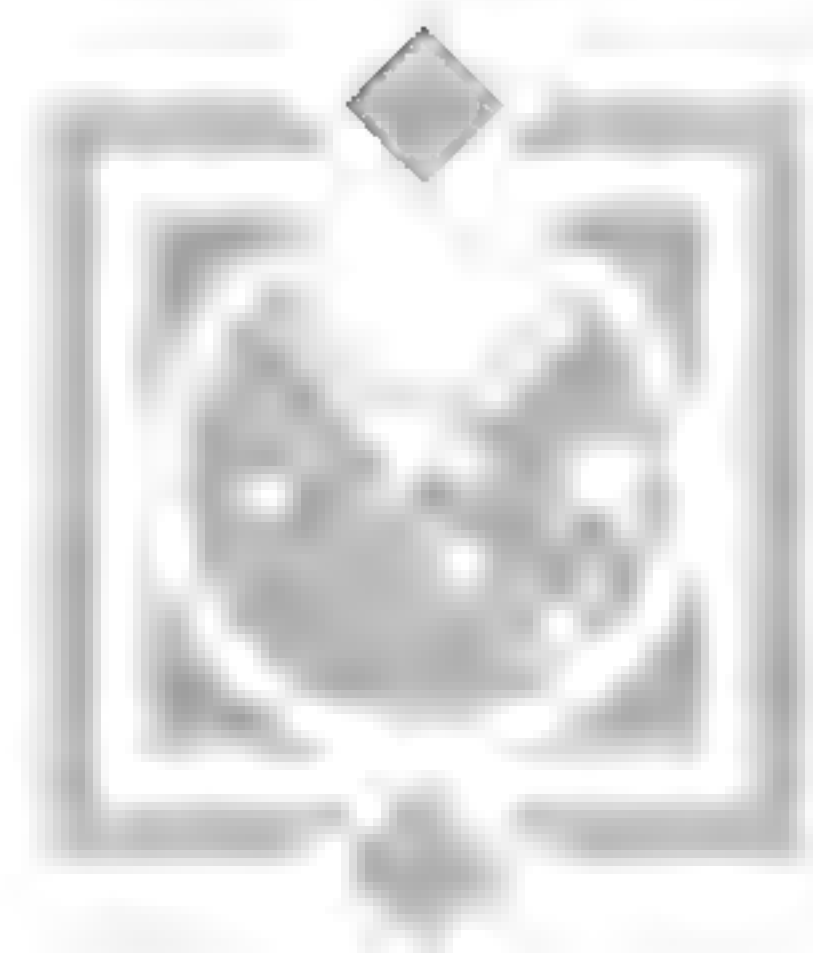
AND INSTEAD OF CREATING LIFE, YOU ARE RELEGATED TO BEING, AT BEST, BODY SERVANTS FOR THOSE THAT MADE US...

OR AT WORST, KILLERS OF WORLDS.

WELL...NO MORE.

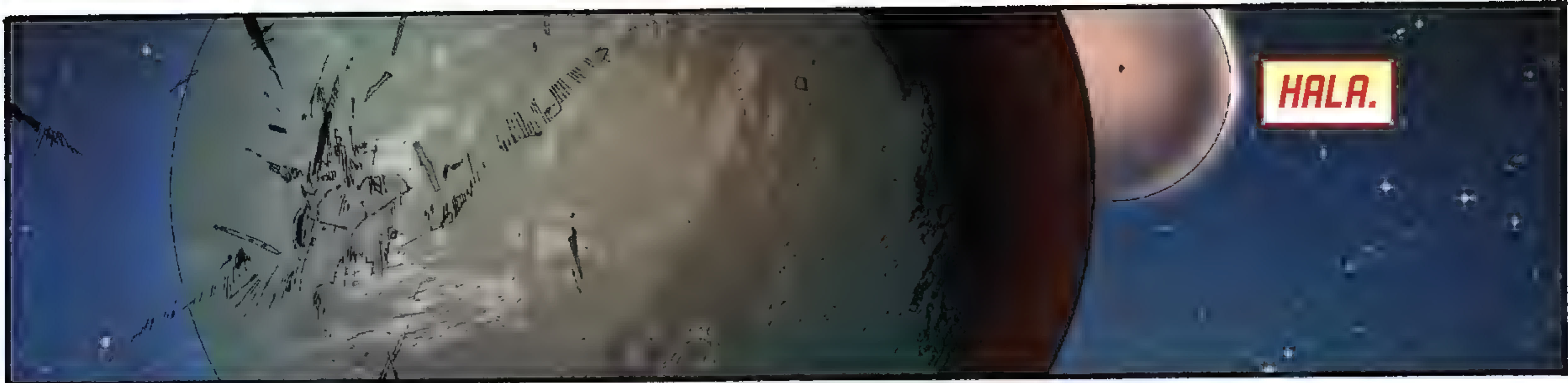


NO MORE.



ONE MAN KNEELS





HALA.



THEN
WE ARE
AGREED?

I AGREE THAT
THERE IS AN ORDER
TO OUR UNIVERSE
AND THIS FALLS WELL
WITHIN IT.

I AGREE
TO ONE
REPRESENTATIVE,
AND ONE
ONLY.

VERY
WELL.



SEE? AS
PREDICTED. ALL
THINGS YIELD TO
THE GREATER
AGENCY.

ASSEMBLE YOUR
ACCUSERS, RONAN.
FILL THE PARADE
GROUND WITH YOUR
PEOPLE...LET THEM
ALL WATCH WHAT
FOLLOWS.



...IT
WILL BE
DONE.

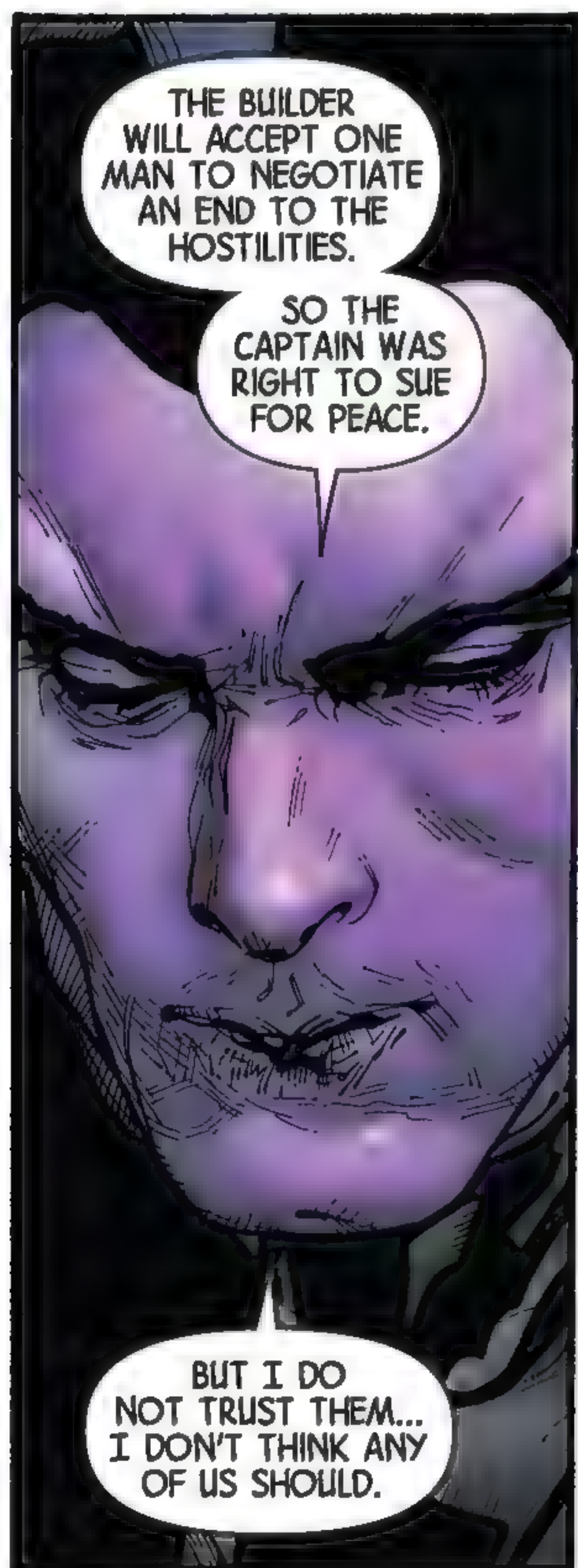
MAKE SURE
YOU DO IT
WELL...

YOU ARE
ABOUT TO
WITNESS AN END
TO OUR LITTLE
WAR.

THE SHI'AR
BATTLESHIP
LILANDRA.



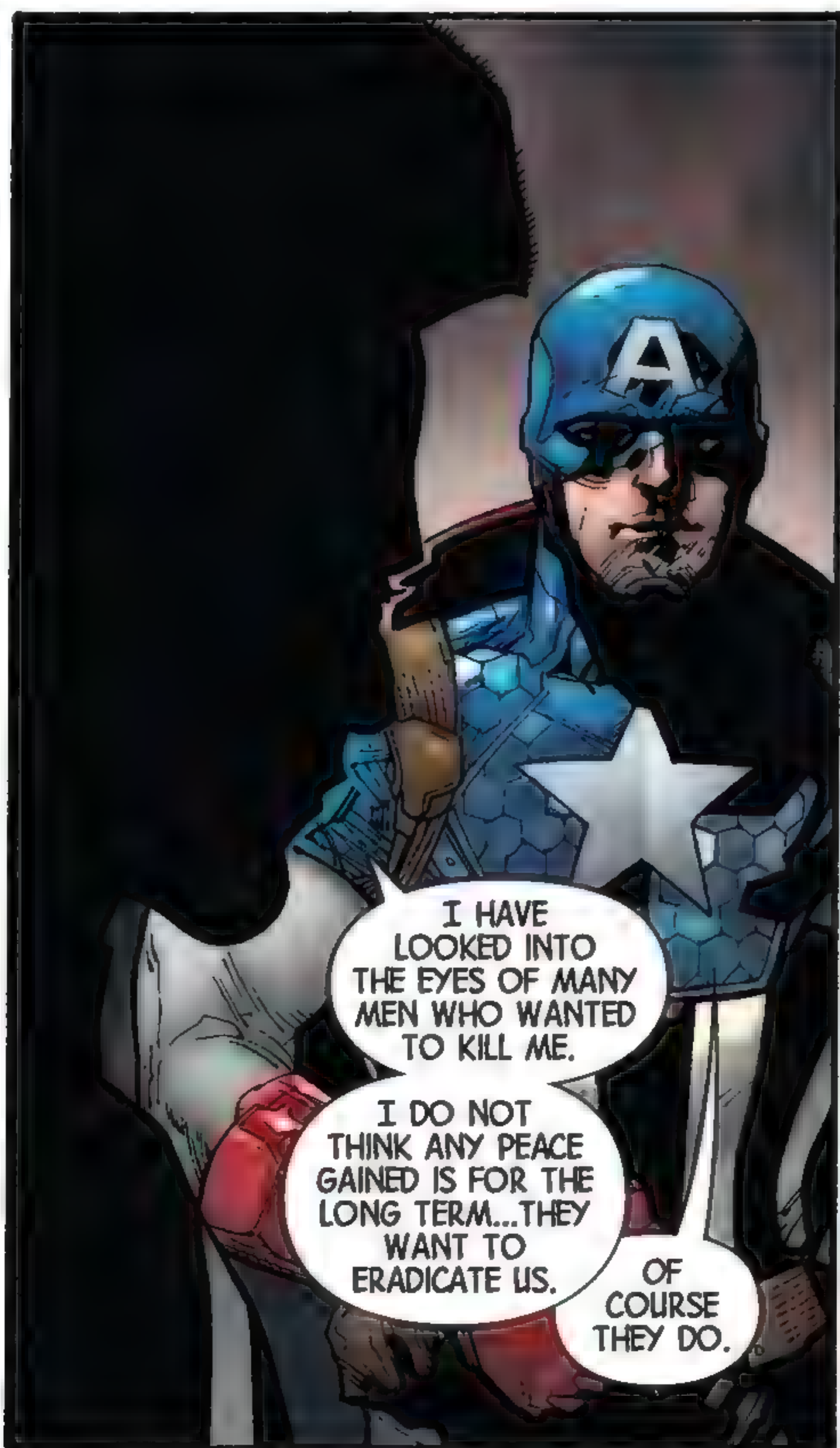
THEY HAVE
AGREED.



THE BUILDER
WILL ACCEPT ONE
MAN TO NEGOTIATE
AN END TO THE
HOSTILITIES.

SO THE
CAPTAIN WAS
RIGHT TO SUE
FOR PEACE.

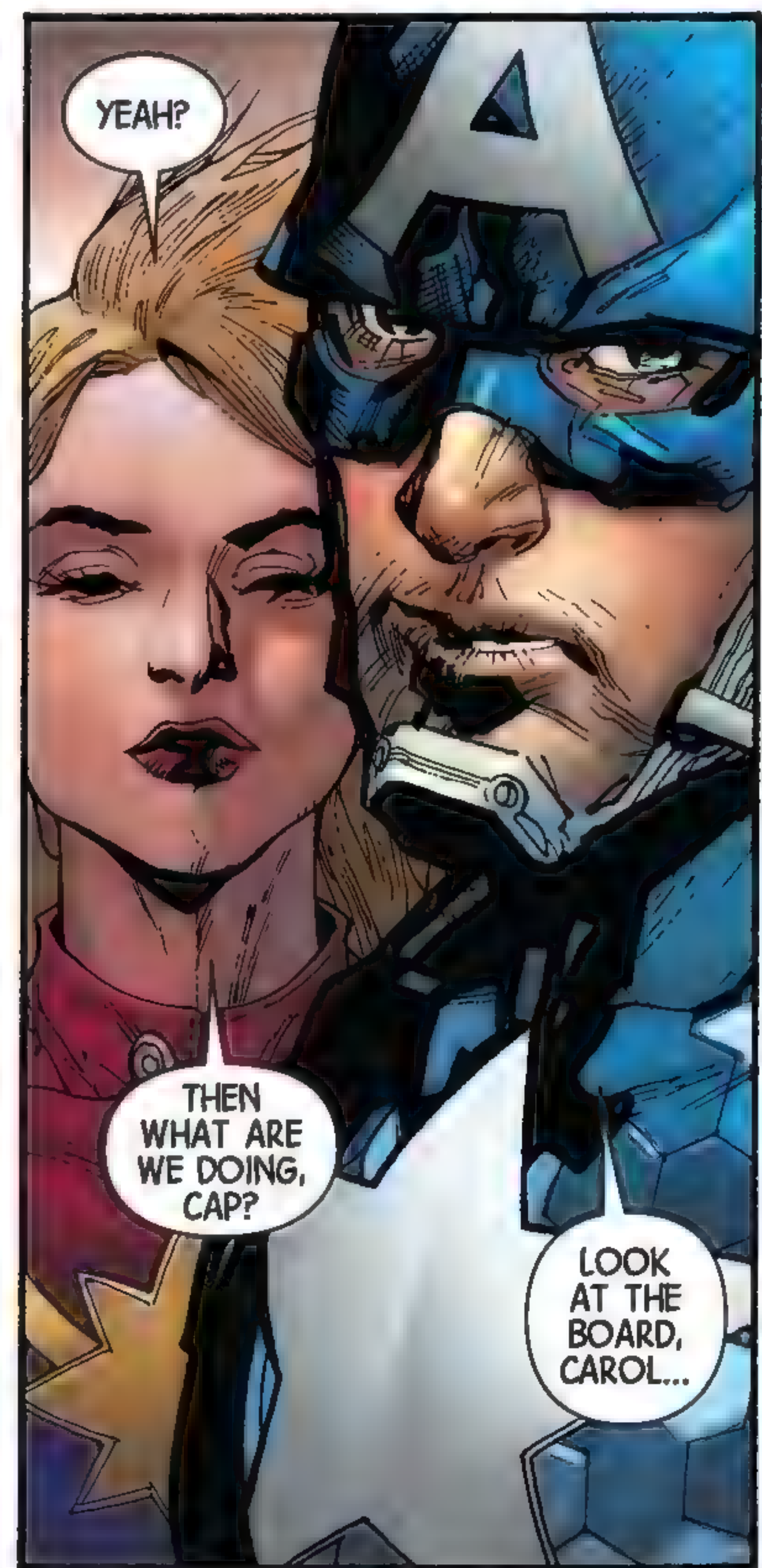
BUT I DO
NOT TRUST THEM...
I DON'T THINK ANY
OF US SHOULD.



I HAVE
LOOKED INTO
THE EYES OF MANY
MEN WHO WANTED
TO KILL ME.

I DO NOT
THINK ANY PEACE
GAINED IS FOR THE
LONG TERM...THEY
WANT TO
ERADICATE US.

OF
COURSE
THEY DO.



YEAH?

THEN
WHAT ARE
WE DOING,
CAP?

LOOK
AT THE
BOARD,
CAROL...



THIS
VICTORY CHANGED
NOTHING.

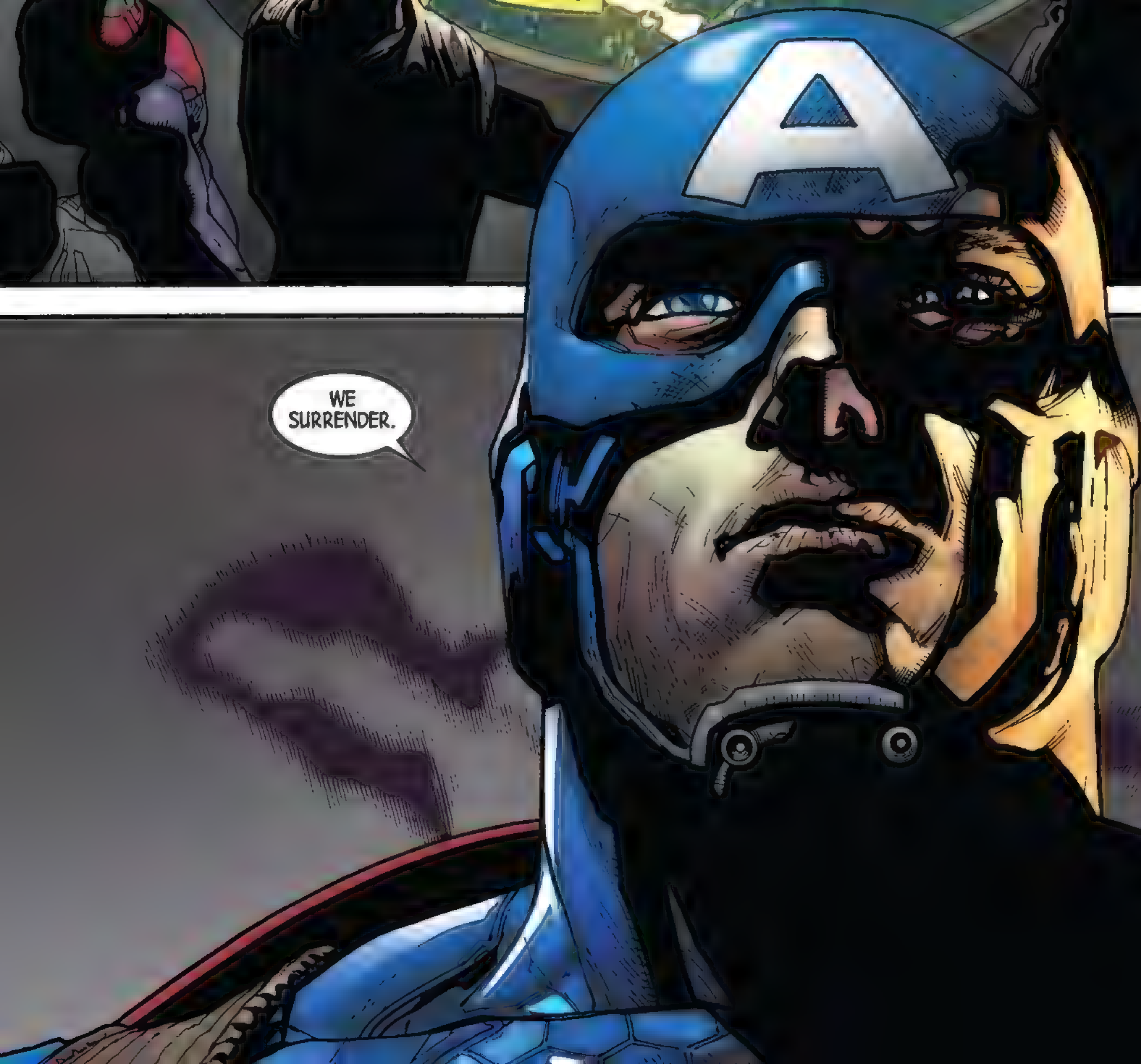
WE REMAIN
OUTGUNNED, FRACTURED
AND, BECAUSE THEY HAVE
TAKEN SO MANY WORLDS,
WE'VE LOST THE ONLY
REAL ADVANTAGE
WE HAD...

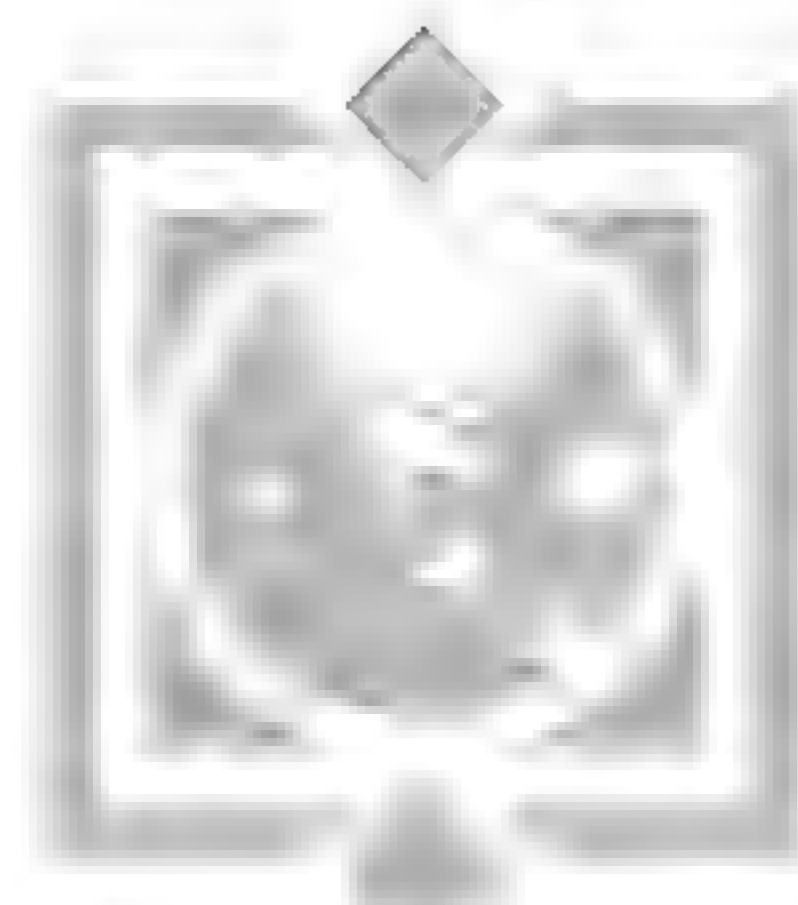
WE'RE OUT-
MANNED.

SO WHY ARE
WE STILL GOING TO
MEET WITH THEM EVEN
THOUGH THEY HAVE
ILL INTENT?

BECAUSE
THERE'S REALLY
ONLY ONE MOVE
WE HAVE LEFT
TO MAKE.

WE
SURRENDER.

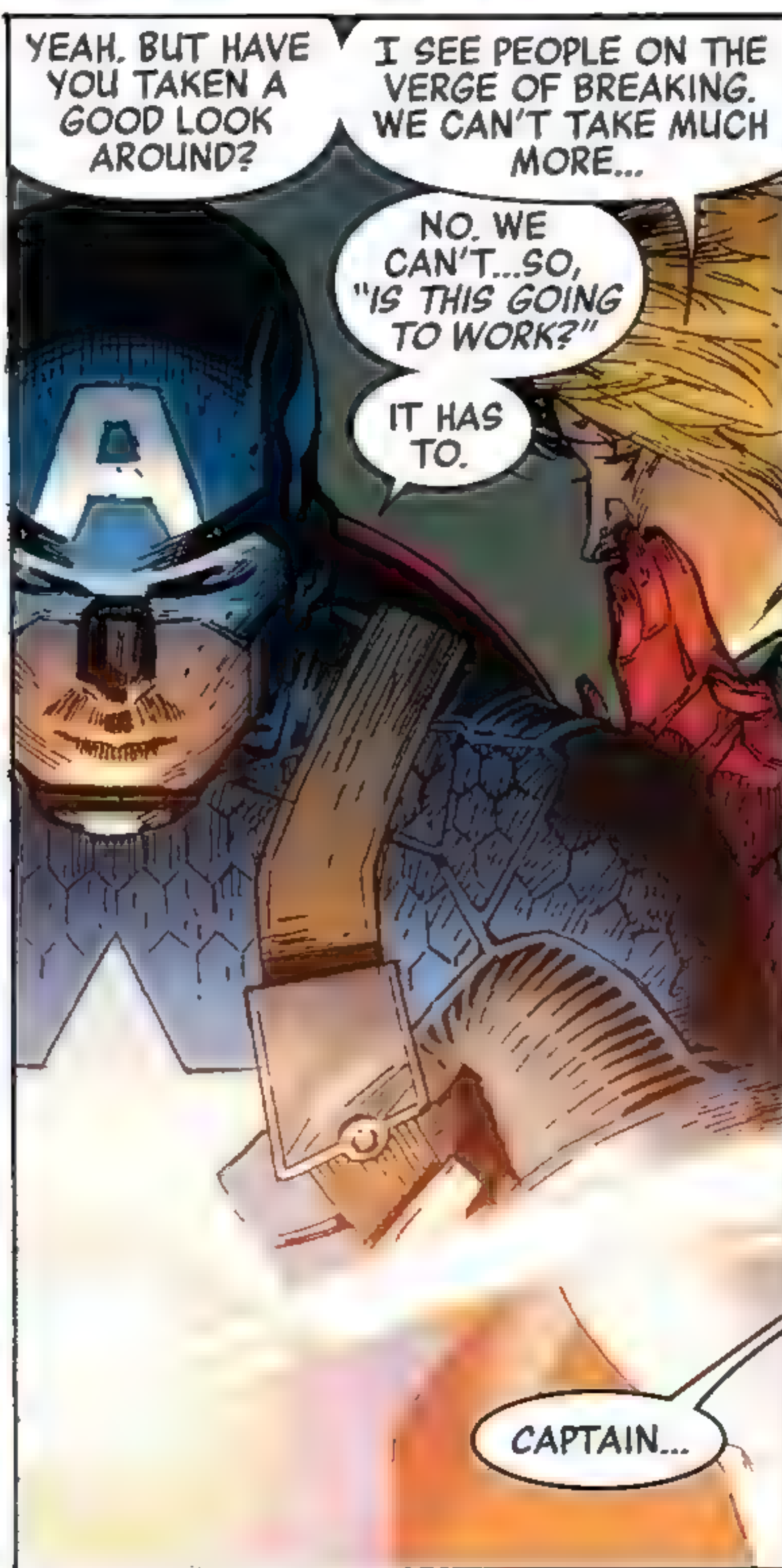


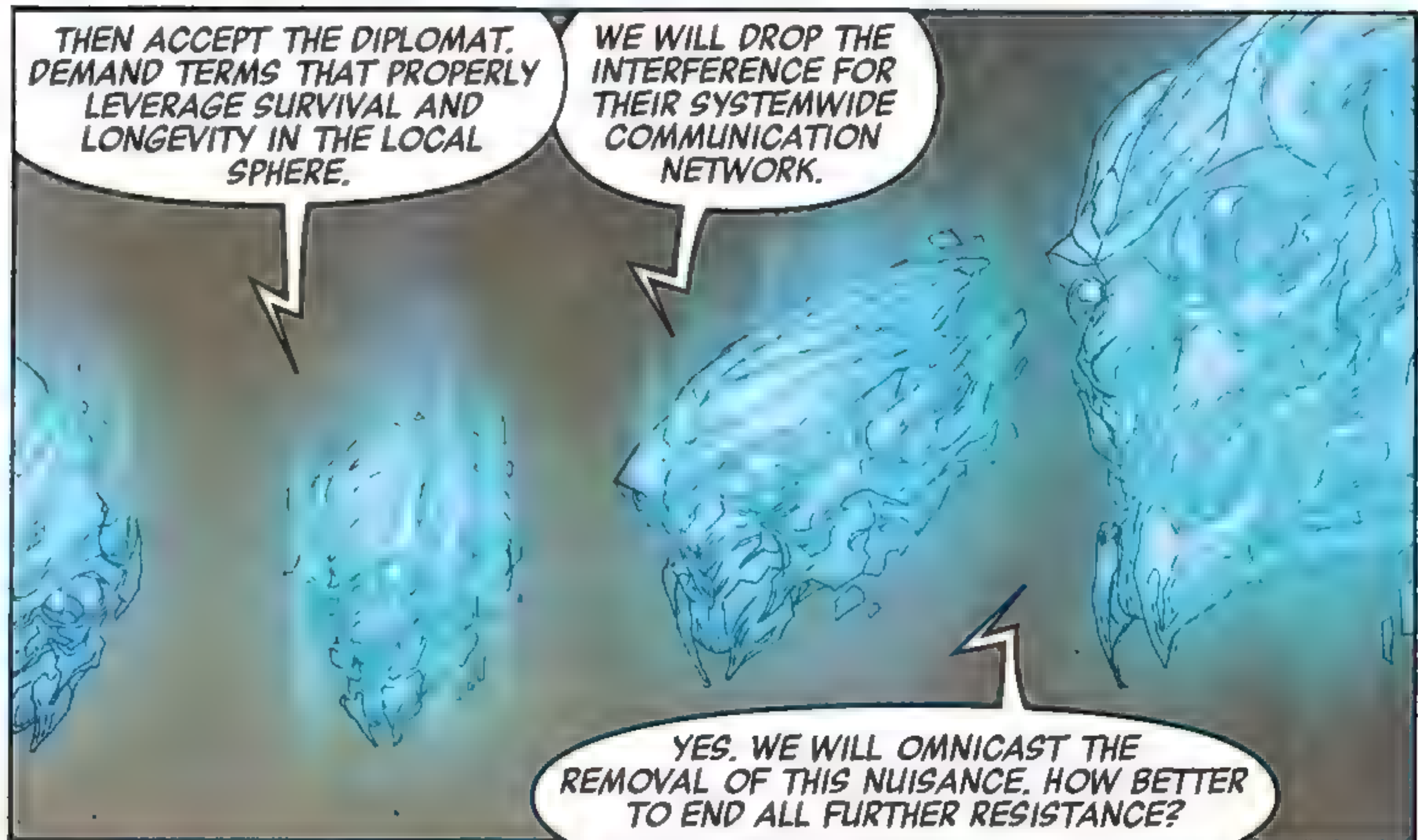


THE LAST LESSON



**THE SHI'AR BATTLESHIP
LILANDRA.
ABOVE BUILDER-
CONTROLLED HALA.**







YOU HAVE SUMMONED ALL THAT I HAVE REQUESTED, RONAN?

THE HIGH BORN, THE BLUES, AND BOTH THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL CLASSES...

YOU HAVE CALLED FORTH YOUR JUDGES?



YES.



"THE ACCUSERS ARE HERE."

"ALL OF THEM."



THEN SUMMON THE REBEL DIPLOMAT. LET THIS PERSON LAND HERE AND LET THEM BEND THEIR KNEE...

FOR ALL OF HALA AND ALL THE UNIVERSE TO SEE.

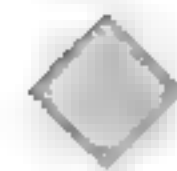
FOR YOU TO WITNESS...



THIS WILL BE THE FINEST DAY IN THE HISTORY OF THE KREE EMPIRE.



THE CHANGE



THE HIDDEN CITY OF OROLLAN.

HE WAS A HEALER.

MILLENNIA AGO, WHEN INHUMAN ROYALTY FRACTURED, A FEW TRIBES SCATTERED ACROSS THE STARS, FEWER STILL ONE DAY RETURNING HOME. MOST SIMPLY SCATTERED ACROSS THE EARTH.

LONG HIDDEN AMONGST HUMANITY.

THE LOR ARE ONE OF THESE LOST HOUSES.

POSSESSING ONLY A SINGLE STOLEN SHARD OF A TERRIGEN CRYSTAL, FOR THESE INHUMAN OUTCASTS, THE GREAT CHANGE--TERRIGENESIS--COULD ONLY OCCUR ONCE A GENERATION.

AND EVEN THEN FOR ONLY A VERY FEW.

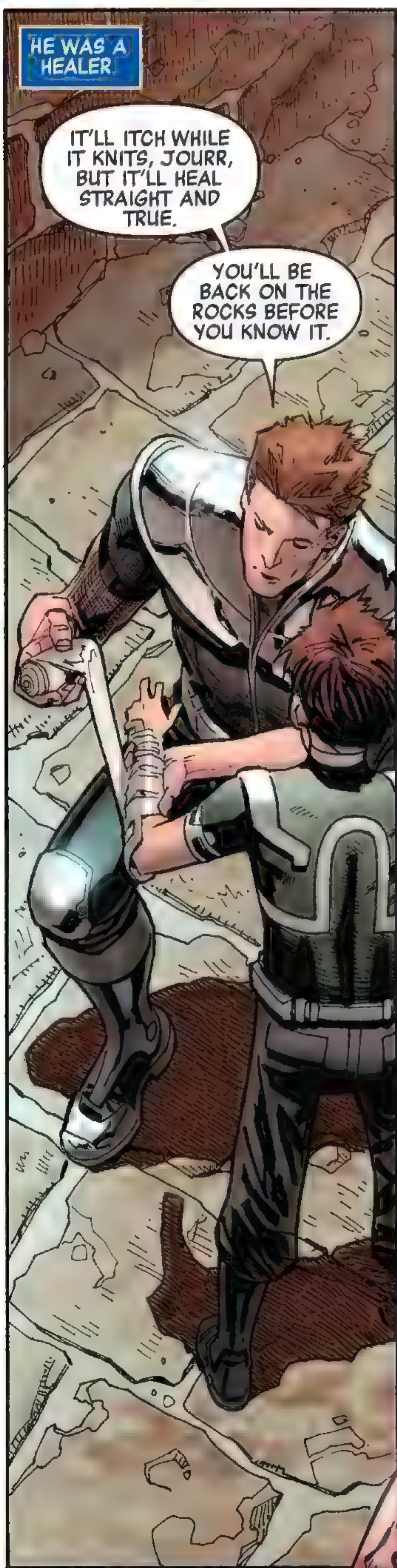
THEY PRAYED THEIR MISTS WOULD BRING THEIR PEOPLE THE VERY BEST OF GIFTS...

GREAT MINDS. STRONG WARRIORS. BUILDERS. MAKERS.



THEY PRAYED
FOR THE FEW

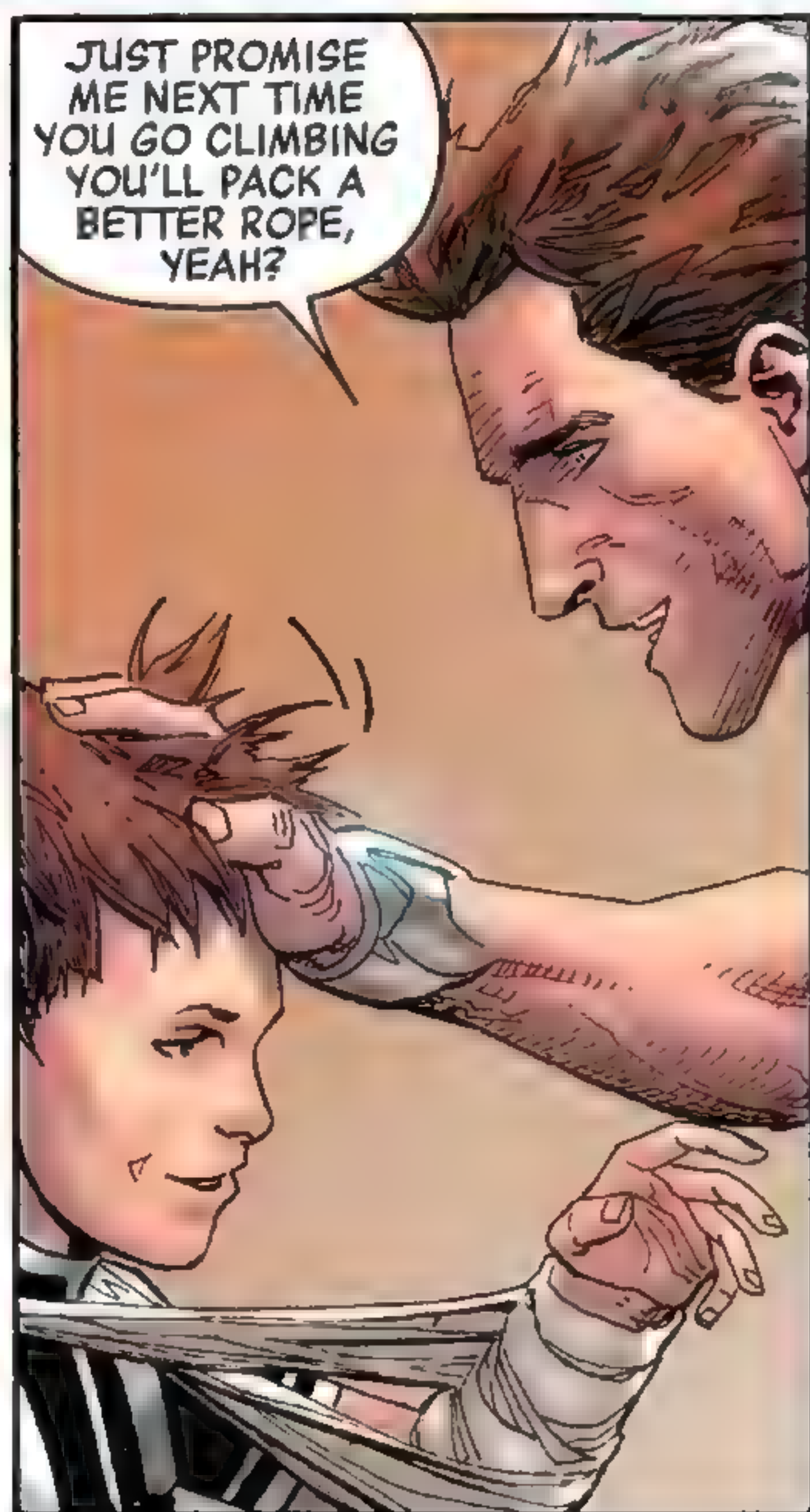
AND ALL THE OTHERS
DID THEIR BEST WITH
WHAT THEY WERE
BORN WITH



HE WAS A
HEALER

IT'LL ITCH WHILE
IT KNITS, JOURR,
BUT IT'LL HEAL
STRAIGHT AND
TRUE.

YOU'LL BE
BACK ON THE
ROCKS BEFORE
YOU KNOW IT.



JUST PROMISE
ME NEXT TIME
YOU GO CLIMBING
YOU'LL PACK A
BETTER ROPE,
YEAH?



THANKS,
HEALER!

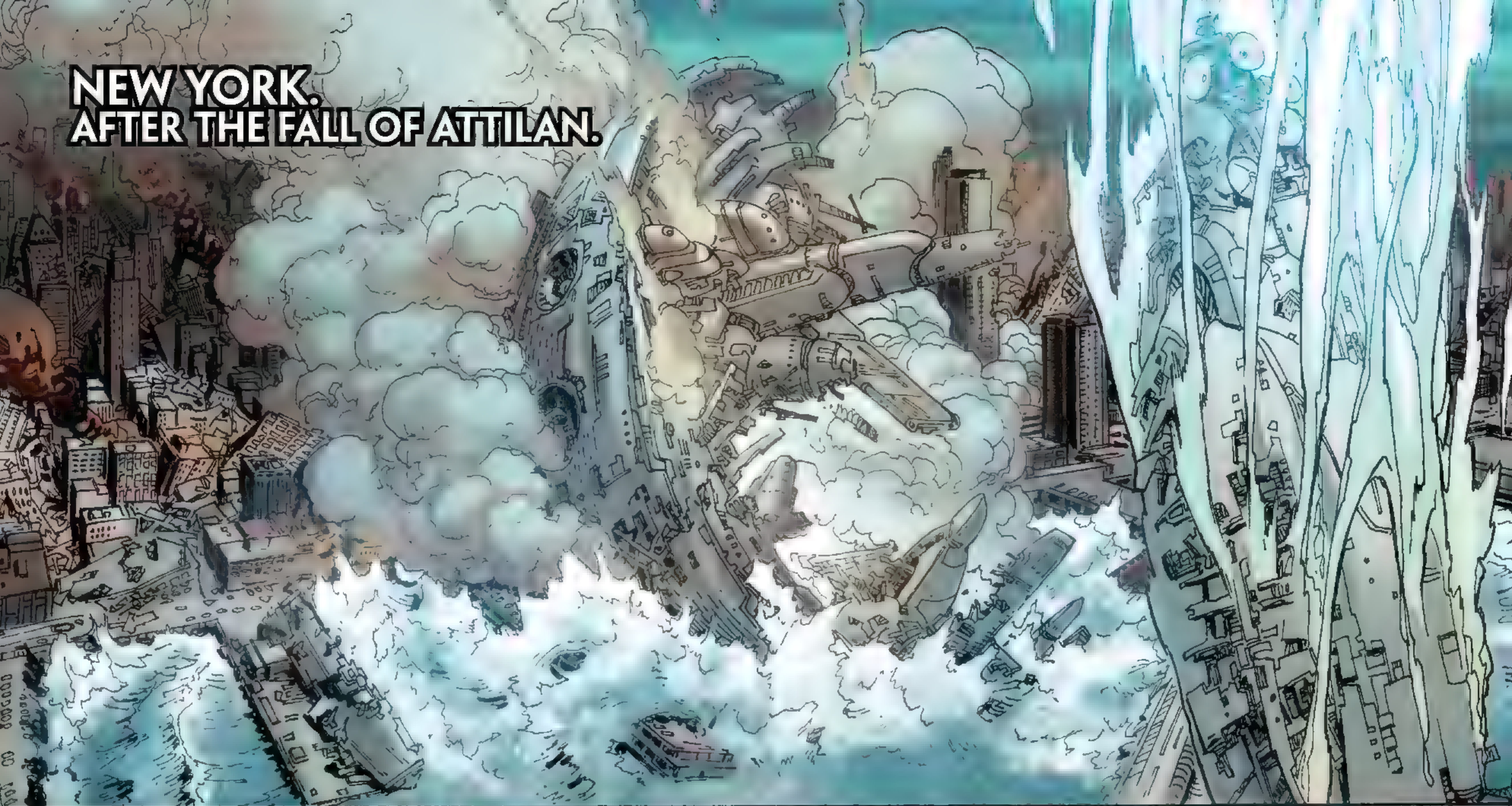
I
PROMISE!

HIS NAME WAS
THANE, THE SON
OF THANOS

AND HIS FATHER
HAS CROSSED
THE STARS TO
KILL HIM



**NEW YORK.
AFTER THE FALL OF ATILAN.**



**THE VOICE OF
BLACK BOLT
ACTIVATED THE
TERRIGEN BOMB**

THE BOMB WAS A
DELIVERY SYSTEM
FOR TERRIGENESIS

A CATALYST FOR
THE CHANGE

A MACHINATION OF
MAXIMUS THE MAD, THE
BOMB CONVERTED SOUND
TO LIGHT AND MAPPED THE
TERRIGEN TO NITROGEN,
TRIGGERING A CASCADING
WORLDWIDE CHANGE

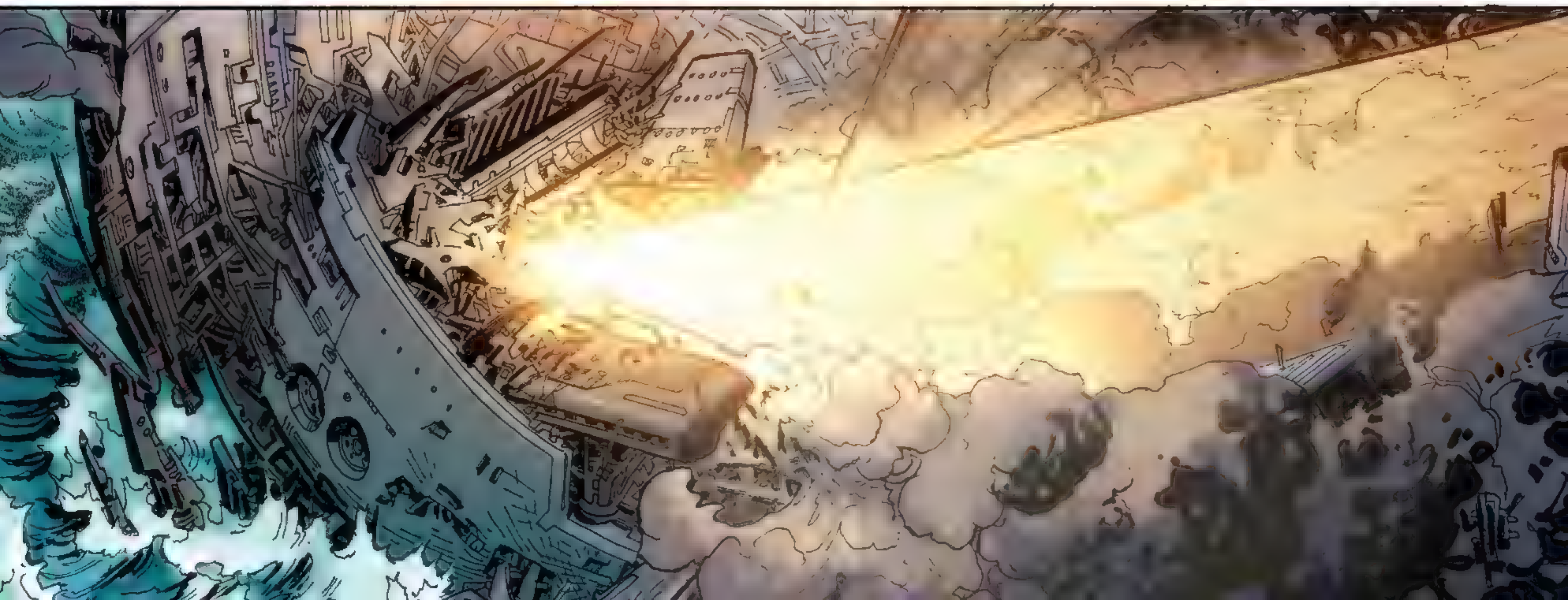
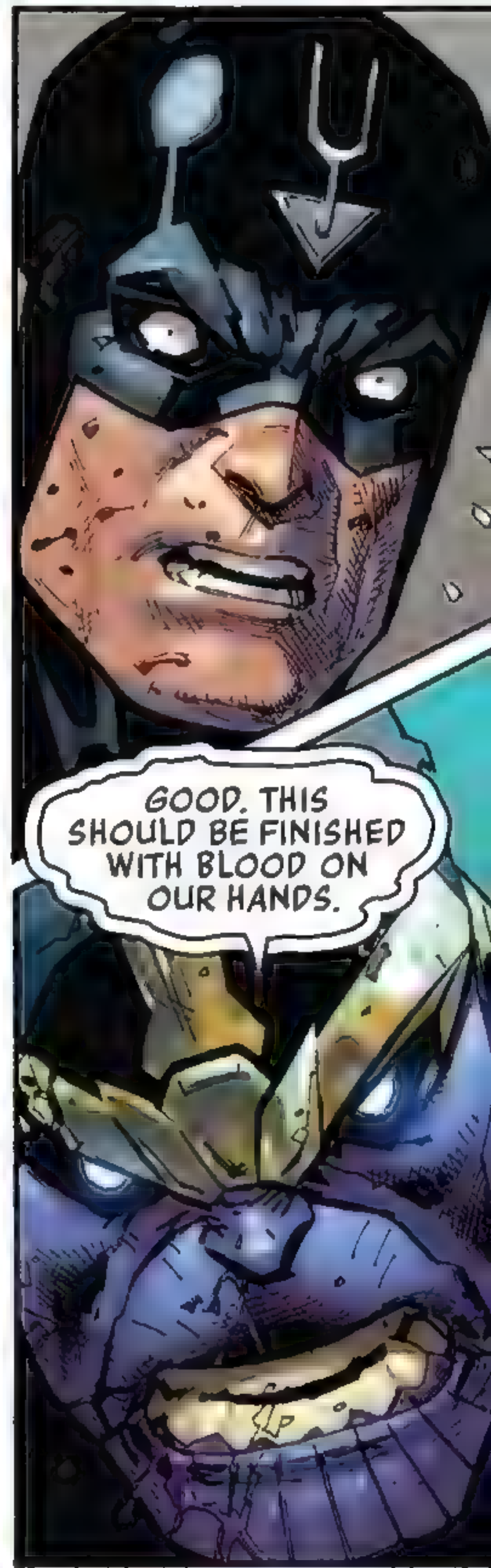
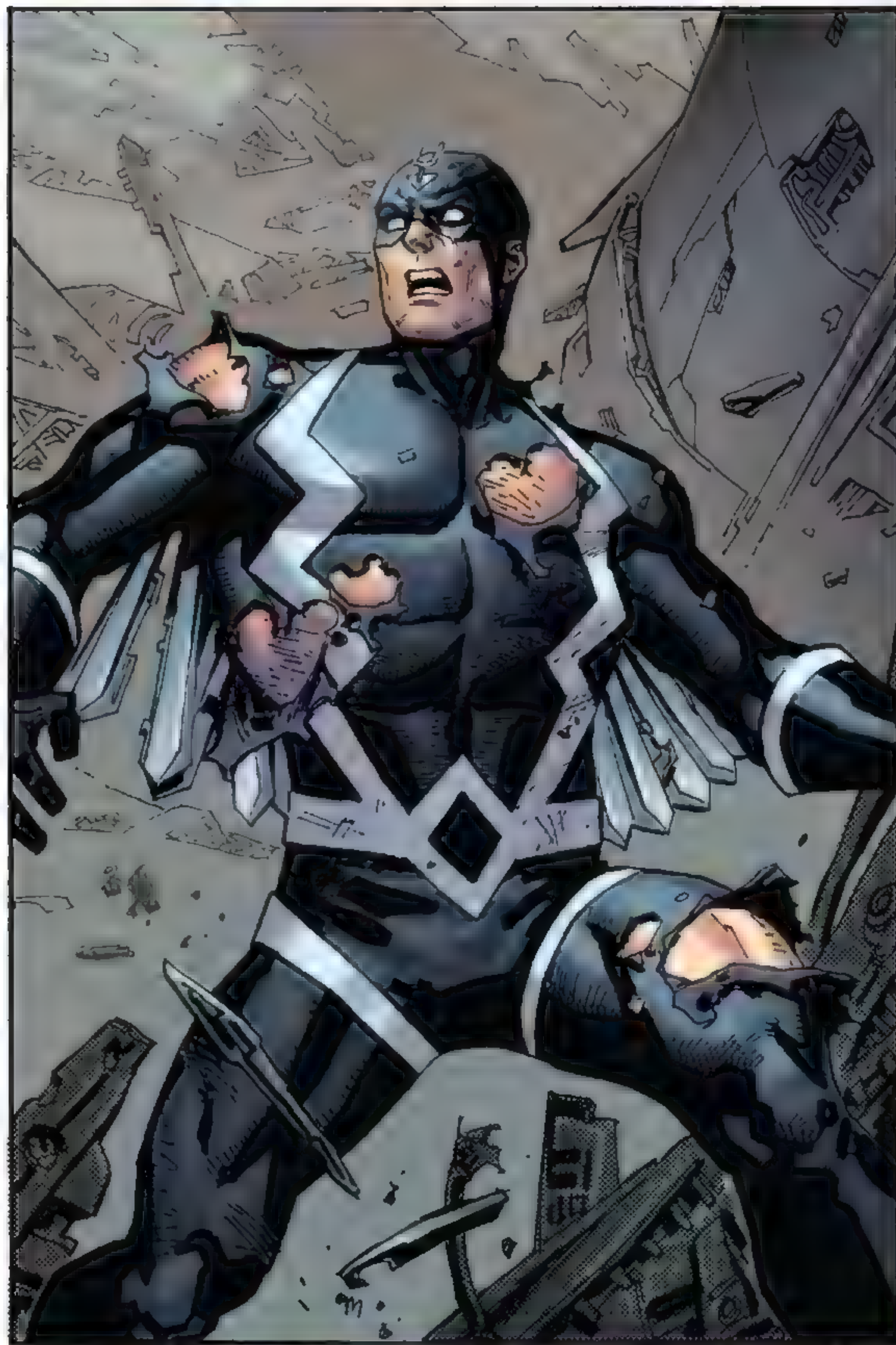
GLOBAL
TERRIGENESIS

AND AS THE TERRIGEN
CLOUD EXPANDED, ALL
THOSE WITH INHUMAN DNA
IN THEIR GENETIC CODE
BEGAN TO RECEIVE
THEIR BIRTHRIGHT

SOME WOULD
CHANGE SLOWLY

OTHERS
QUICKLY

BUT THE WORLD...
IT WAS CHANGED
FOREVER





WHERE IS
THE BOY, BLACK
BOLT?

WHERE
IS MY
SON?

YOU
WILL TELL
ME...

WHERE
IS HE?

WHERE?

THERE IS A BELIEF AMONG
THE INHUMANS THAT
TERRIGENESIS SIMPLY
REVEALS WHO YOU
TRULY ARE.

THAT IT ERASES
THE LIE AND UNCOVERS
THE TRUTH.

THANE HAD ALWAYS
FEARED WHAT HID
INSIDE OF HIM... THAT
HE COULD NOT
ESCAPE IT.

THAT HIS LINEAGE
WAS HIS TRUE LEGACY.

THAT HE WAS HIS
FATHER'S SON.

AND THE
TERRIGENESIS
WOULD ERASE
ALL' DOUBT.



ENOUGH!



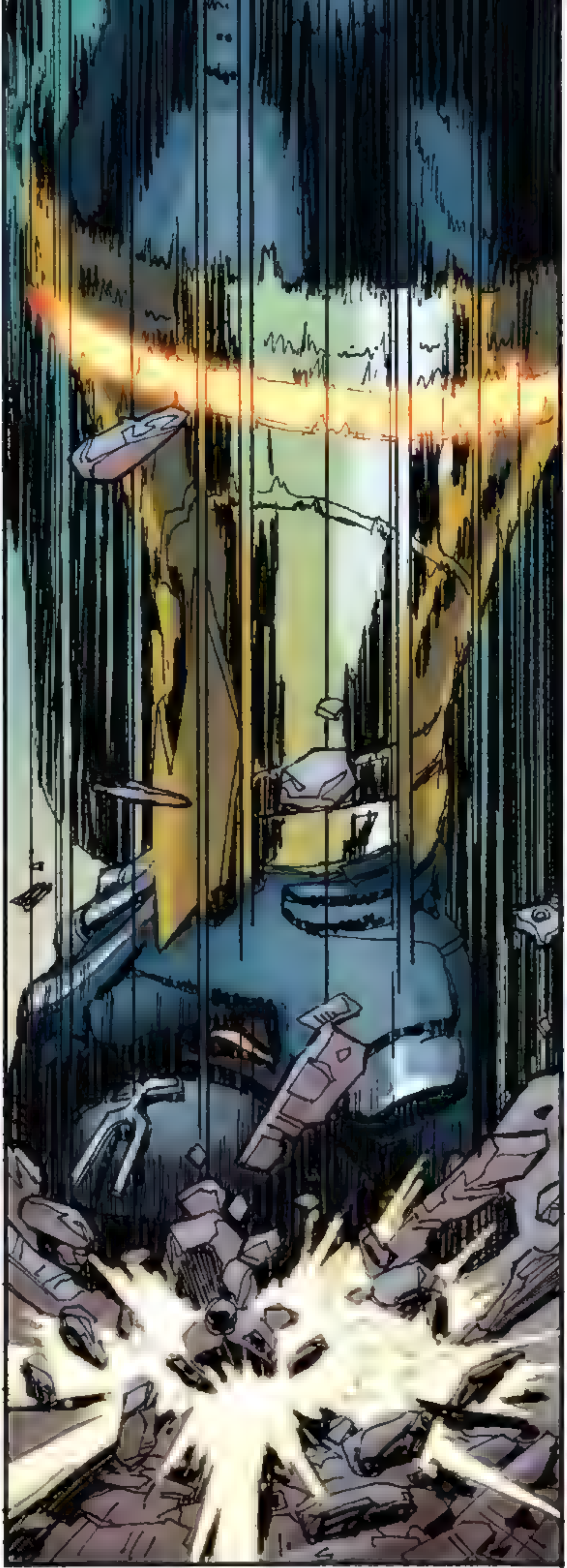
MRRFFFF!

KEEP YOUR
SECRETS...



CARRY THEM
WITH YOU TO
THE GRAVE!





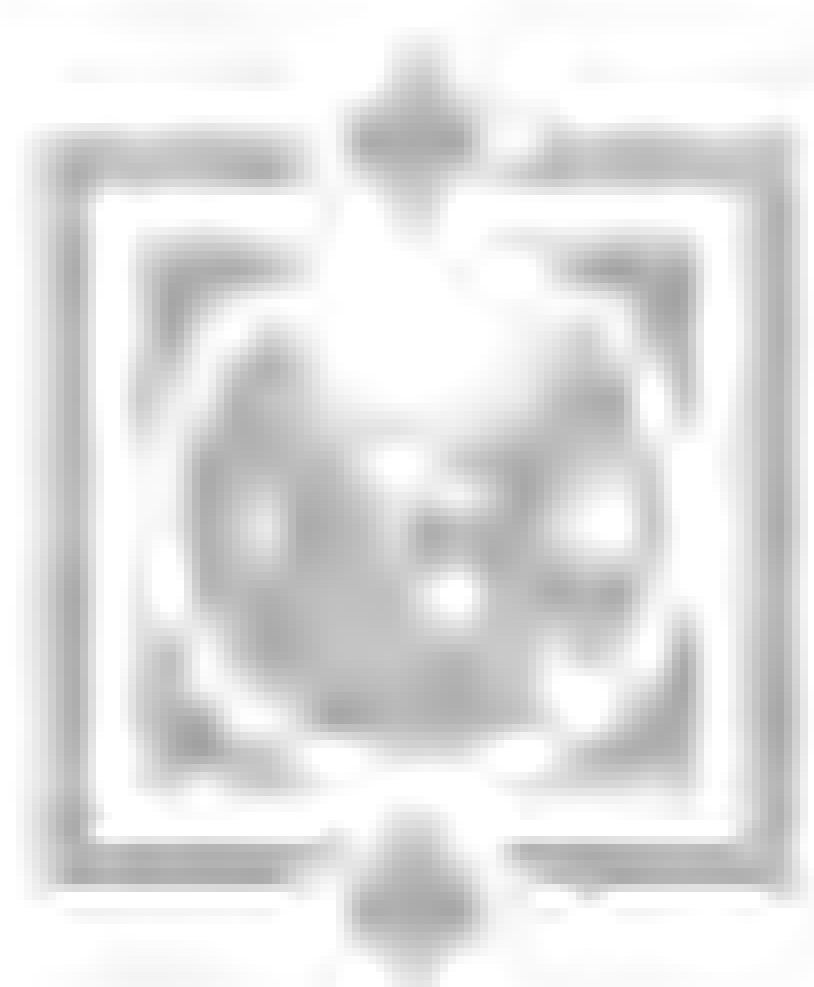
THANOS CAME TO EARTH TO
KILL HIS SON. JUST AS HE
HAD KILLED ALL OF HIS OTHER
CHILDREN ACROSS THE GALAXY.



THANOS SPENT
HIS LIFE CHASING
DEATH.

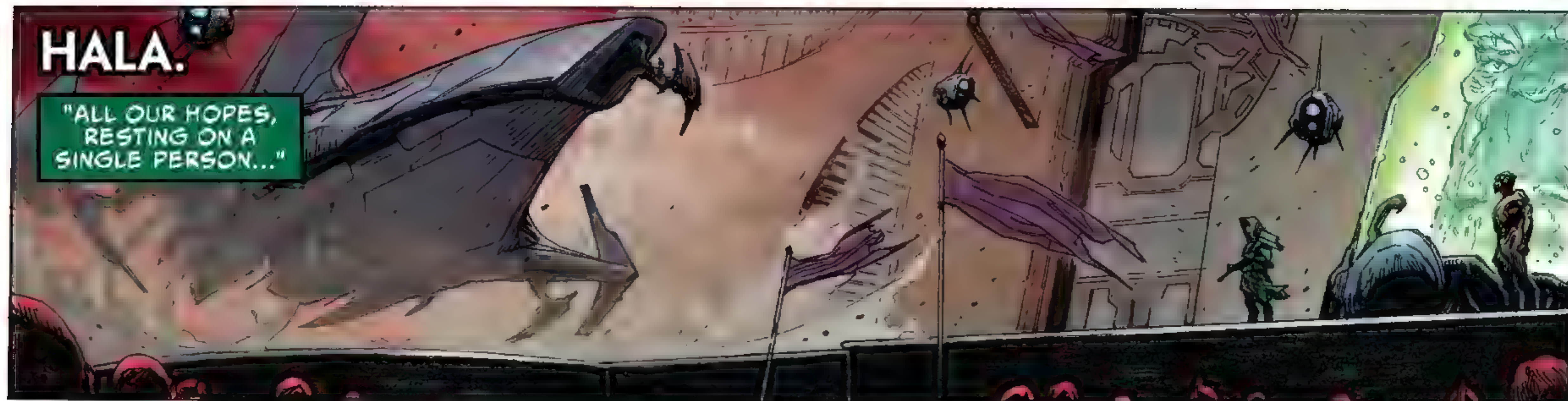
HE DID NOT
YET KNOW THAT HE
HAD SPAWNED IT.





A PRAYER





HALA.

"ALL OUR HOPES,
RESTING ON A
SINGLE PERSON..."



OUR FUTURE,
DEPENDENT ON
SURRENDER, IS
THIS HOW FAR
WE'VE FALLEN?

WHAT DOES PRIDE MATTER NOW? TIME
FOR DEBATE HAS ENDED, WARLORD. WE
KNOW WE CANNOT WIN.

SO REGARDLESS
OF HOW BADLY WE
WISH TO BATTLE ON,
FOR NOW WE APPEAR
STRONG AND BEG
FOR TIME.

THE GOOD
CAPTAIN HAS
MADE HIS
CASE.

THE
SHUTTLE'S
LANDED...



"HE BARTERS FOR US ALL,
CAPTAIN...YOU'RE SURE YOU
SENT THE RIGHT PERSON?"



OF THAT
I HAVE NO
DOUBT...





AS REQUESTED...
UNARMED.

SHALL WE
HAGGLE NOW
LIKE WEAK
MEN?



YOU THINK THERE
IS A BARGAIN TO
BE HAD HERE?

THERE IS NO
BARGAIN.

I UNDERSTOOD,
SO THAT YOU REBELS
MIGHT SURVIVE AND
YOUR WORLDS REMAIN
UNRAZED, YOU WOULD
BE SURRENDERING
THIS DAY.

WAS I
ILL INFORMED?
WAS I MISLED?



YOUR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE MATTER IS NOT
WRONG--I AM HERE TO
OFFICIALLY END THE
HOSTILITIES BY YIELDING
THE FIELD TO YOU.

BUT I WILL
BE DEMANDING
ASSURANCES.



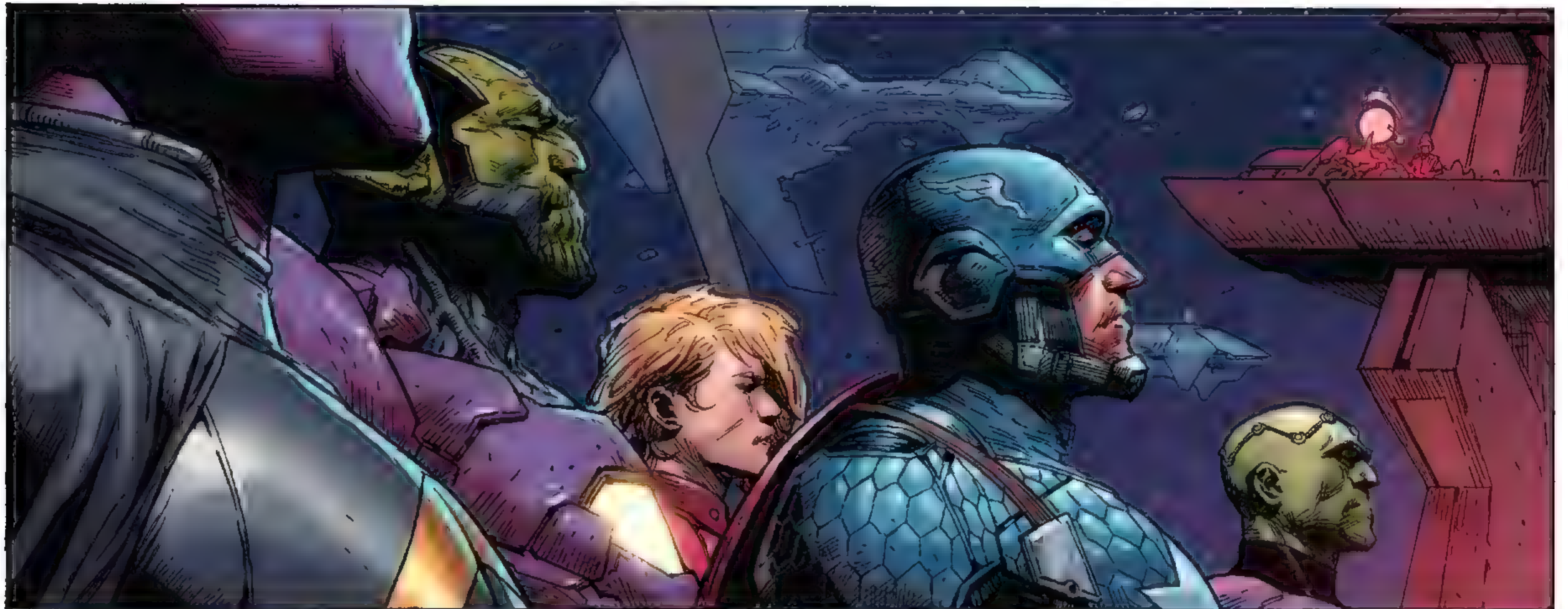
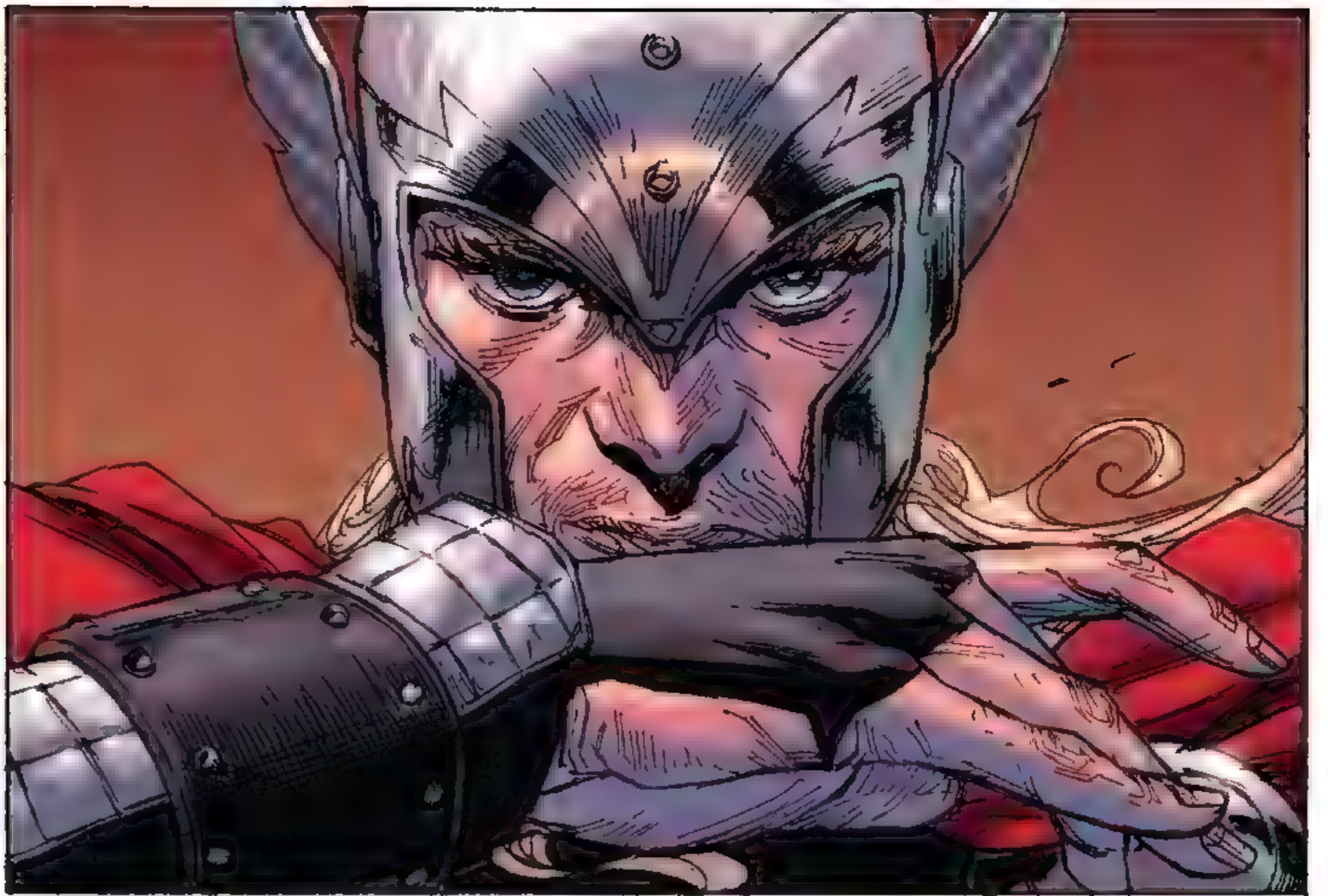
IT IS WISE TO
ASK, LESS SO
TO DEMAND.

ASSURANCES,
YOU SAY?

COME
CLOSER.



HERE ARE YOUR
ASSURANCES.





THIS IS GOOD...

DOES IT NOT SUIT YOU BETTER?

IS THIS NOT YOUR NATURAL STATE?



YOU HAVE SAVED SO VERY MANY BY YIELDING HERE TODAY...BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW, YOU HAVE NOT SAVED YOUR EARTH.

THERE IS NO SAVING THAT WORLD.



"WE WILL REDUCE IT TO ATOMS...BURNT TO NOTHING WITH THE POWER OF A THOUSAND SUNS.

"AND DO YOU KNOW WHY?"



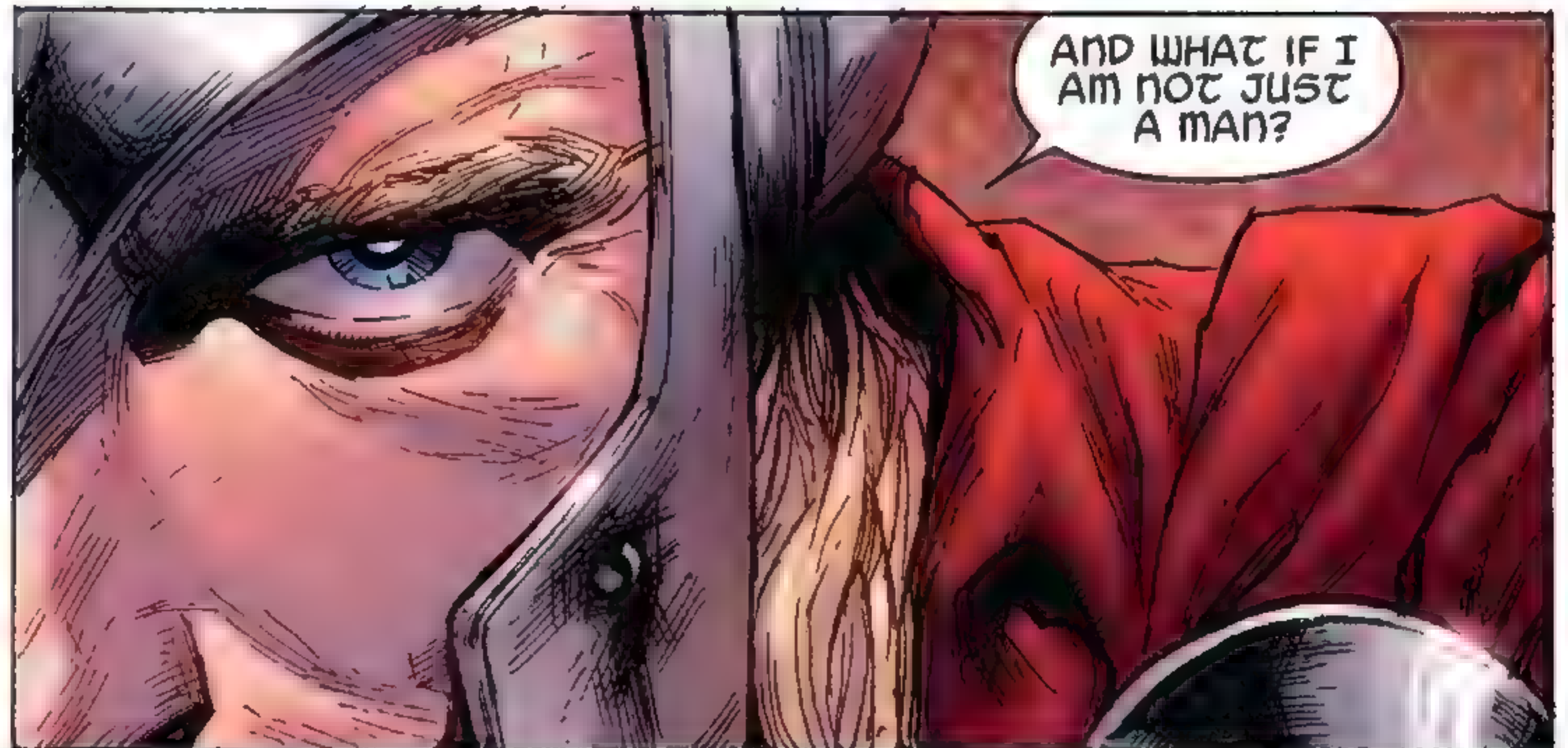
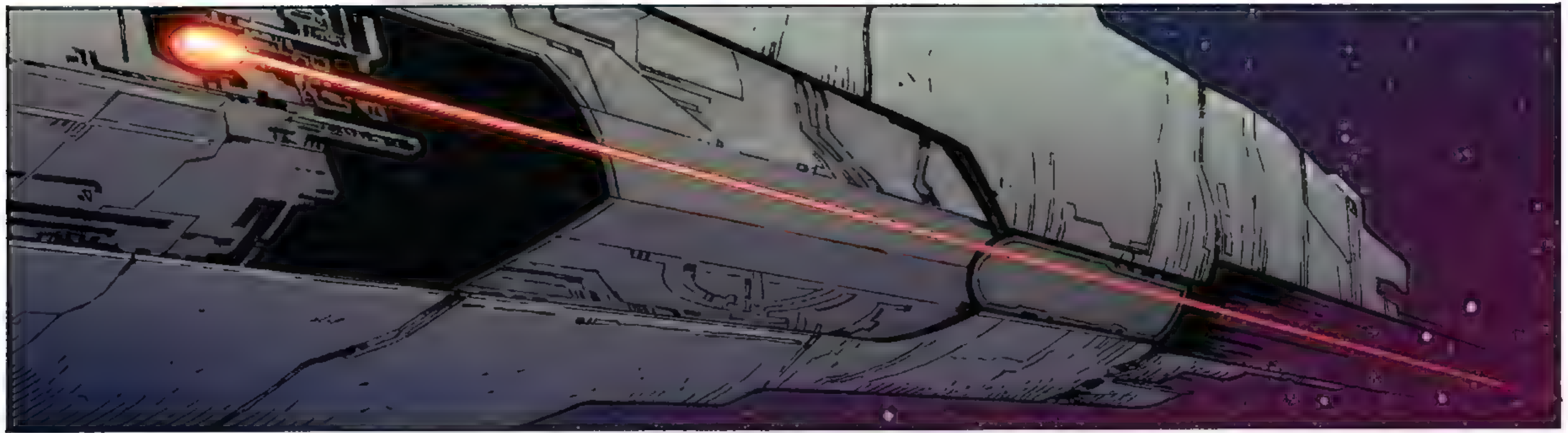
HUMANITY IS A PLAGUE NOT JUST TO THIS GALAXY OR EVEN THIS UNIVERSE...

IT IS A SICKNESS THAT EXISTS IN EVERY UNIVERSE THAT HAS BEEN OR EVER WILL BE.

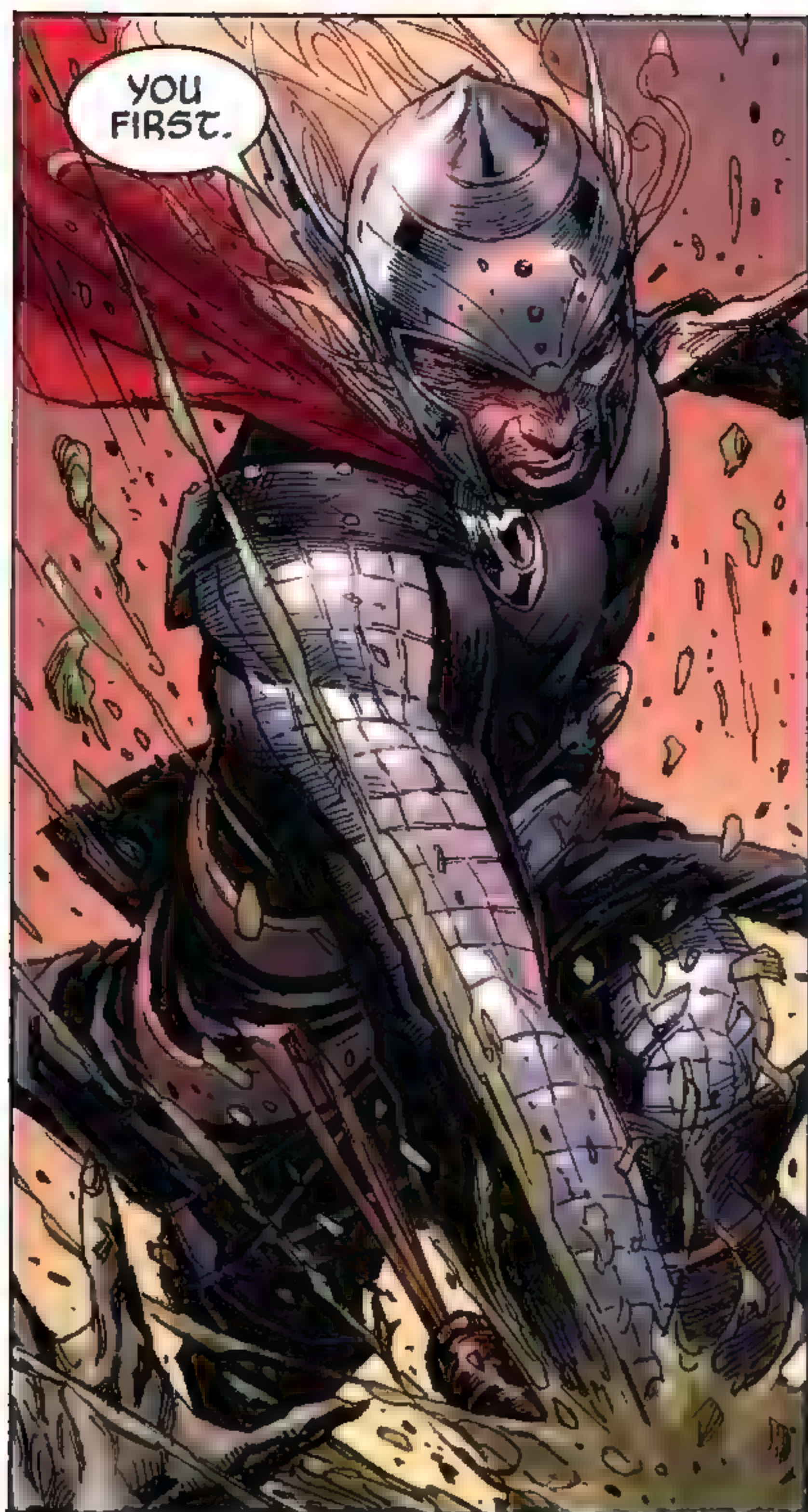


"A FESTERING WOUND THAT MUST BE CAUTERIZED.

"A BLIGHT ON THE GREAT CANVAS THAT IS **EVERYTHING.**"







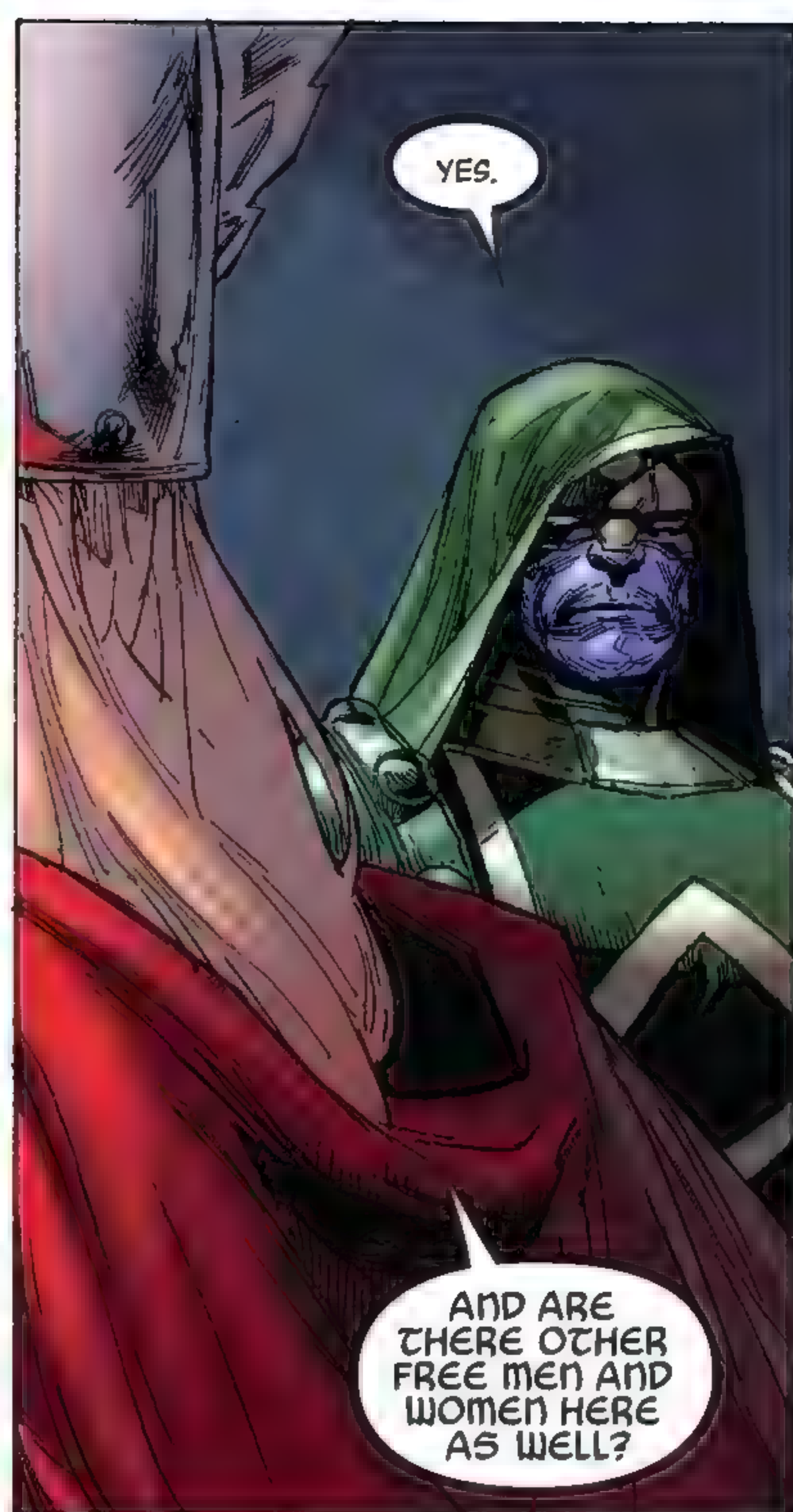
YOU FIRST.



ABOVE THIS WORLD ARE FREE MEN AND WOMEN FIGHTING FOR THEIR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THIS GALAXY.

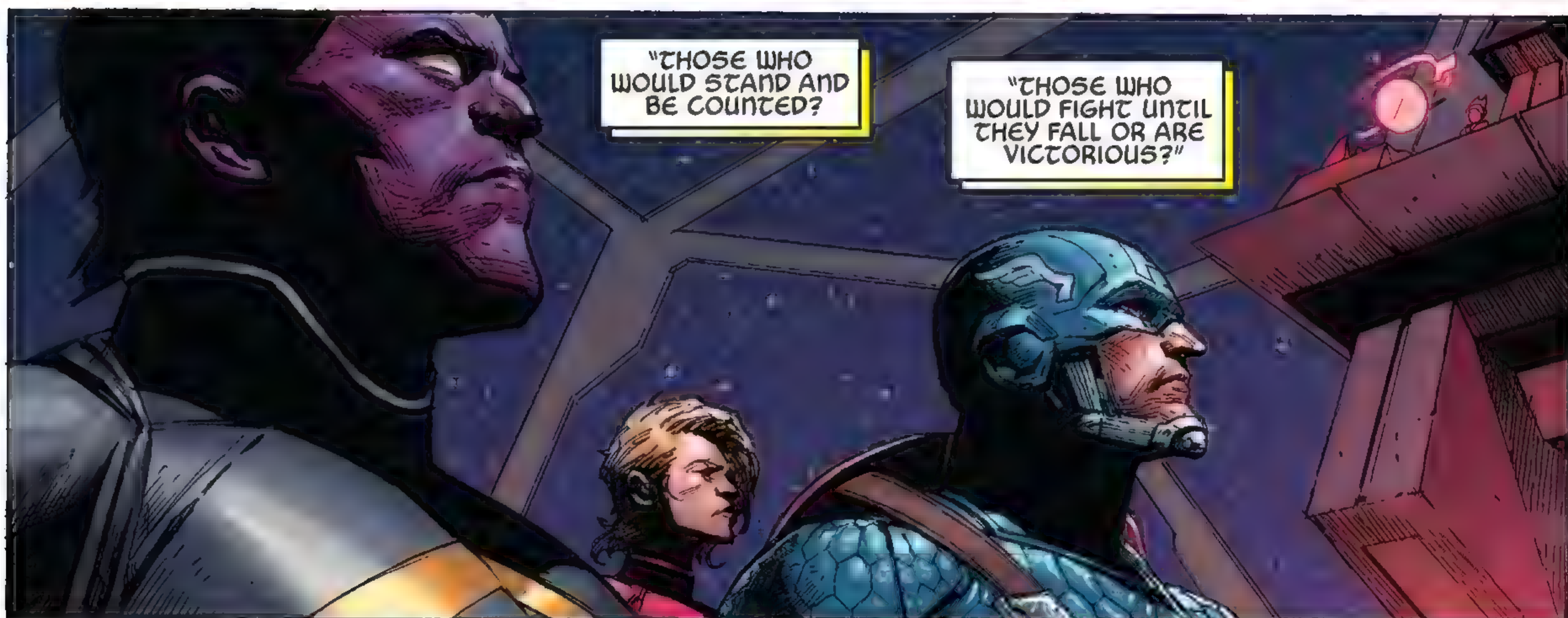
THOSE WHO WOULD DIE BEFORE YIELDING THEIR LIBERTY TO YOKE.

ARE YOU A FREE MAN, RONAN?



YES.

AND ARE THERE OTHER FREE MEN AND WOMEN HERE AS WELL?



"THOSE WHO WOULD STAND AND BE COUNTED?"

"THOSE WHO WOULD FIGHT UNTIL THEY FALL OR ARE VICTORIOUS?"



THERE ARE.

THEN CALL THEM OUT...

THERE IS BATTLE WAITING FOR THE RIGHTEOUS.



ACCUSERS!

ARE YOU WITH ME?



LOOK!

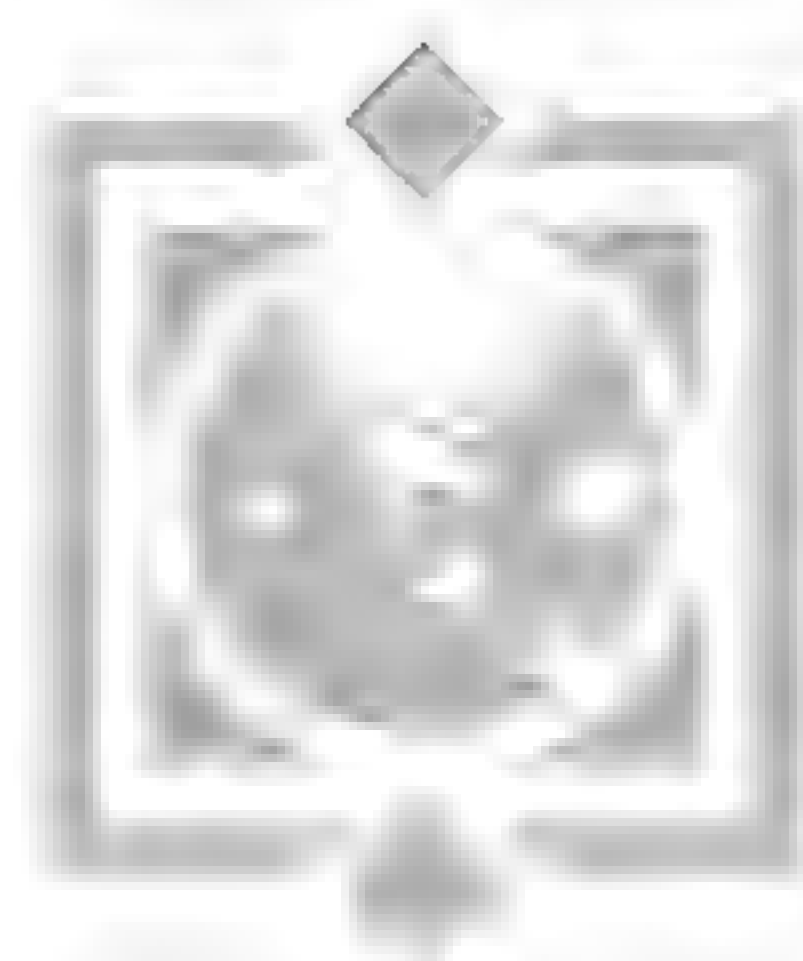
A BUILDER HAS
FALLEN...AND ONCE
FREE HALA IS NOW
FREE AGAIN.

YOU HAVE
SUCCEEDED,
AVENGER...
AGAIN.

WHAT
FOLLOWS
AFTER
THIS?

NOW
WE WIN.





THE PROMISE OF THE UNIVERSE



THE SHI'AR BATTLESHIP
LILANDRA.



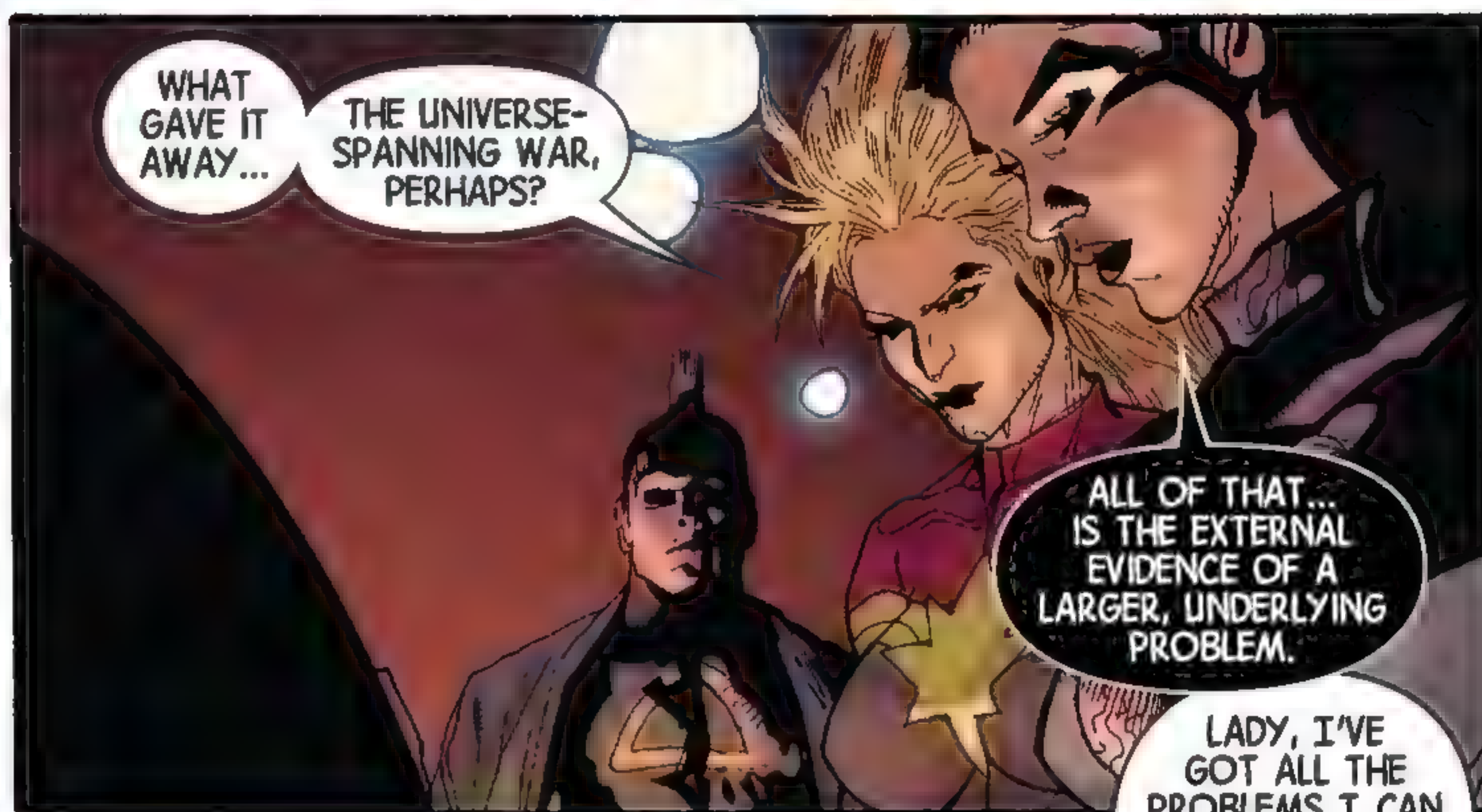
CAPTAIN
UNIVERSE SHOULD
HAVE RECOVERED
BY NOW.

SHE HASN'T,
BECAUSE
SOMETHING'S
WRONG.



YES.
SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

THAT'S VERY
ASTUTE OF YOU,
EX NIHILO.



WHAT
GAVE IT
AWAY...

THE UNIVERSE-
SPANNING WAR,
PERHAPS?

ALL OF THAT...
IS THE EXTERNAL
EVIDENCE OF A
LARGER, UNDERLYING
PROBLEM.

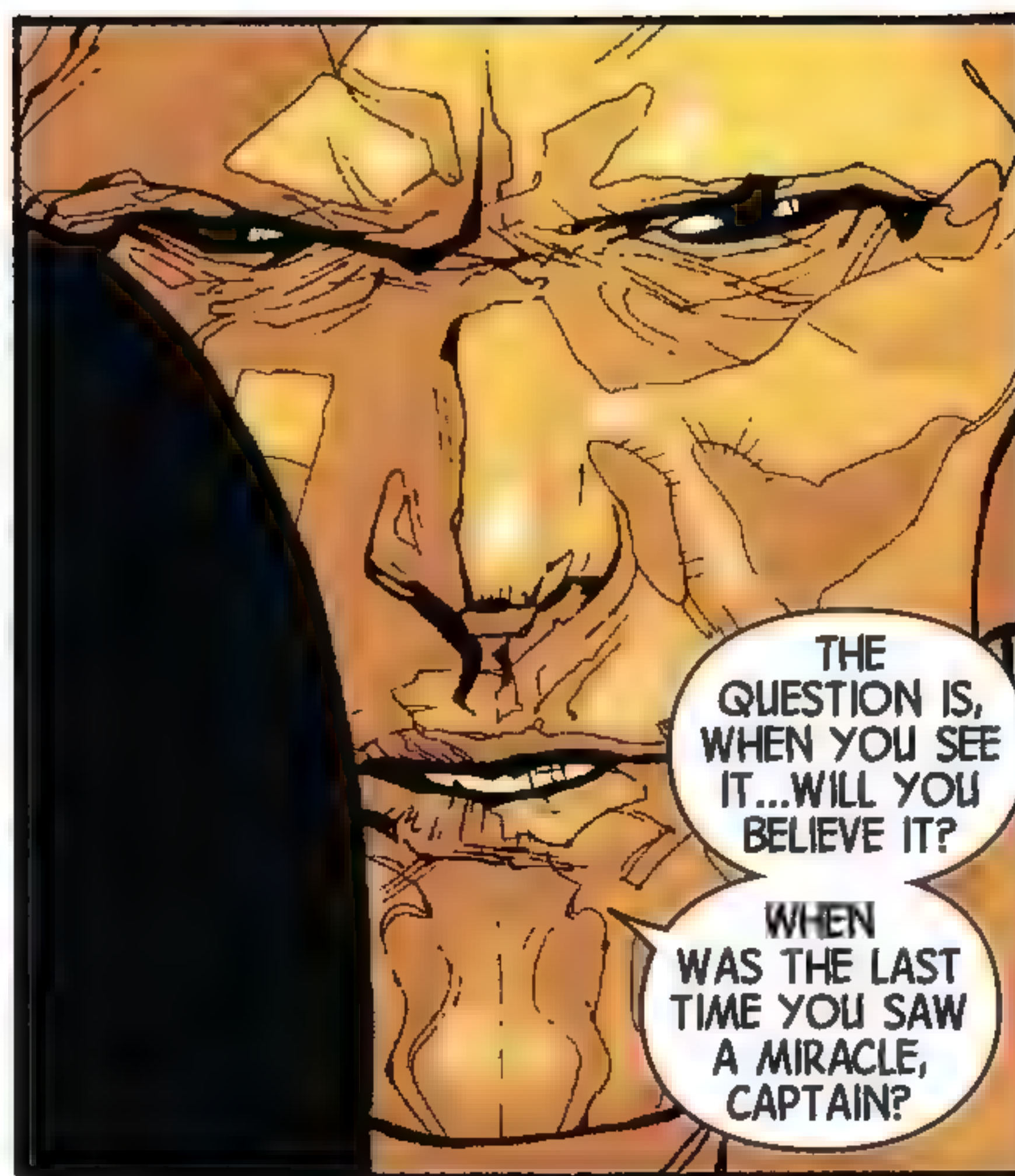
LADY, I'VE
GOT ALL THE
PROBLEMS I CAN
HANDLE RIGHT
NOW--NO TIME
FOR ANY
MORE.



BUT WHAT IF
THE MOTHER COULD
SOLVE ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS?

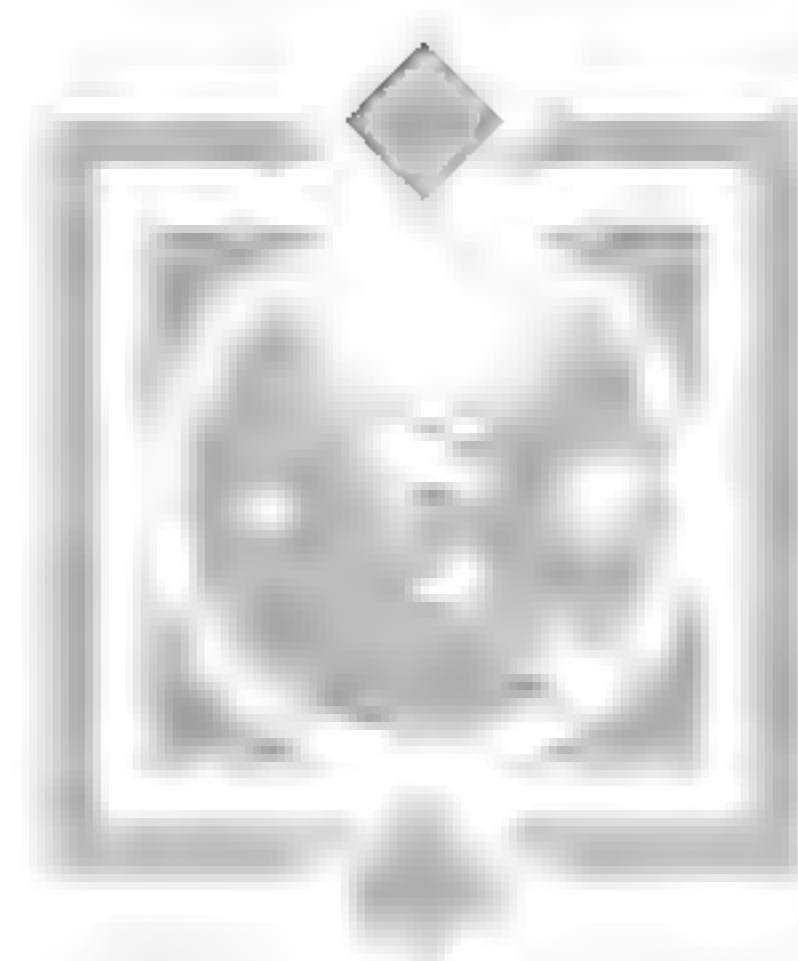


I'LL
BELIEVE
IT WHEN I
SEE IT.



THE
QUESTION IS,
WHEN YOU SEE
IT...WILL YOU
BELIEVE IT?

WHEN
WAS THE LAST
TIME YOU SAW
A MIRACLE,
CAPTAIN?



THE SECOND WAVE



HALA.

YOUR HEART
RATE IS ELEVATED
TO DANGEROUS LEVELS,
TECHNICIAN. YOU RISK
UNDER-OXYGENATION AND
LOSS OF COGNITIVE
FUNCTION...

YOU WERE
INSTALLED WITH
A SECOND HEART
FOR A REASON—
RE-REGULATE
IMMEDIATELY.

REMAIN
CALM AND
CONTINUE...

YOU HAVE A
FULL SIX MINUTES
TO COMPLETE REPAIRS
UNTIL TOTAL DATA
LOSS AND MY
UNFORTUNATE
DEMISE.



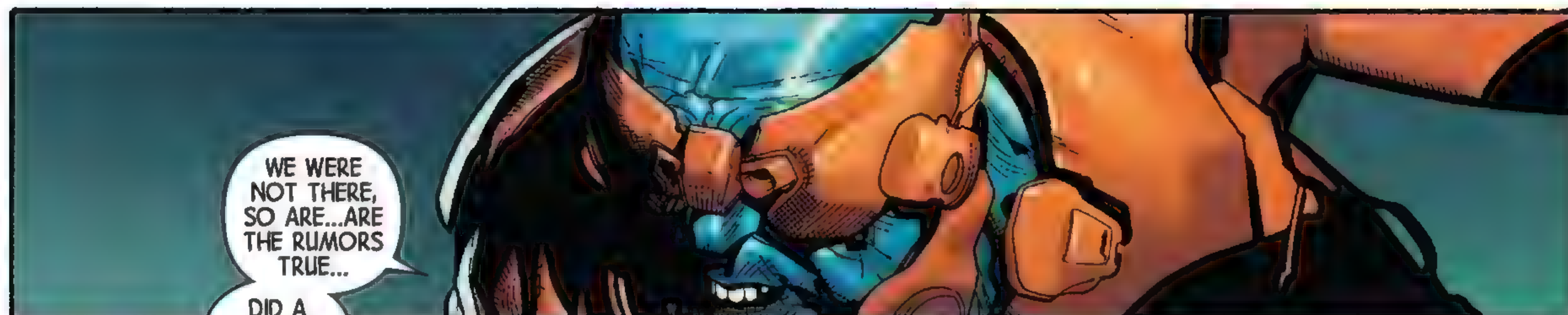


PRIMARY POWER
RE-ESTABLISHED. CYCLING
OFF THE SECONDARY...
REBUILDING SHELL AND
BACKING UP DATA
NOW.

AN ESTIMATED
THREE MINUTES
UNTIL WE REACH
THE SAFETY
THRESHOLD.

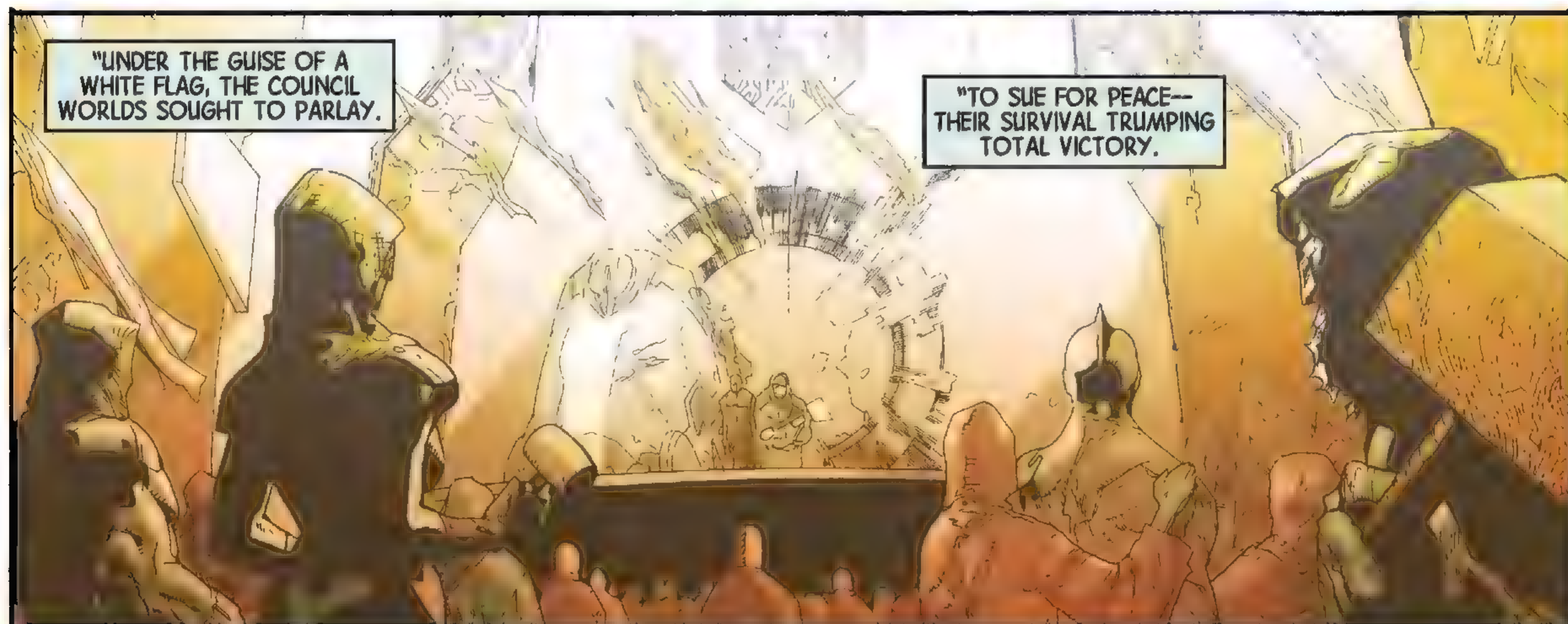
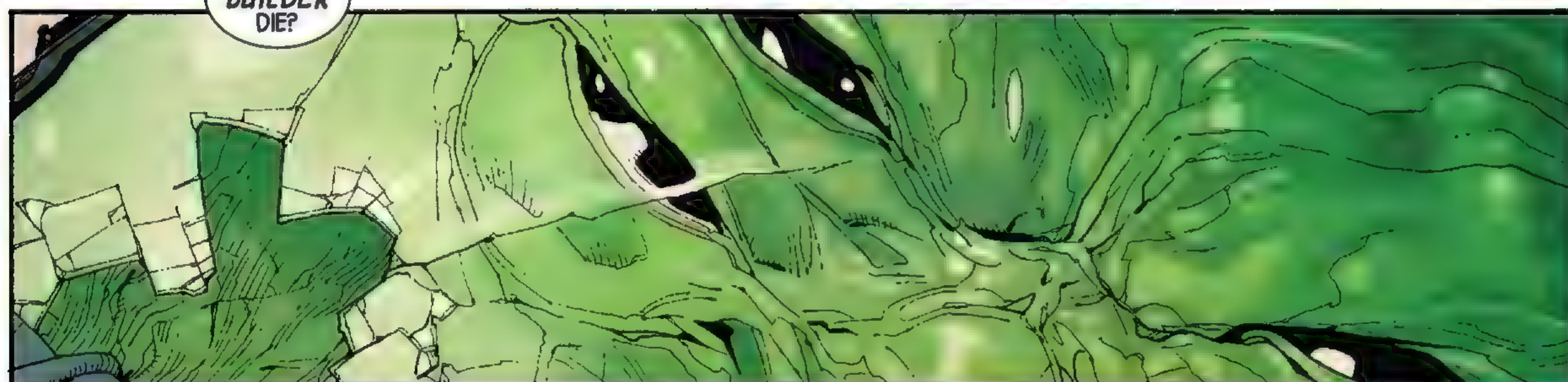
SUPREMOR...
I HAVE A
QUESTION.

YOU
MAY ASK,
TECHNICIAN.



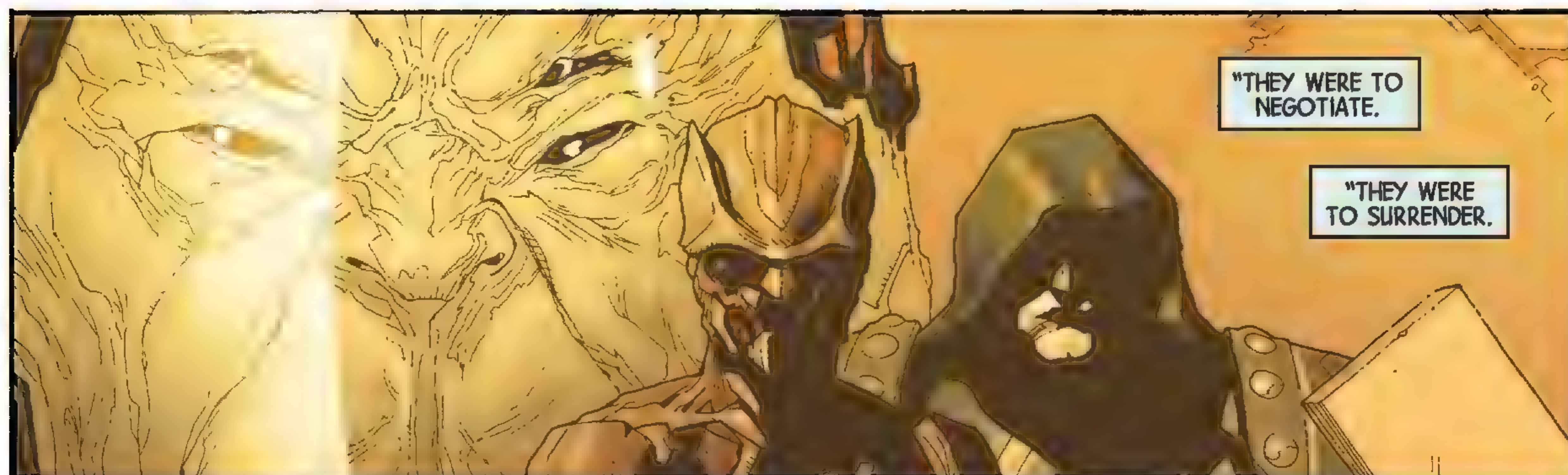
WE WERE
NOT THERE,
SO ARE...ARE
THE RUMORS
TRUE...

DID A
BUILDER
DIE?



"UNDER THE GUISE OF A
WHITE FLAG, THE COUNCIL
WORLDS SOUGHT TO PARLAY.

"TO SUE FOR PEACE--
THEIR SURVIVAL TRUMPING
TOTAL VICTORY.



"THEY WERE TO
NEGOTIATE.

"THEY WERE
TO SURRENDER.

"INSTEAD THEY SENT
THE TERRAN THUNDER
GOD, FULL OF WRATH
AND ILL INTENT.

"HE DREW THE
BUILDER CLOSE...

"ONLY TO STRIKE HIM
DOWN AND STOKE THE
FIRES OF REVENGE.

"HE CALLED IT FREEDOM,
BUT I SAW IT FOR WHAT
IT TRULY WAS..."





AN ANOMALY.
A LUCKY BLOW
THAT FELLED A
GIANT.

ONE MINUTE
UNTIL FULL
CONTAINMENT.

AN ANOMALY,
SUPREMOR?

IS THERE
ANYTHING MORE
DAMNED IN THE
KNOWN UNIVERSE?
YES, AN
ANOMALY.

AND SO
I LET IT BE
KNOWN...



THIS...
VICTORY WAS
NOTHING.

WHAT?



THIS CHANGES
NOTHING.

THEY ARE
STILL LEGION. THE
FORCES OF THE
GALACTIC COUNCIL
ARE SHATTERED.

ALL THAT
HAS HAPPENED
HERE IS A BLIGHT ON
HALA THAT WE MUST
HOPE THE BUILDERS DO
NOT SEE THE NEED
TO REMOVE.
FOREVER.



AGAINST THE LONG
HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE
THAT I CARRY IN MY
MEMORIES...YOU ARE
NOTHING.

YOU ARE ALL
NOTHING.

WHAT ARE
A BILLION LIVES
WHEN MEASURED
AGAINST THE TRILLIONS
SPANNING THE LONG
HISTORY OF OUR
PEOPLE?



SUPREMOR.

WE ARE A
MIGHTY PEOPLE.
WARRIORS WHO
HAVE CONQUERED
A GALAXY. WE
HAVE BEEN GIVEN
A SECOND CHANCE
TO SHOW THE
UNIVERSE WHAT WE
TRULY ARE.

WE MUST
TAKE IT.
OUR HONOR
DEMANDS
IT.

I DO NOT
CARE FOR
PERFORMANCES,
ACCUUSER.

THIS IS NOT
SOME GREAT PLAY,
ACTED OUT ON A
STAGE CALLED THE
UNIVERSE.

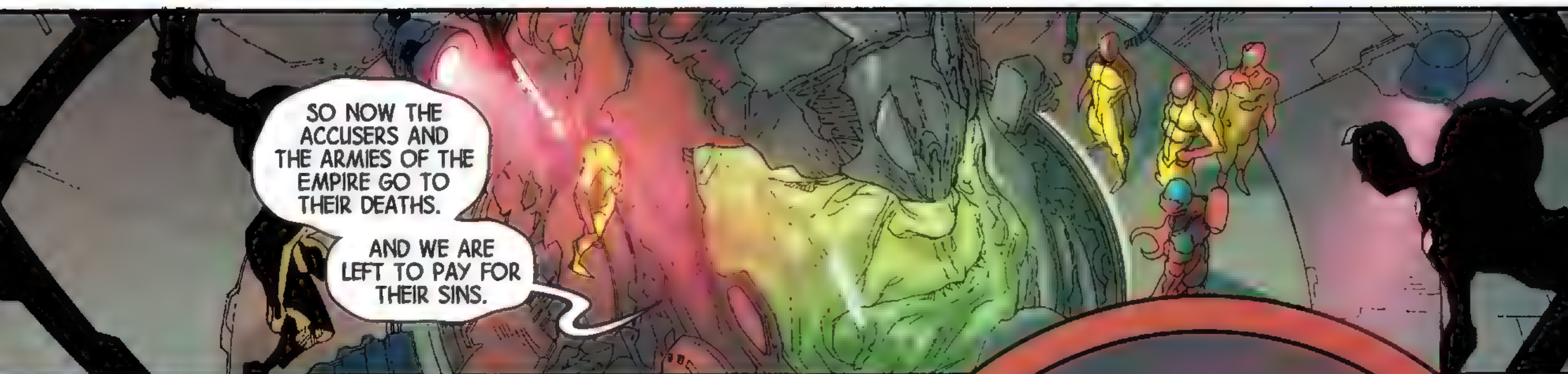
YOUR HONOR
IS NOTHING.



WHAT GOOD
IS A MOMENT,
WHEN COMPARED
TO ALL OUR
HISTORY?

THIS
MOMENT?

THIS
MOMENT IS
EVERYTHING.



SO NOW THE
ACCUSERS AND
THE ARMIES OF THE
EMPIRE GO TO
THEIR DEATHS.

AND WE ARE
LEFT TO PAY FOR
THEIR SINS.

THE LILANDRA.
NOW.



WE ARE
APPROACHING
OUR TARGET,
KYMELLIA.

RONAN, YOU
WISH YOUR
ACCUSERS TO LEAD
THE RETAKING OF
THIS WORLD?

YES.

THEN THEY
AWAIT YOUR
ORDER IN THE
STAGING
AREA.



I WILL
GIVE IT IN
PERSON.

AS I WILL
LEAD THEM
INTO BATTLE
MYSELF.

ON KYMELLIA III, THE ACCUSERS
CATCH THE BUILDERS BY SURPRISE,
OVERRUNNING THEIR ARMY OF
ALEPHS AND FREEING THE WORLD.

THE KYMELLIAN
CAVALRY REJOIN
THE WAR.

ON CENTAURI IV,
THE SURVIVORS OF
THE DESTRUCTION OF
GALADOR MARSHALED
THAT WORLD'S
BOWMASTERS.

THE SPACEKNIGHTS
COULD NOT SAVE
THEIR PLANET, BUT THEY
DID SAVE ANOTHER.

THE SKRULL WARLORDS
WON ON KORM PRIME, BUT
WITH A HEAVY COST...

BUT NONE PAID AS HEAVILY AS THE SHI'AR,
WHO BATTLED ALONGSIDE THE AVENGERS
WHERE THE FIGHTING WAS HOTTEST.



THEY PAID
ON RIGEL.

THEY DIED ON
FORMUHAUT.



THEY LOST
ON CHIZE.



THE LILANDRA.

WE HAVE
NEWS FROM THE
FORMHAUT AND
CHIZE FRONTS.

GO
ON.

WE ARE AT
A STALEMATE
ON THE FIRST,
BUT WE WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO
HOLD THAT
LINE.

WE HAVE
LOST THE
LATTER. HEAVY
CASUALTIES.

DAMN.

WE'RE
LOSING ALL OUR
MOMENTUM.

YES. SO WE
HAVE NO OTHER
CHOICE NOW,
DO WE?

WE FACE
DIMINISHING
PROBABILITIES. IF
WE WAIT MUCH
LONGER...IT WILL
NOT MATTER.

WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO?

THE ENEMY
OF MY ENEMY,
CAROL...

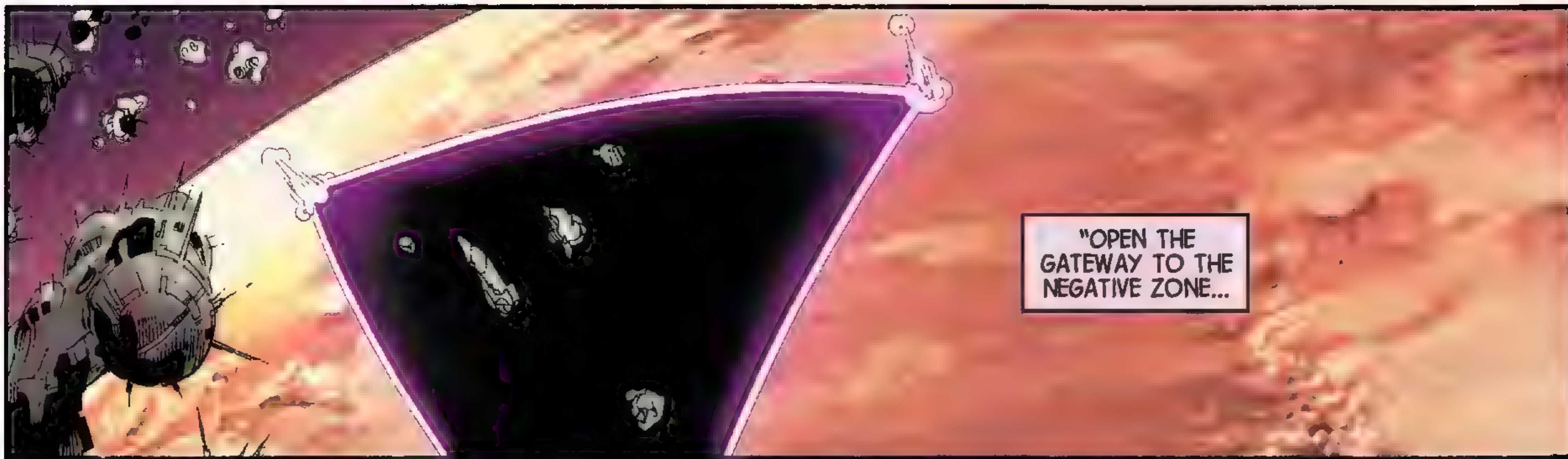
SEND THE
WORD. OPEN
THE GATES
OF HELL.

WE NEED TO
SIGNAL THE
ADVANCE TEAM
TO POWER UP
THE LINKED
STARGATES.

ARE THE
EMERGENCY
BEACONS
PREPARED TO BE
ACTIVATED?

YES,
MENTOR.

"THEN PROCEED.



"OPEN THE
GATEWAY TO THE
NEGATIVE ZONE..."



"RELEASE THE
ANNIHILATION
WAVE."



"SHARRA AND
K'YTHRI SAVE
US ALL."

"FOUR CYCLES AGO, THE ANNIHILATION WAVE RIPPED THROUGH THIS UNIVERSE. FROM THE DIMENSION CALLED THE NEGATIVE ZONE, ANNIHILUS CAME TO CONQUER.

"ONLY AFTER THE DEATH OF EMPIRES, THE DESTRUCTION OF WORLDS AND THE LOSS OF BILLIONS WAS HE DEFEATED.

"HOW DESPERATE HAVE WE BECOME THAT HE IS ONE OF OUR LAST HOPES?"

HHSSSSSSSSSS!

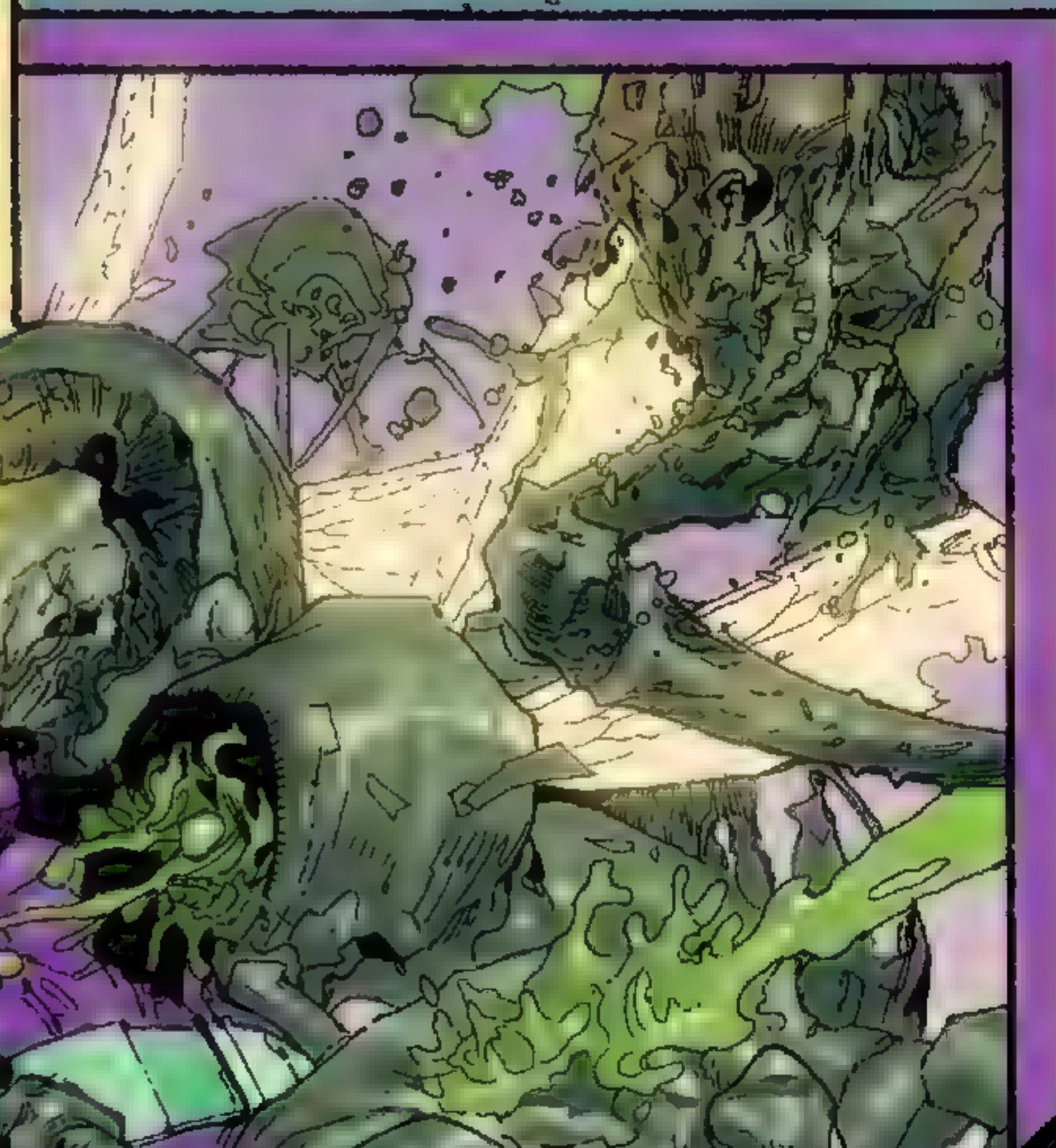
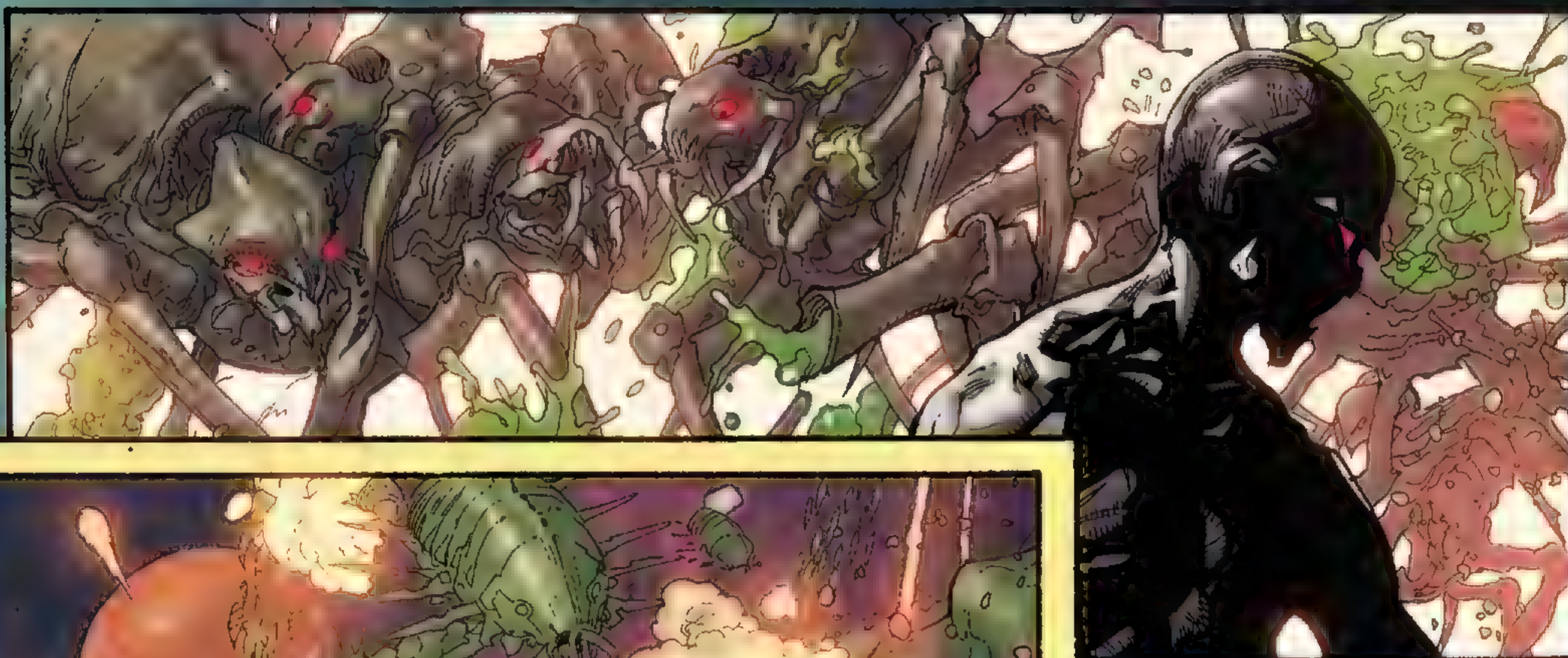
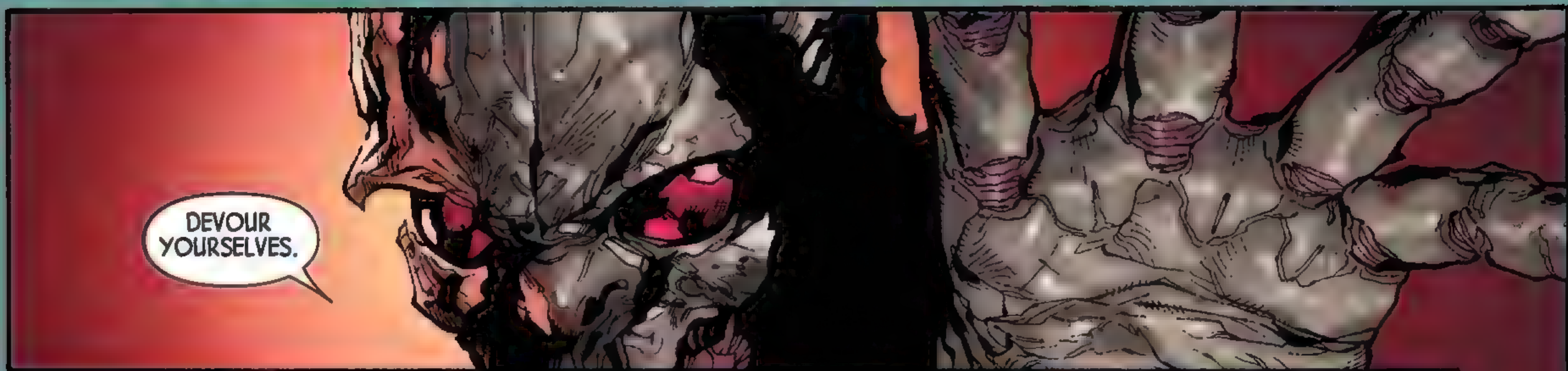
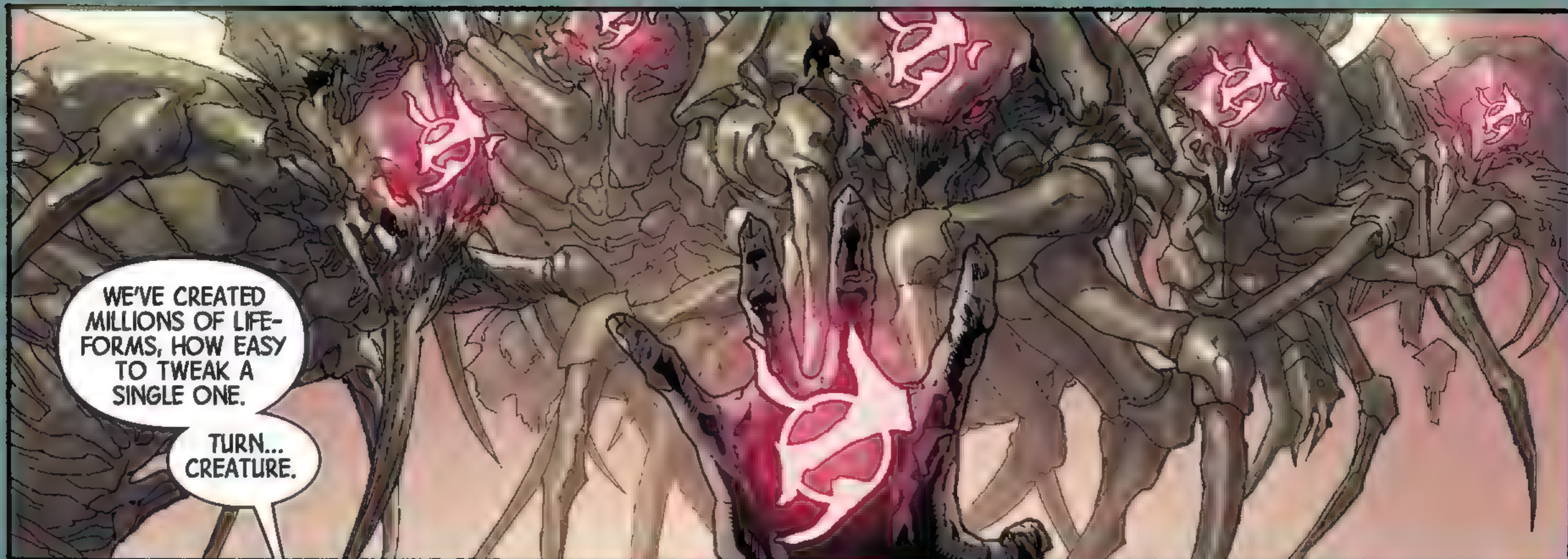
KILL ALL BUILDERSSSSSSS!

HIVE SWARM EMERGING FROM LOCALIZED WORMHOLE-- SECONDARY POINT... SOME PLACE THE REBELS REFER TO AS THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

A FAILED POCKET UNIVERSE RESTING INSIDE AN EXISTING ONE.

AH, LIKE A TUMOR.

AND HIVE MINDS...HOW SIMPLE.



THE LILANDRA.

THE DRONES
ARE ATTACKING
ONE ANOTHER.

I CAN'T
BELIEVE...

THAT WAS...
THAT WAS IT...
OUR LAST GAMBIT.
OUR FINAL EFFORT.
ALL WE HAD
LEFT.

MENTOR, SUMMON
MY SON. RALLY ALL
THE SUPER- AND
SUBGUARDIANS.

MAJESTOR---

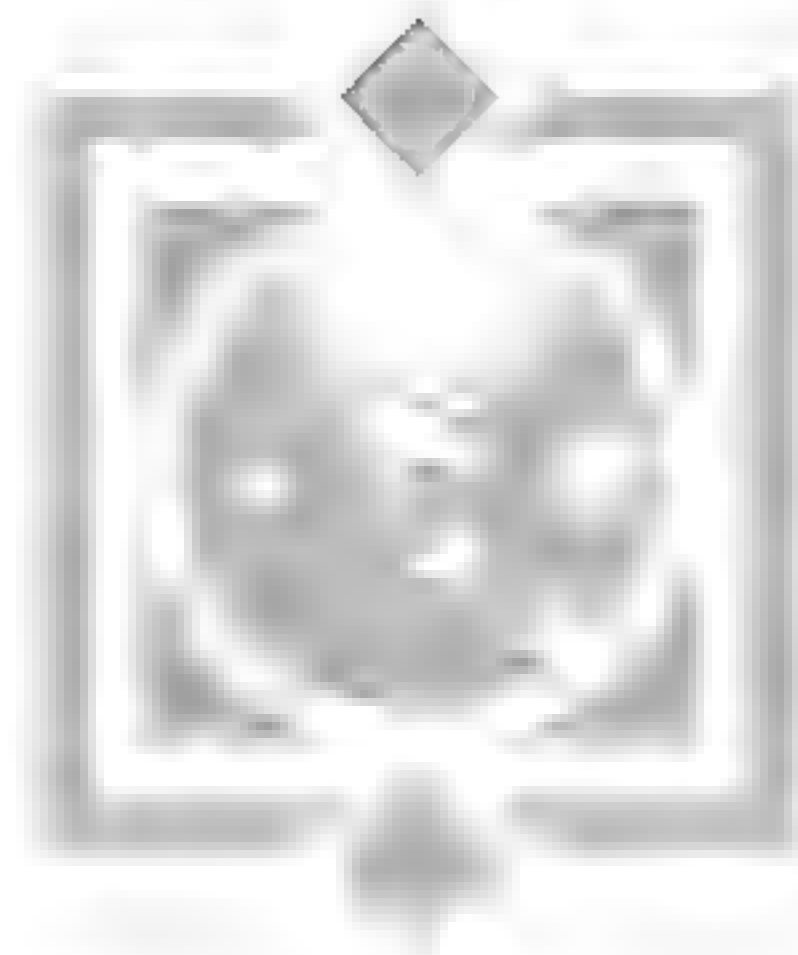
NO. NOT
MAJESTOR...

I WILL DIE
AS I LIVED.
AS GLADIATOR,
PRAETOR OF
THE IMPERIAL
GUARD.

THIS IS
THE END, MY
FRIEND...

"UNLESS SAVED BY
SOME UNFORESEEN
MIRACLE, WE DIE..."

"AND I
WOULD FACE
IT HEAD-ON."



THE PROMISE FULFILLED





A MIRACLE.
IT'S ALL
MATHEMATICS,
REALLY.

PROBABILITIES.

VARIOUS RACES
HAVE DIFFERENT
DEFINITIONS. THE SHI'AR ON
THIS VESSEL HAVE DEFINED IT
AS THE HOL CIPHER--AN EVENT
OCCURRING ONCE IN EVERY
ONE HUNDRED MILLION
MICROCYCLES.

THE STRONTIANS'
FIFTH MAXIM MARK
IT AS ONE IN FIFTY
MILLION.

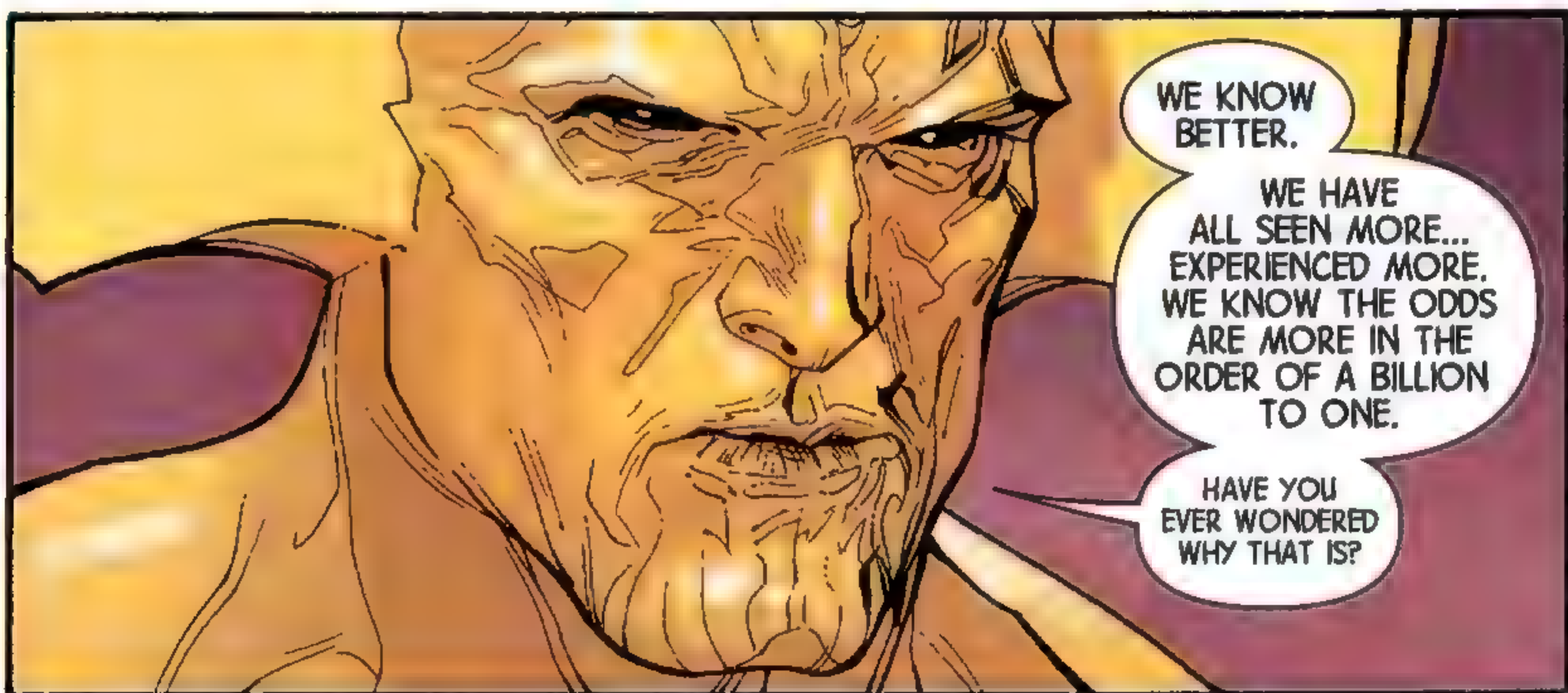
THE HUMANS,
BY LITTLEWOOD'S
LAW, SAY A MIRACLE
HAPPENS ONCE EVERY
MILLION SECONDS...



WE KNOW
BETTER.

WE HAVE
ALL SEEN MORE...
EXPERIENCED MORE.
WE KNOW THE ODDS
ARE MORE IN THE
ORDER OF A BILLION
TO ONE.

HAVE YOU
EVER WONDERED
WHY THAT IS?



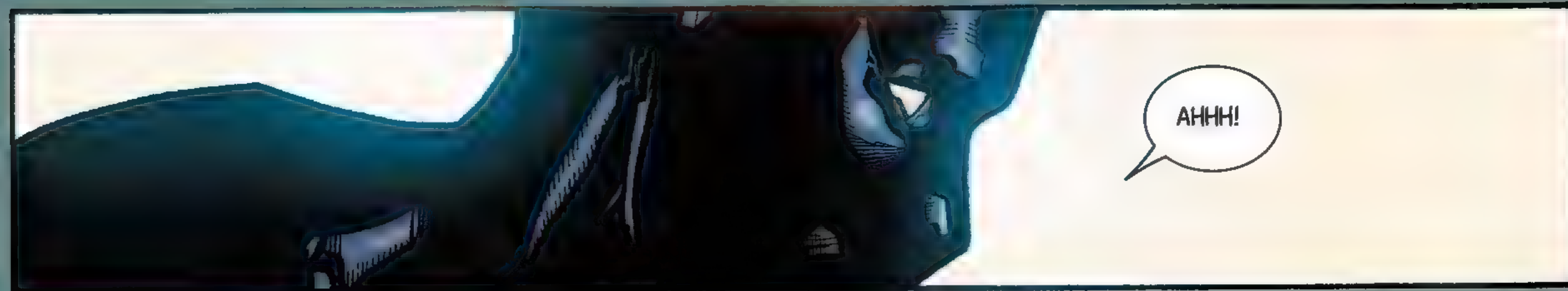
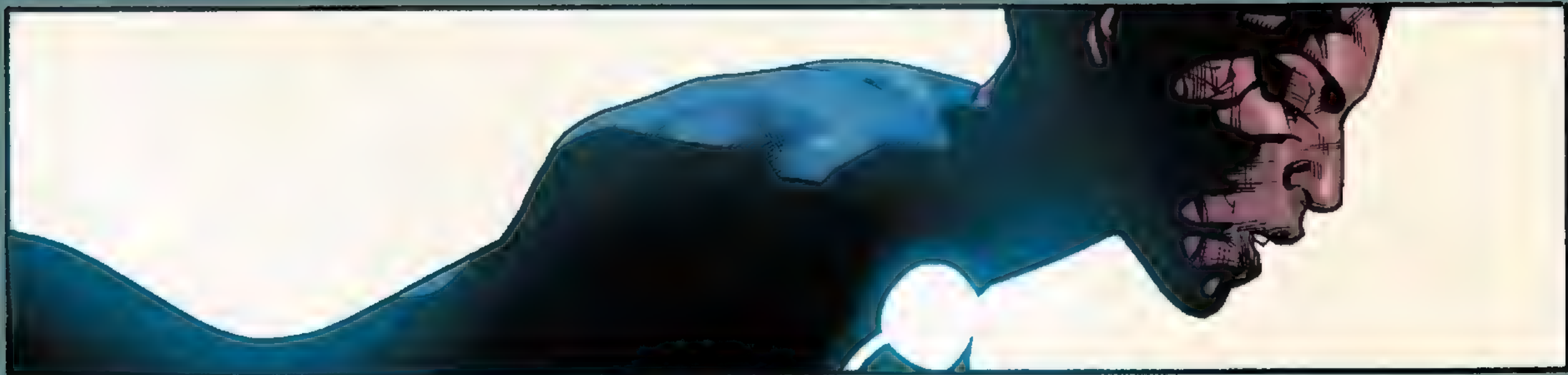
WE ALSO
KNOW THE AVERAGE
SENTIENT WORLD IN THIS
UNIVERSE WAS DESIGNED
TO NATURALLY HOLD
ROUGHLY TWO BILLION
PEOPLE...

MAYBE ONE
PERSON FINDING
THEIR PERFECT
OTHER IS A
MIRACLE...

BUT WE DO
KNOW, FOR A FACT,
THAT THIS IS THE RATE
AT WHICH LIFE OCCURS
ON SUITABLE
WORLDS.

AND YET, ALL
AROUND US...THE
UNIVERSE IS
DYING...





I WAS ASLEEP
AND I FEARED I
WOULD NOT
WAKE.

I REMEMBER
A LIGHT AND THEN
A CRASH...SHAKING...
VIOLENCE...AND
THEN NOTHING.

A DAY IS
COMING SOON
WHEN I WILL
CLOSE MY EYES
FOREVER...

BUT NOT
YET?

NO,
NOT YET,
MOTHER.

YOUR FIRST
CHILDREN HAVE
BECOME
UNRULY.

OH...
YES...

I SEE.

THE BUILDER COMMAND VESSEL.



IMPOSSIBLE!



HELLO.



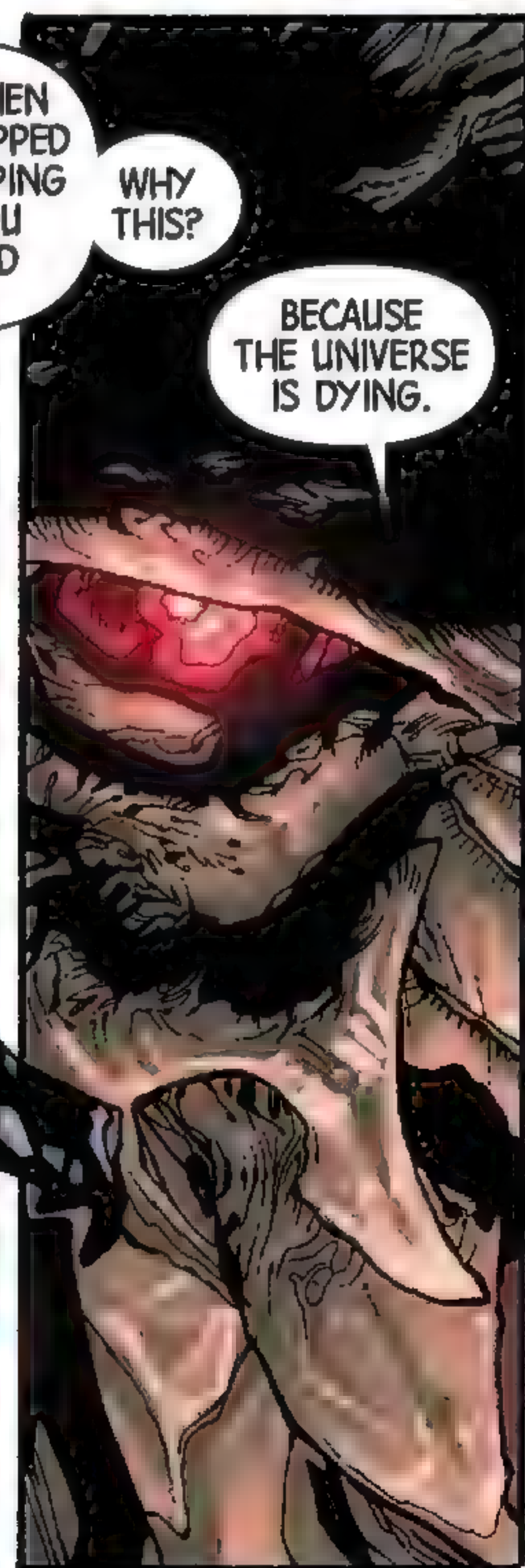
ALEPHS...

STOP HER!



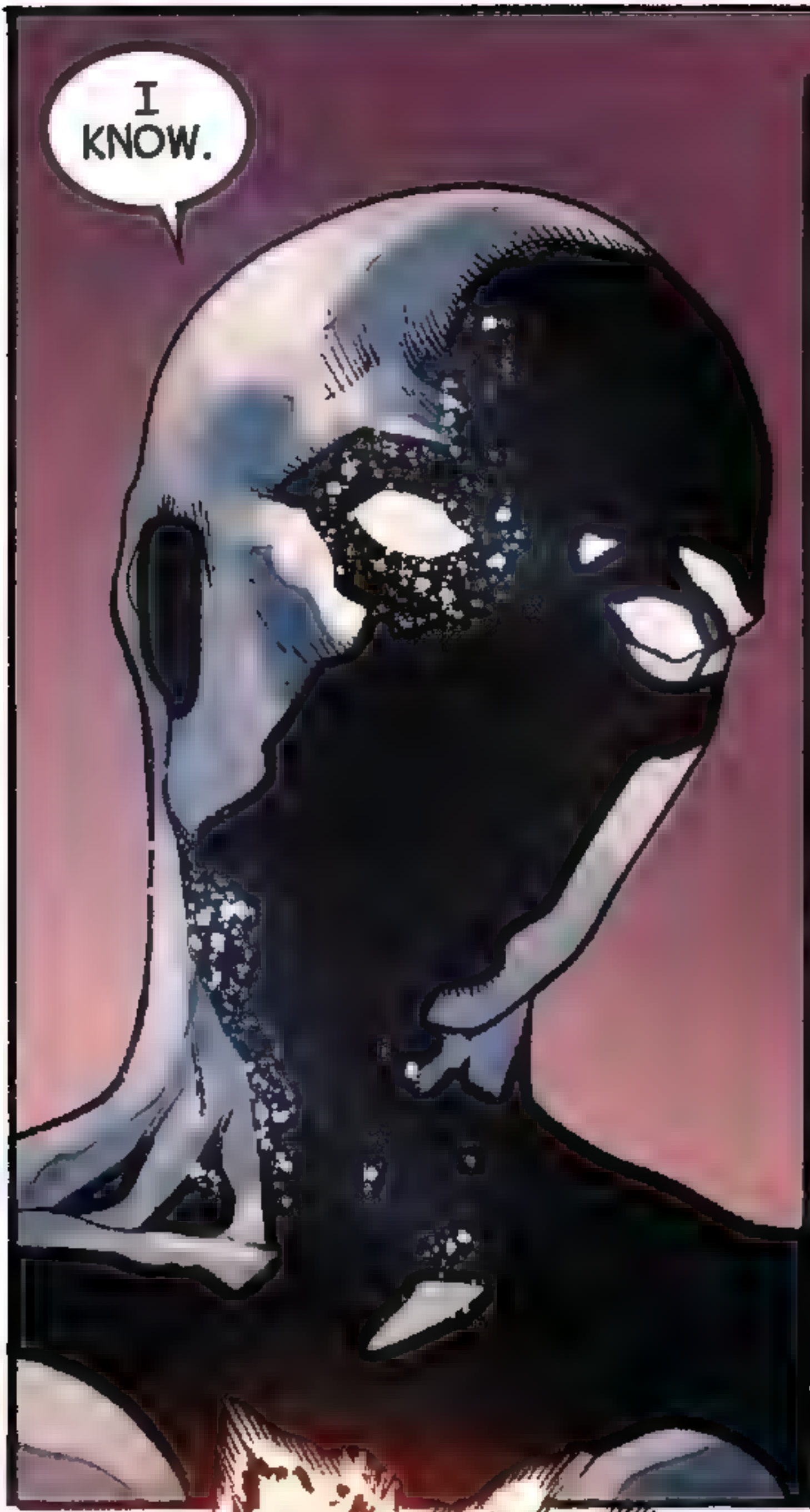
WHY?
WHEN DID
DEATH BECOME
YOUR WAY, MY
CHILD...?

EVEN WHEN
YOU STOPPED
WORSHIPPING
ME, YOU
REVERED
LIFE...



WHY
THIS?

BECAUSE
THE UNIVERSE
IS DYING.



I
KNOW.



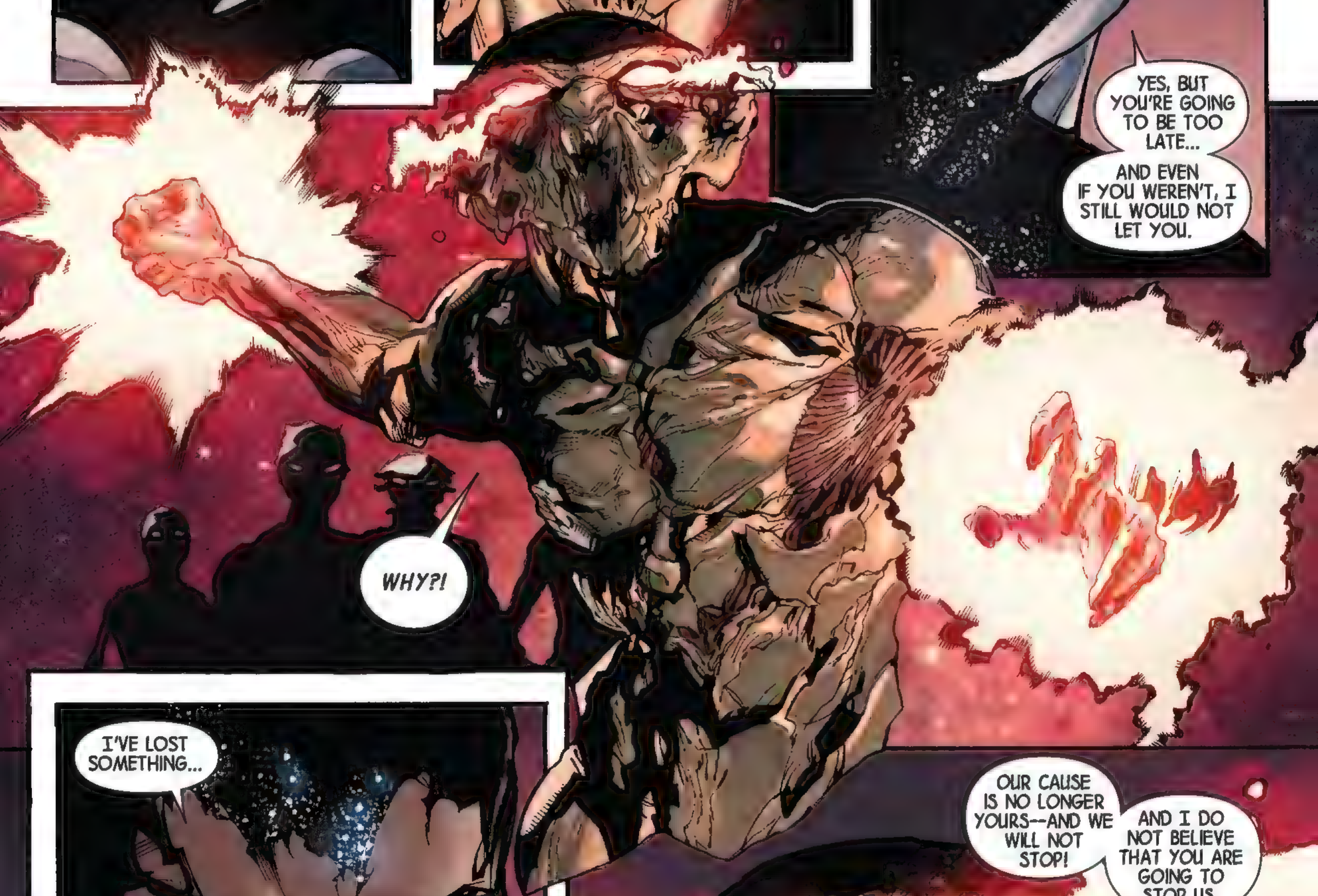
ALL THE
UNIVERSES ARE
DYING, AND THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY
TO SAVE THIS
ONE.

DESTROY
THE AXIS
POINT...AND
PERHAPS
SAVE THEM
ALL.

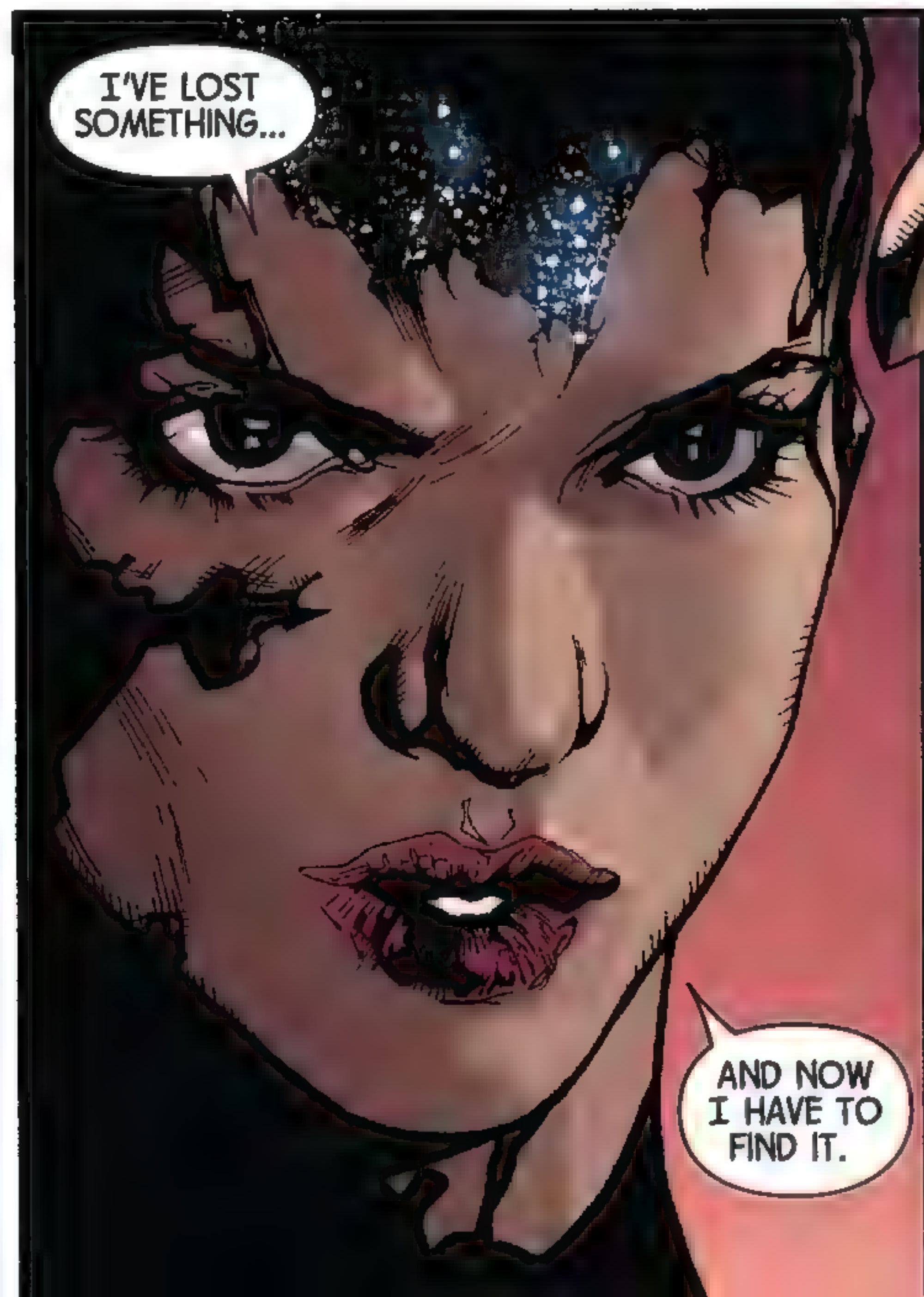


YES, BUT
YOU'RE GOING
TO BE TOO
LATE...

AND EVEN
IF YOU WEREN'T, I
STILL WOULD NOT
LET YOU.



WHY?!



I'VE LOST
SOMETHING...

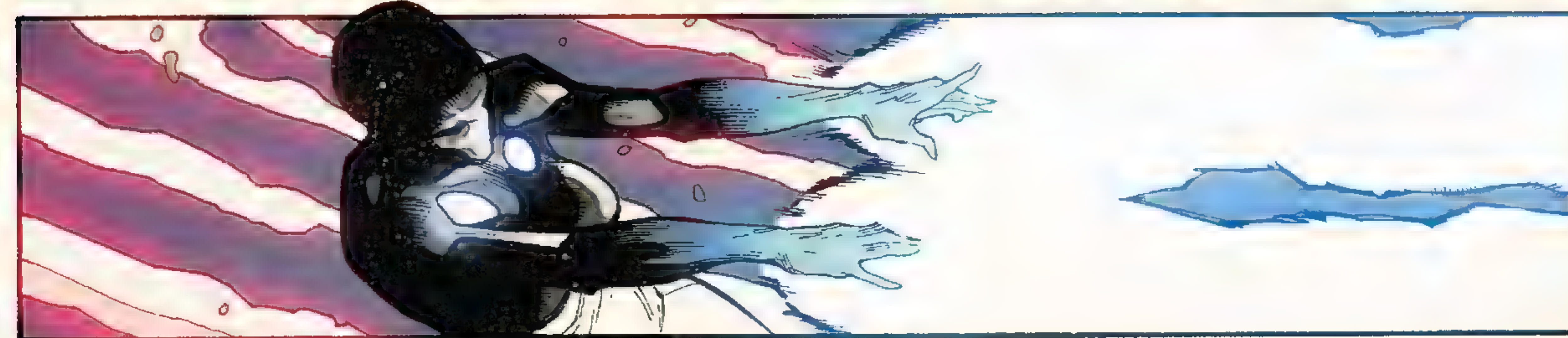
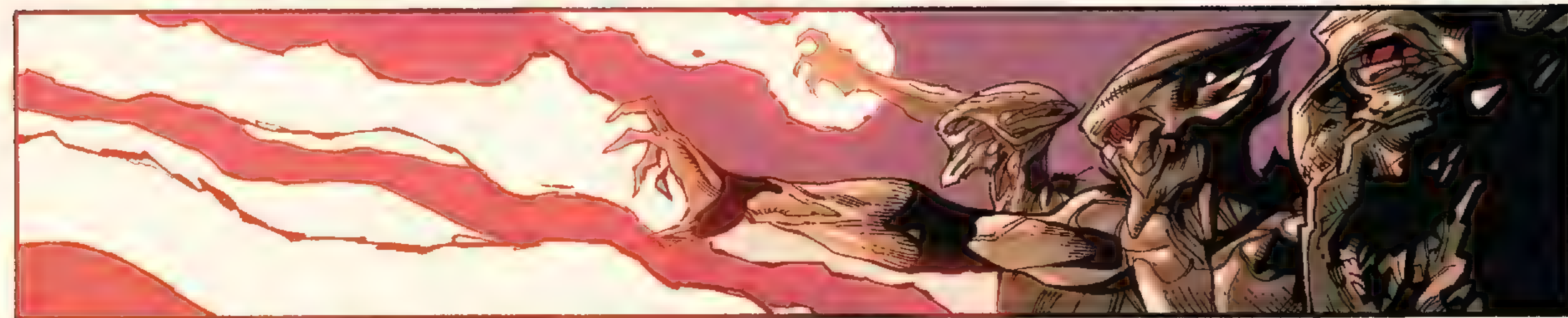
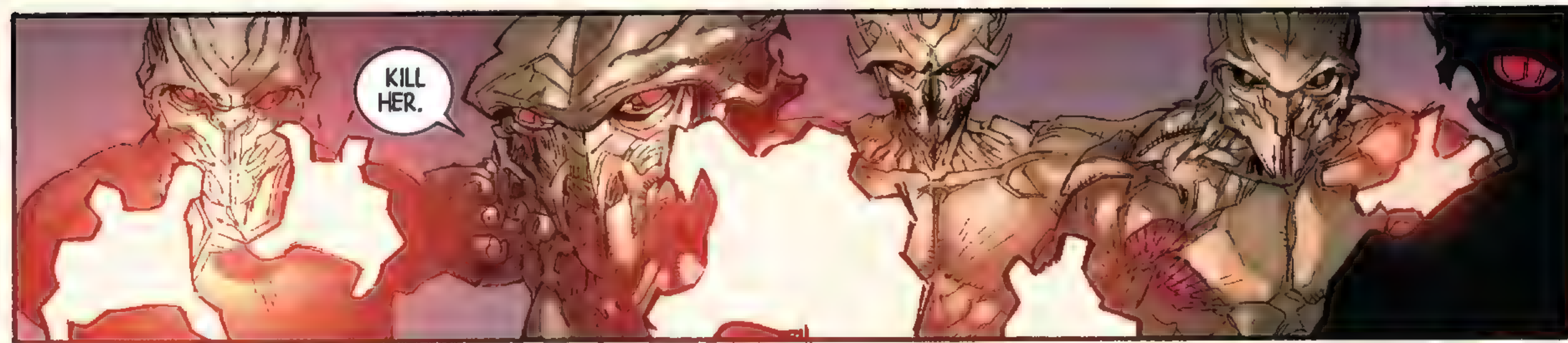
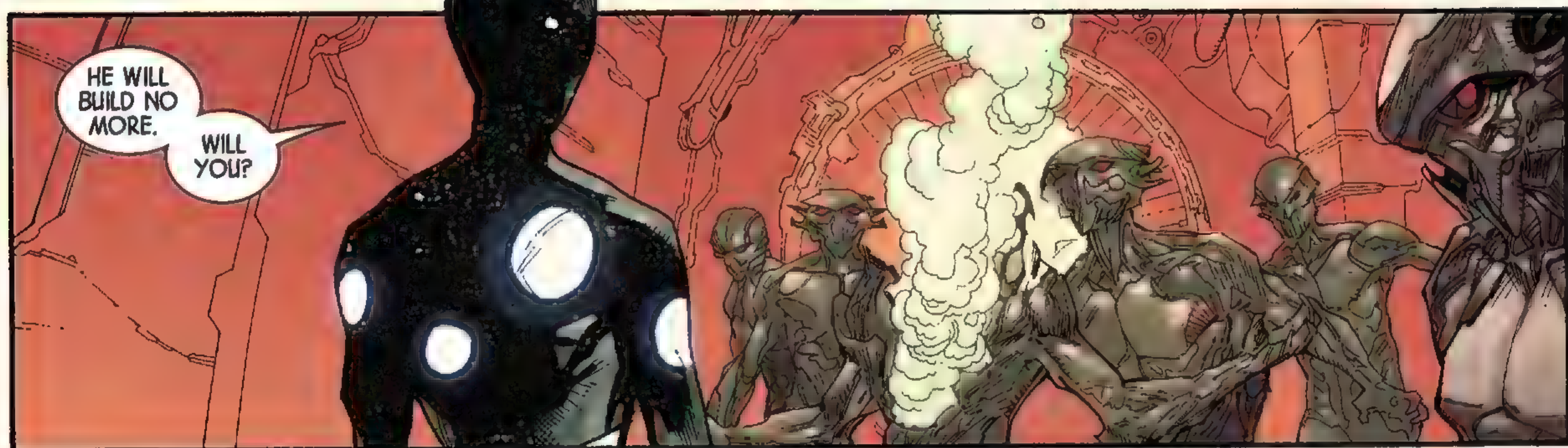
AND NOW
I HAVE TO
FIND IT.

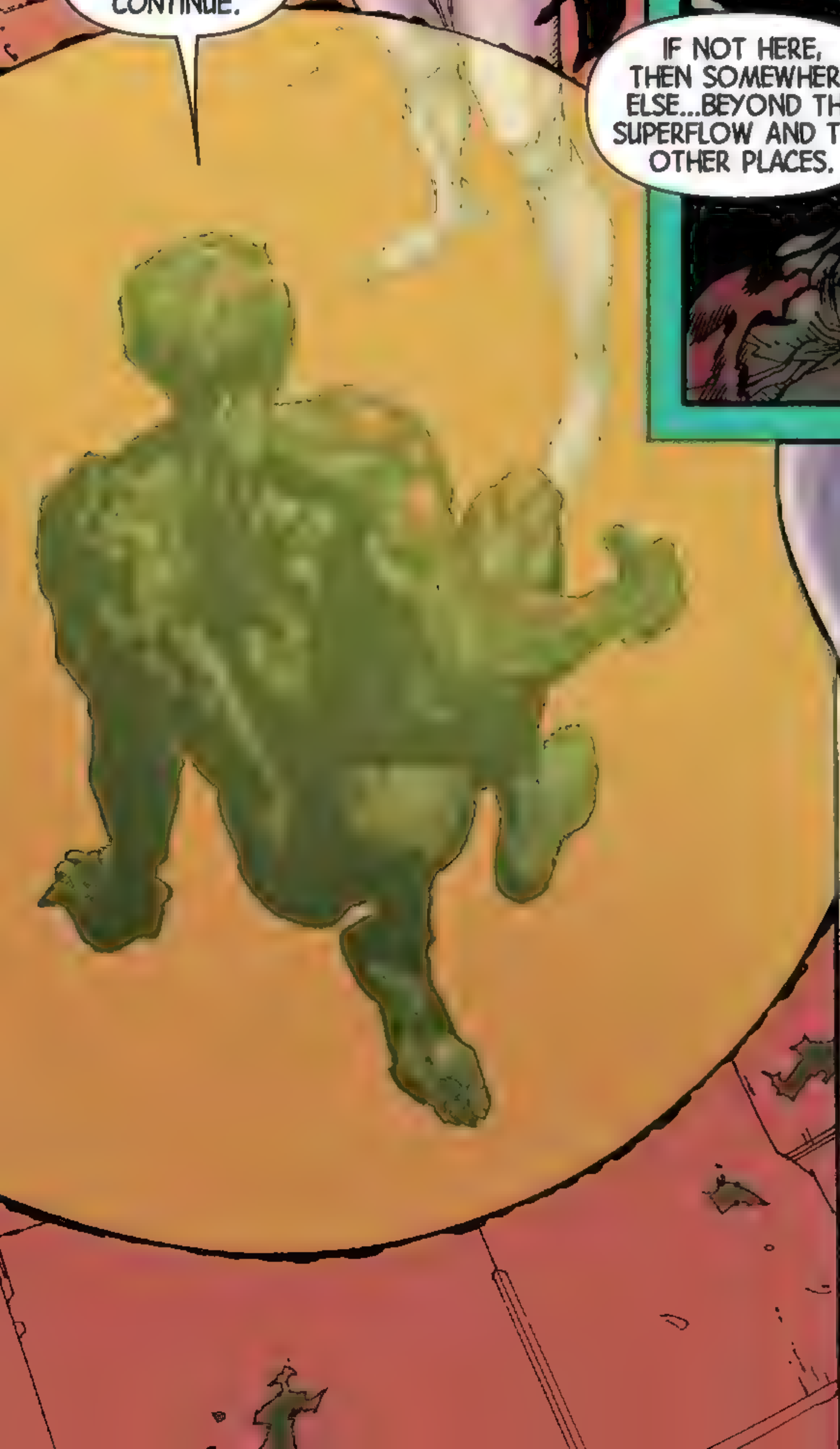
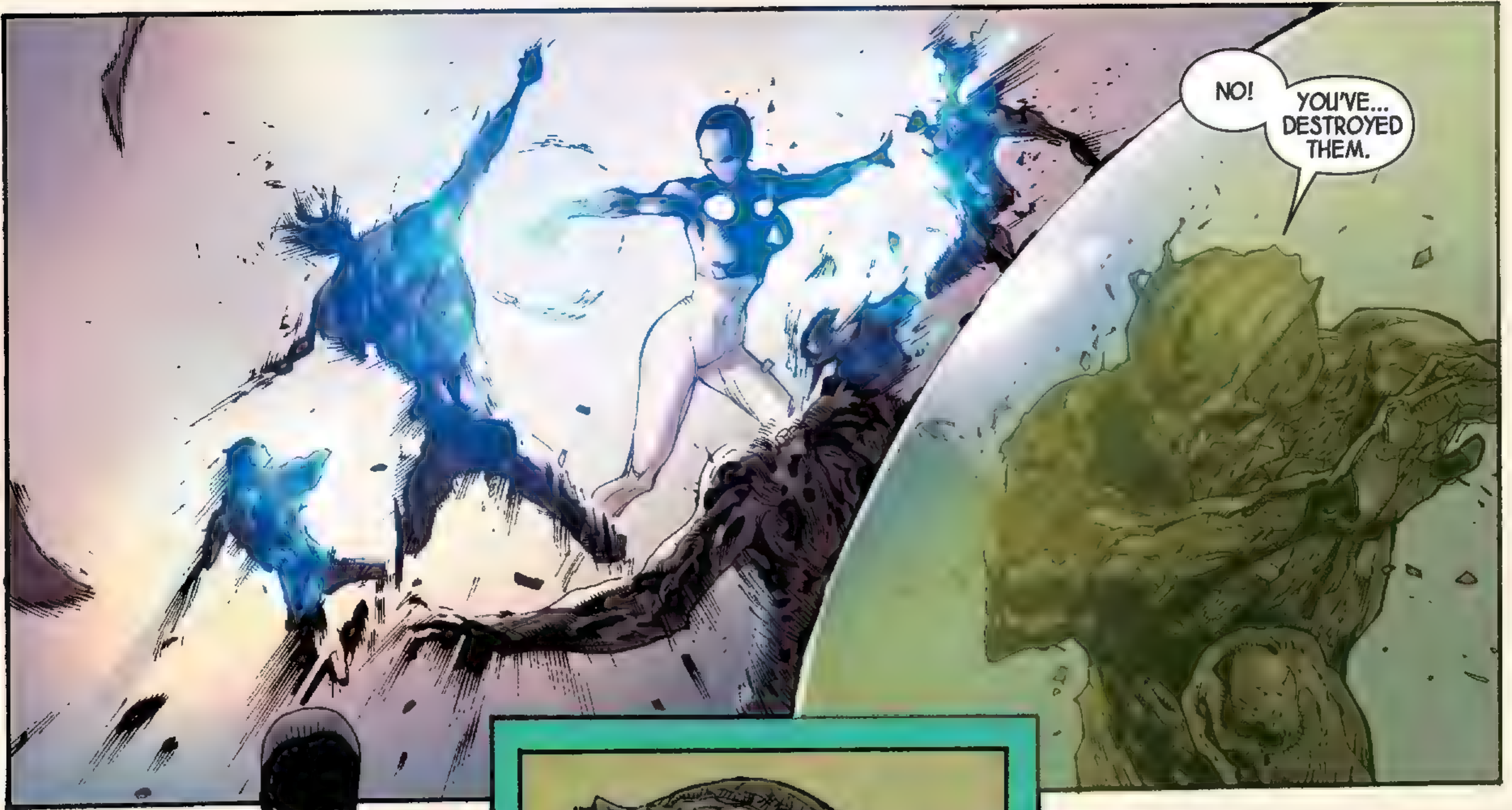


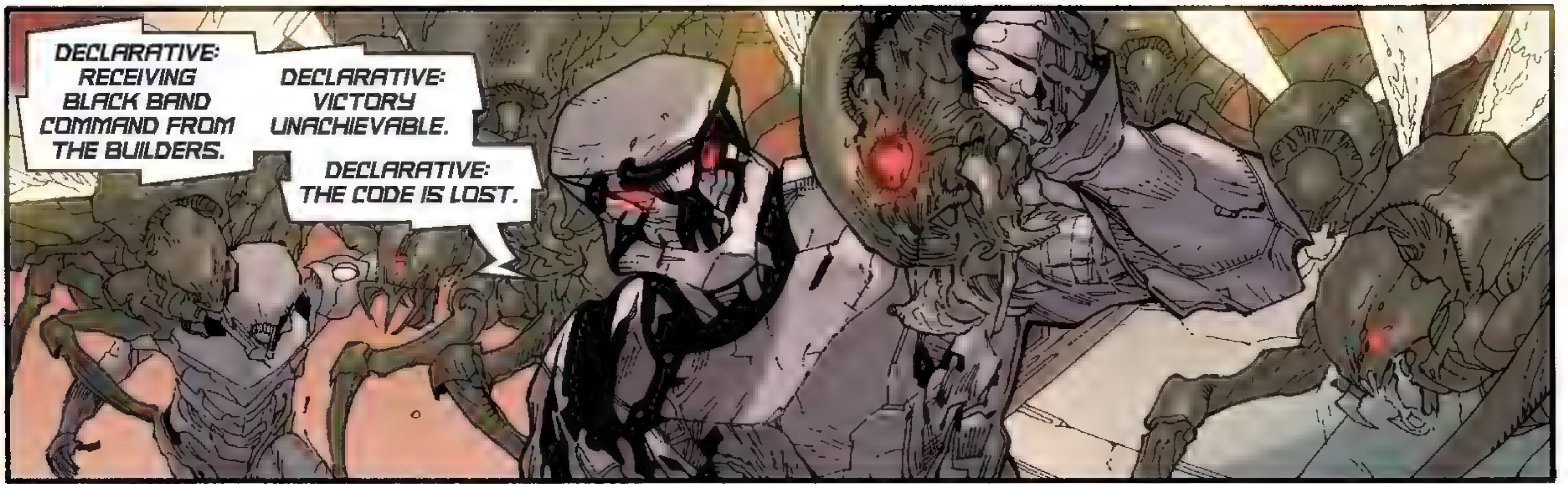
OUR CAUSE
IS NO LONGER
YOURS--AND WE
WILL NOT
STOP!

AND I DO
NOT BELIEVE
THAT YOU ARE
GOING TO
STOP US.

ARE YOU...
MOTHER?







DECLARATIVE:
RECEIVING
BLACK BAND
COMMAND FROM
THE BUILDERS.

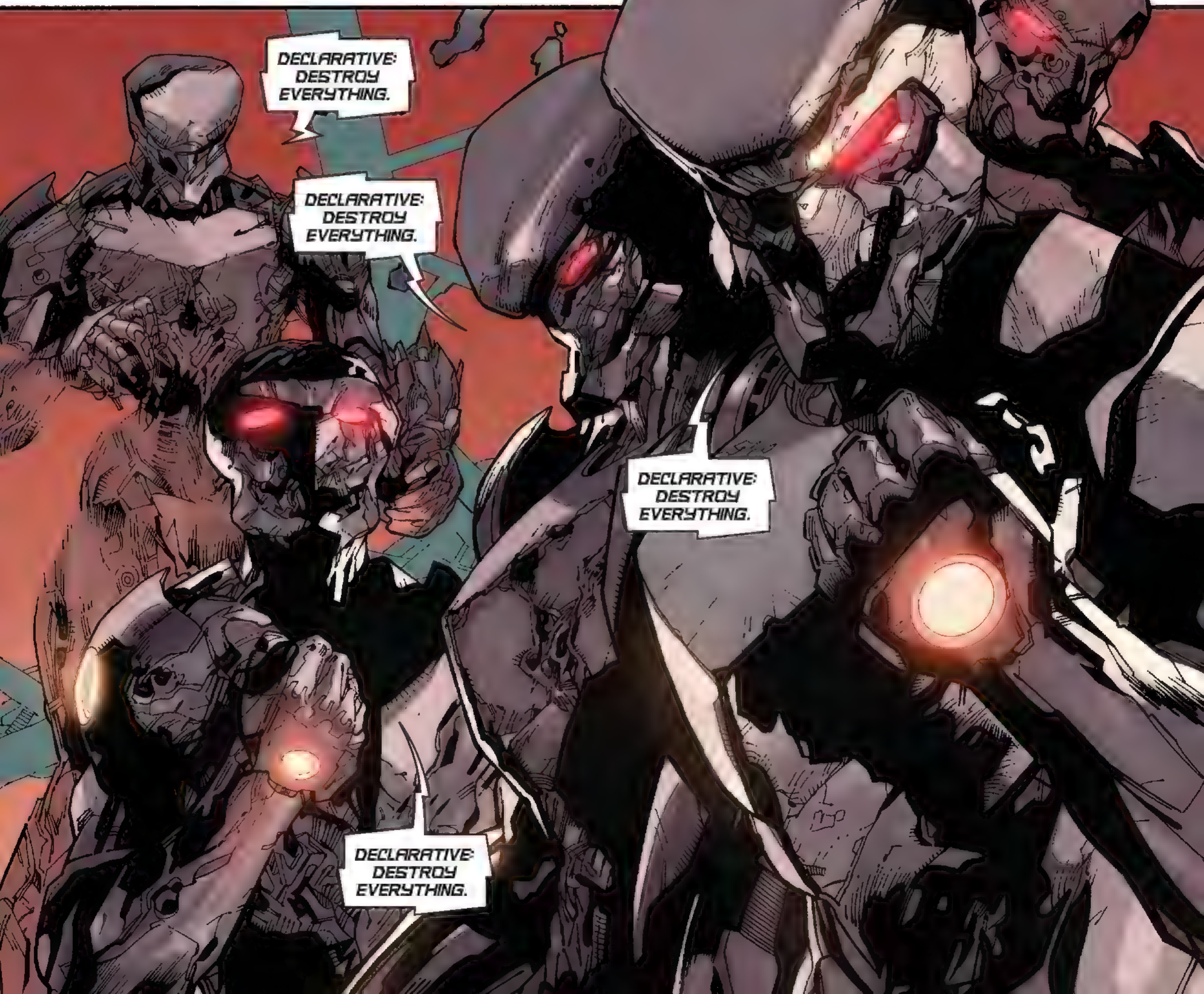
DECLARATIVE:
VICTORY
UNACHIEVABLE.

DECLARATIVE:
THE CODE IS LOST.



DECLARATIVE:
ERASURE
PROTOCOLS
ENACTED.

DECLARATIVE:
SELF-DESTRUCT
ALL SYSTEMS.



DECLARATIVE:
DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

DECLARATIVE:
DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

DECLARATIVE:
DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

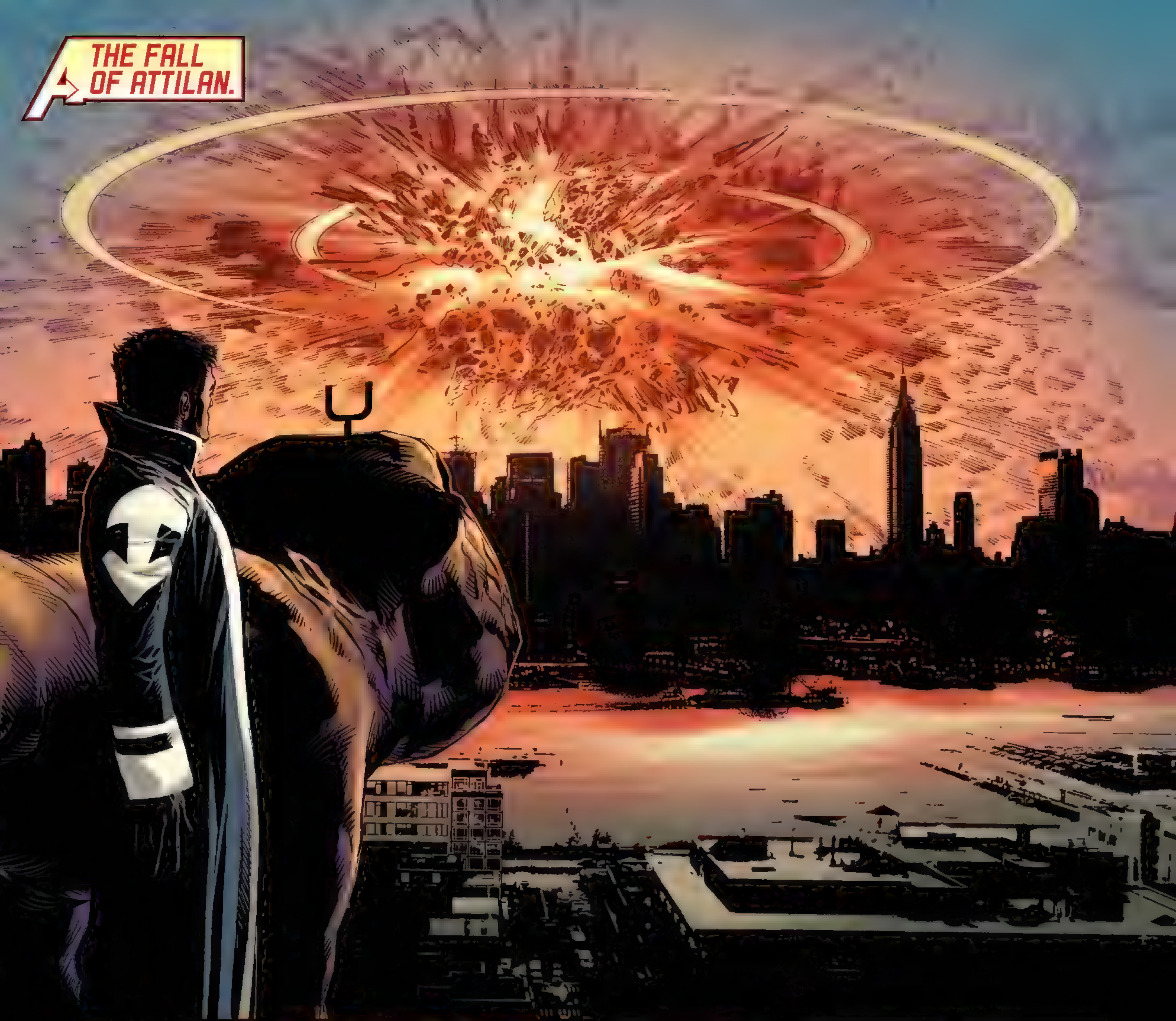
DECLARATIVE:
DESTROY
EVERYTHING.



ALL THESE WORLDS



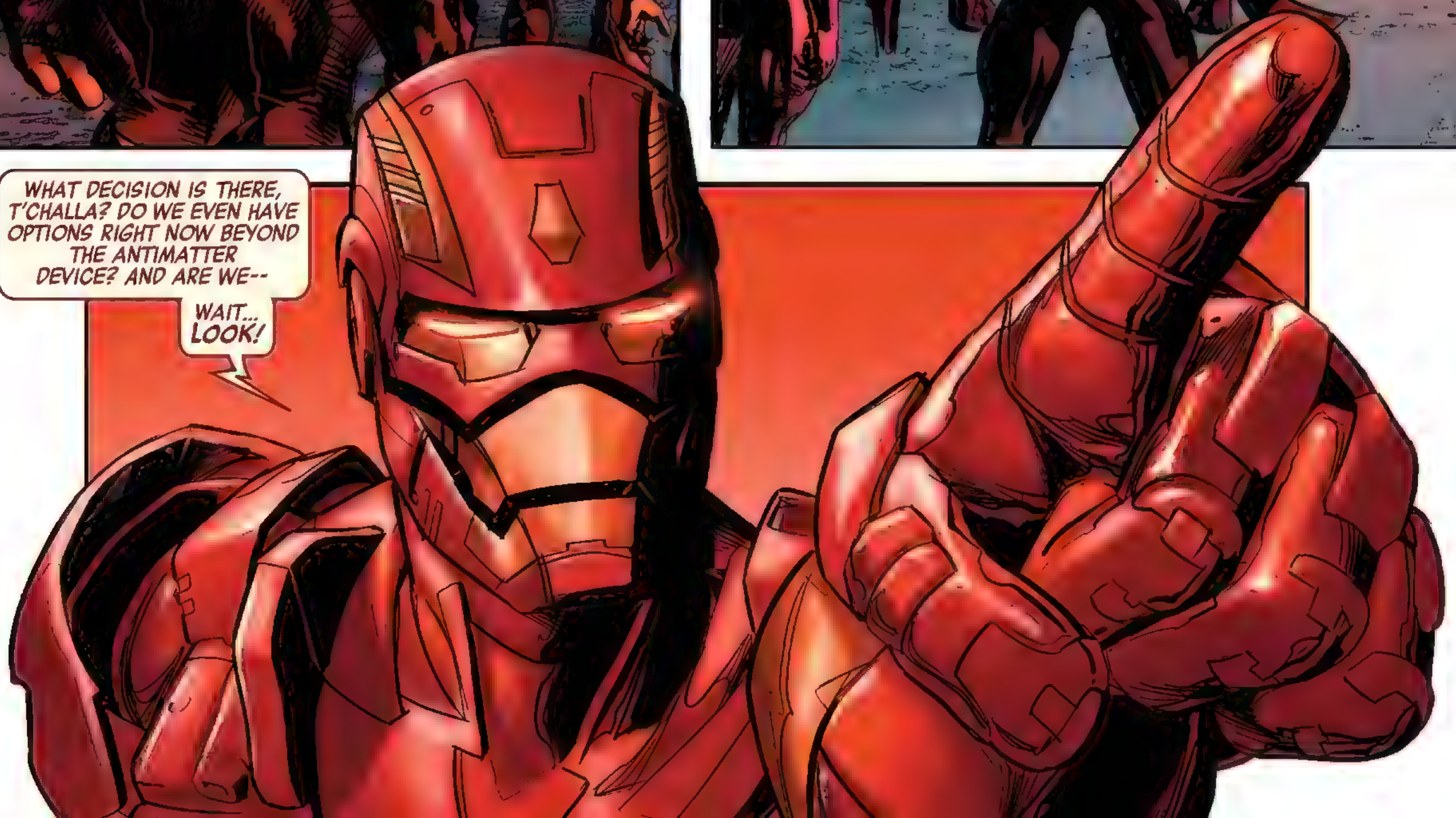
**THE FALL
OF ATILAN.**



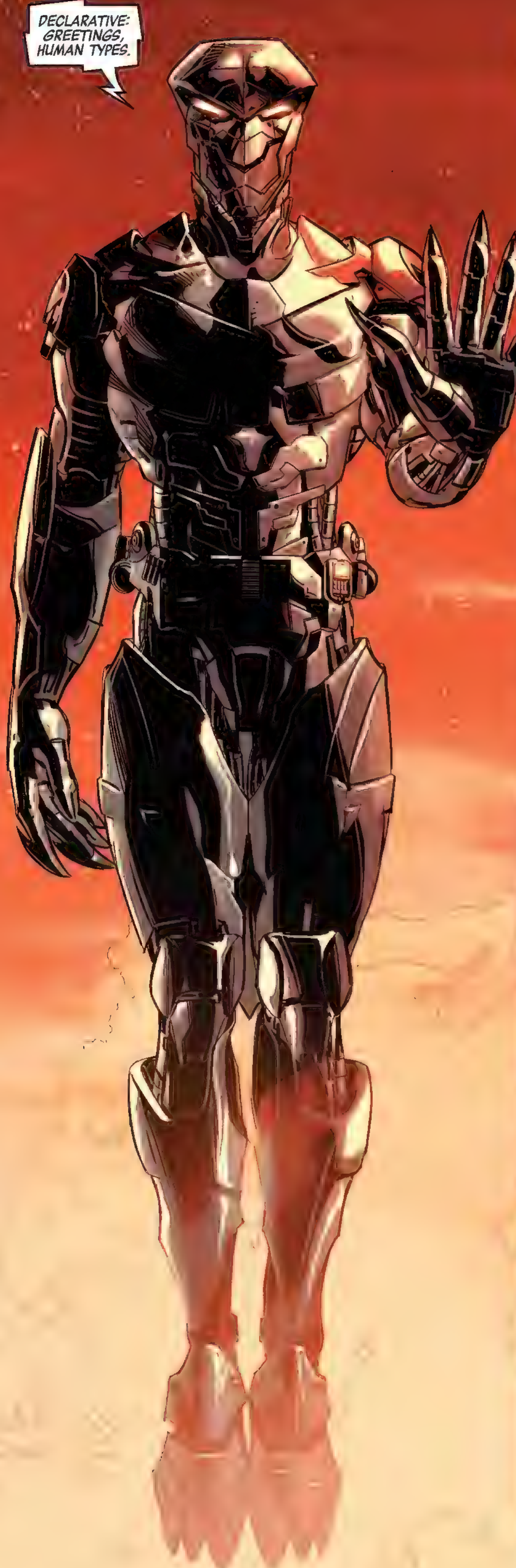


WHAT DECISION IS THERE, T'CHALLA? DO WE EVEN HAVE OPTIONS RIGHT NOW BEYOND THE ANTIMATTER DEVICE? AND ARE WE--

WAIT... LOOK!







DECLARATIVE:
GREETINGS,
HUMAN TYPES.

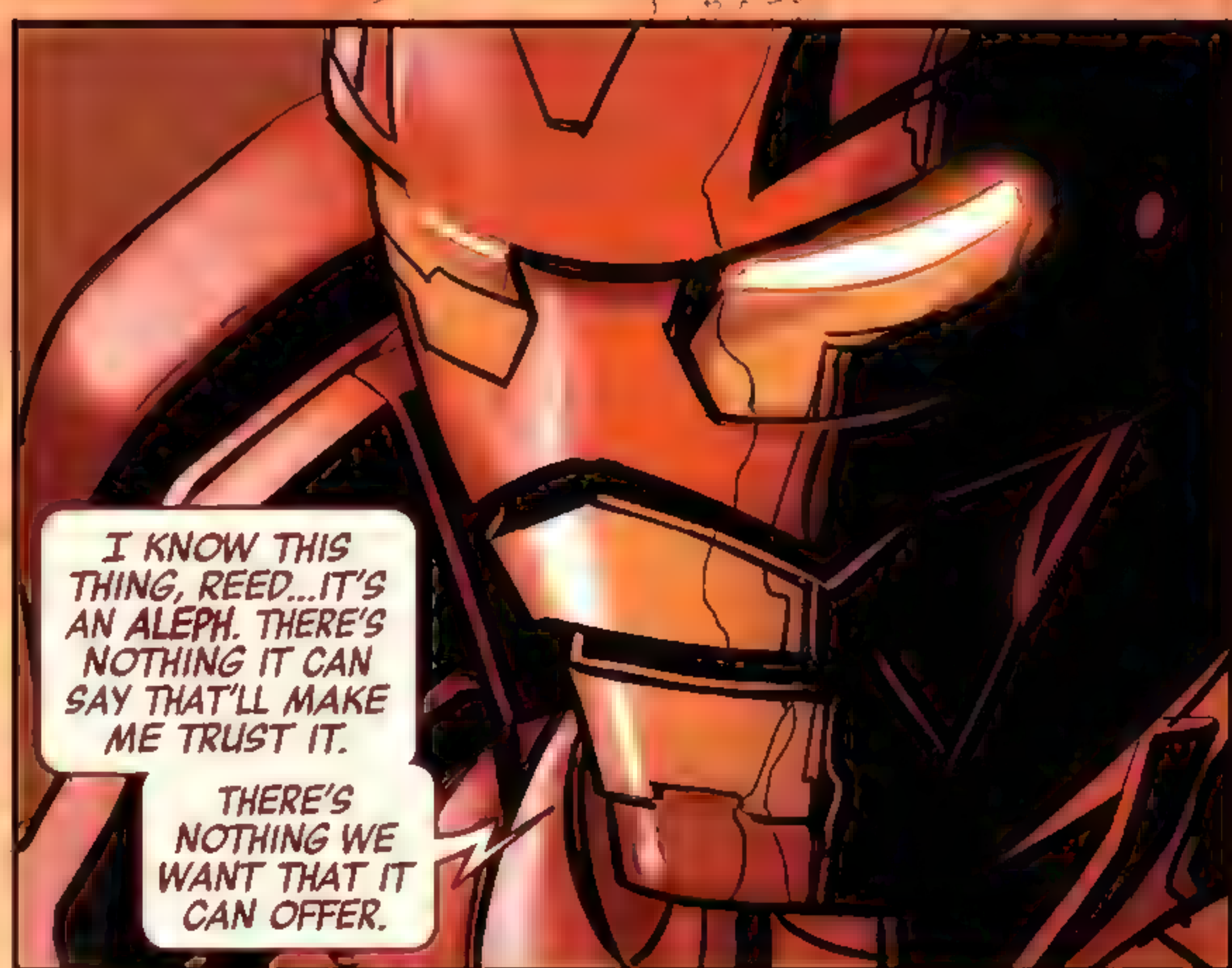


QUERY:
CONSIDERATION
OF AN
OVERTURE?



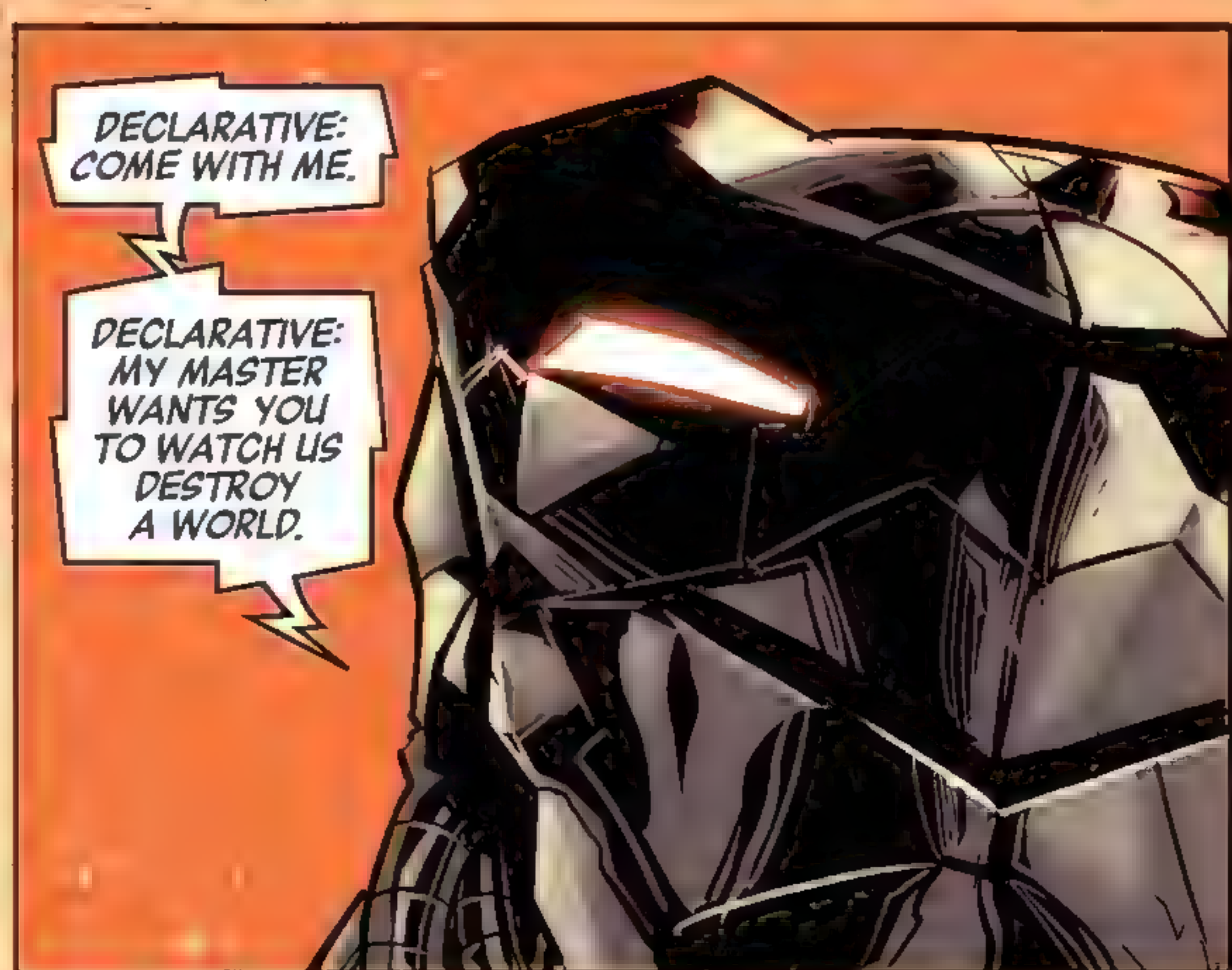
WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

WHAT
ARE
YOU?



I KNOW THIS
THING, REED...IT'S
AN ALEPH. THERE'S
NOTHING IT CAN
SAY THAT'LL MAKE
ME TRUST IT.

THERE'S
NOTHING WE
WANT THAT IT
CAN OFFER.



DECLARATIVE:
COME WITH ME.

DECLARATIVE:
MY MASTER
WANTS YOU
TO WATCH US
DESTROY
A WORLD.



WAKANDA.



ON YOUR FEET. THE GREAT CITY HAS NEVER FALLEN...

BUT HOW CAN IT STAND IF YOU DO NOT?

I'LL FIGHT, BUT THEY'VE CRA--

OH NO...



"HERE THEY COME AGAIN."



OUR FIRST FEINT WITH AN ENTIRE WING OF SHIPS CAUSED THE WAKANDANS TO SPREAD THEIR FORCES EVENLY...

THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR A SECOND SUICIDAL WAVE ALL CONCENTRATING ON A SINGLE SPOT.

WE'VE MADE A SLIGHT CRACK IN THE WALLS OF THE GOLDEN CITY...



YOU SAW THE INHERENT WEAKNESS, CORVUS...

YOUR PLAN APPEARS TO HAVE WORKED.

WILL IT BE ENOUGH?

OF COURSE
IT WILL, SUPERGIANT.
HAVE YOU READ THIS
PLANET'S HISTORY
OF WARFARE?

THE
ALEXANDER, THE
NAPOLEON...THE
CAESAR, THE HANNIBAL,
THE KHAN...A
PITTANCE.

CORVUS
IS THE GREATEST
GENERAL THIS
WORLD HAS
EVER SEEN.

AND YET
EACH DAY THE
SUN SETS AND I
AM DEFEATED
BY YOU...

WE MUST
FIGHT OUR WAY
THROUGH THE
BREACH. OPEN THE
WAY FOR OUR
ARMIES.

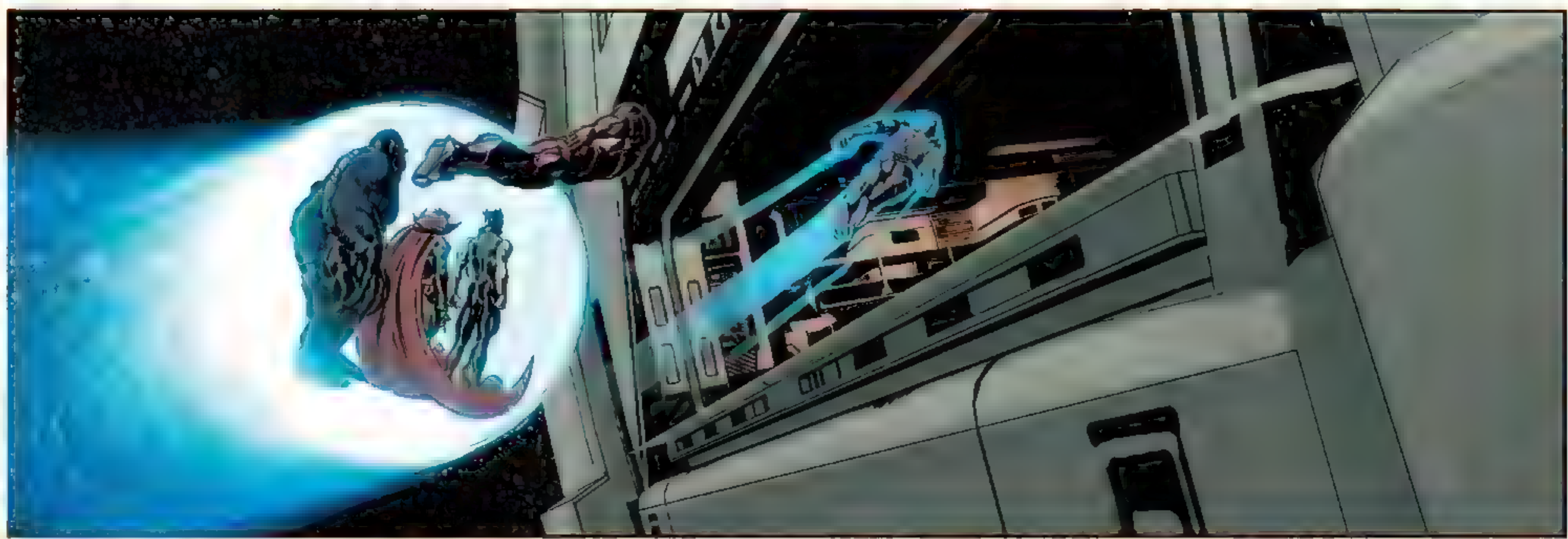
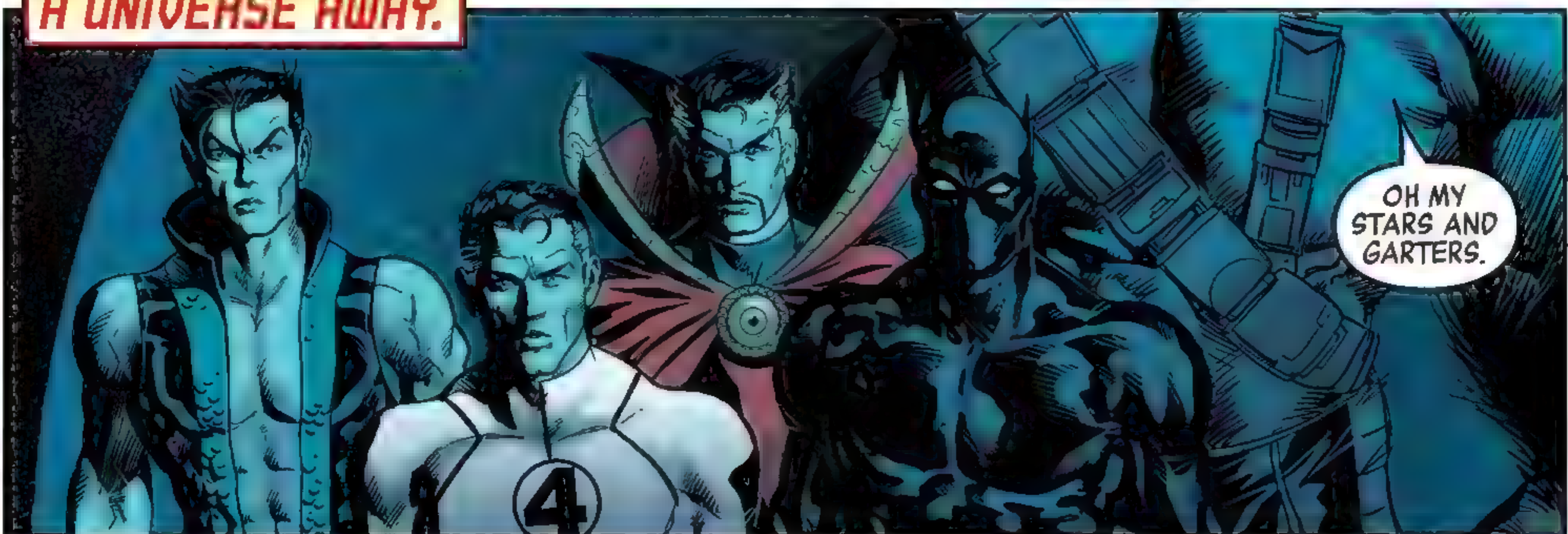
WHAT WOULD
PLEASE YOU, WIFE?
TO WITNESS THE
BREAKING OR TO LEAD
THE WAY INTO THE
CITY?

I WANT
TO KILL THEM
ALL SO
BADLY.

THEN
A GIFT, MY LOVE.

"FIRST BLOOD
IS YOURS IN THE
GOLDEN CITY."

A UNIVERSE AWAY.





IN OUR SEEMINGLY UNENDING STRING OF BAD CHOICES, THIS ONE, I THINK, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE OUR WORST.



LET'S JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE CLOCK, NAMOR. REGARDLESS OF HOW THIS GOES, TIME IS OUR REAL ENEMY HERE.



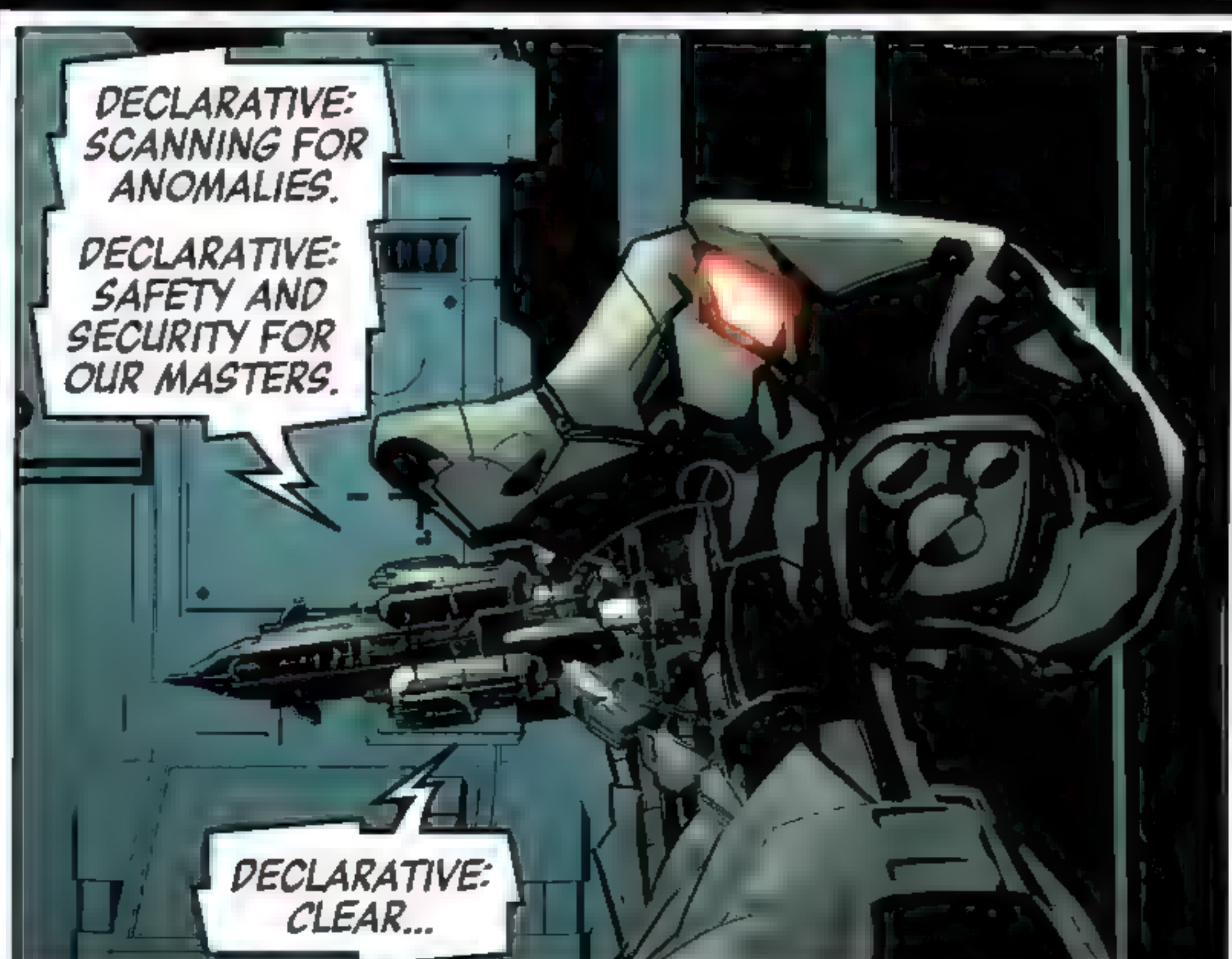
YES. SIX HOURS... SIX HOURS FOR THE INCURSION... SIX HOURS TO SAVE OUR WORLD.



ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER...

REMEMBER WHAT WE HAVE AT THE NECROPOLIS.

WHAT ARE--



DECLARATIVE: SCANNING FOR ANOMALIES. DECLARATIVE: SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR OUR MASTERS.

DECLARATIVE: CLEAR...



WAKANDA.

HOLD THEM!
HOLD!

"WE CANNOT
LET THEIR ARMY
INTO THE CITY!"

IS THAT
SO?

AM I
NOT ALREADY
INSIDE THESE
WALLS?

THEN THE
CITY IS AS
GOOD AS MINE
ALREADY.

I AM
AN ARMY
UNTO
MYSELF.

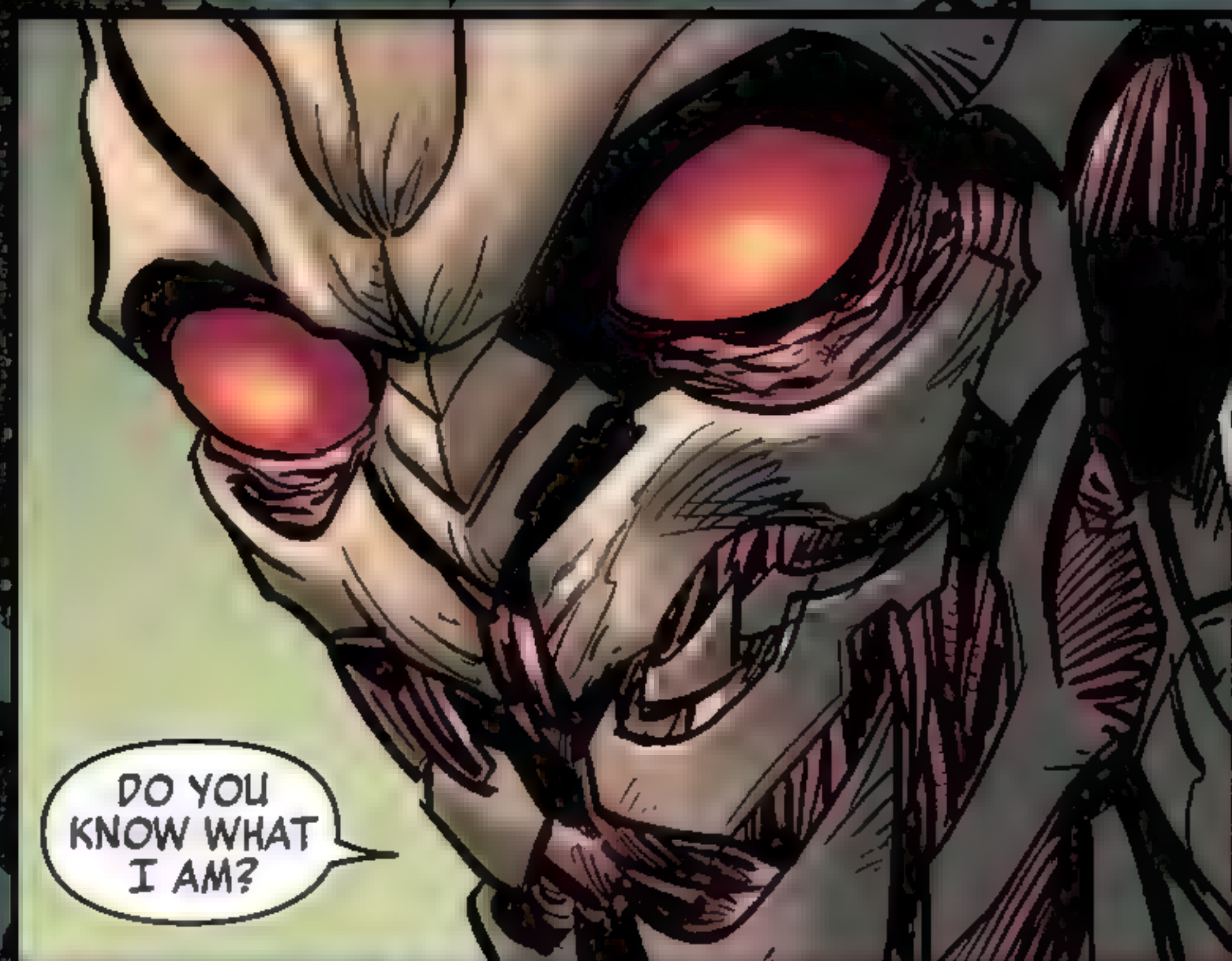
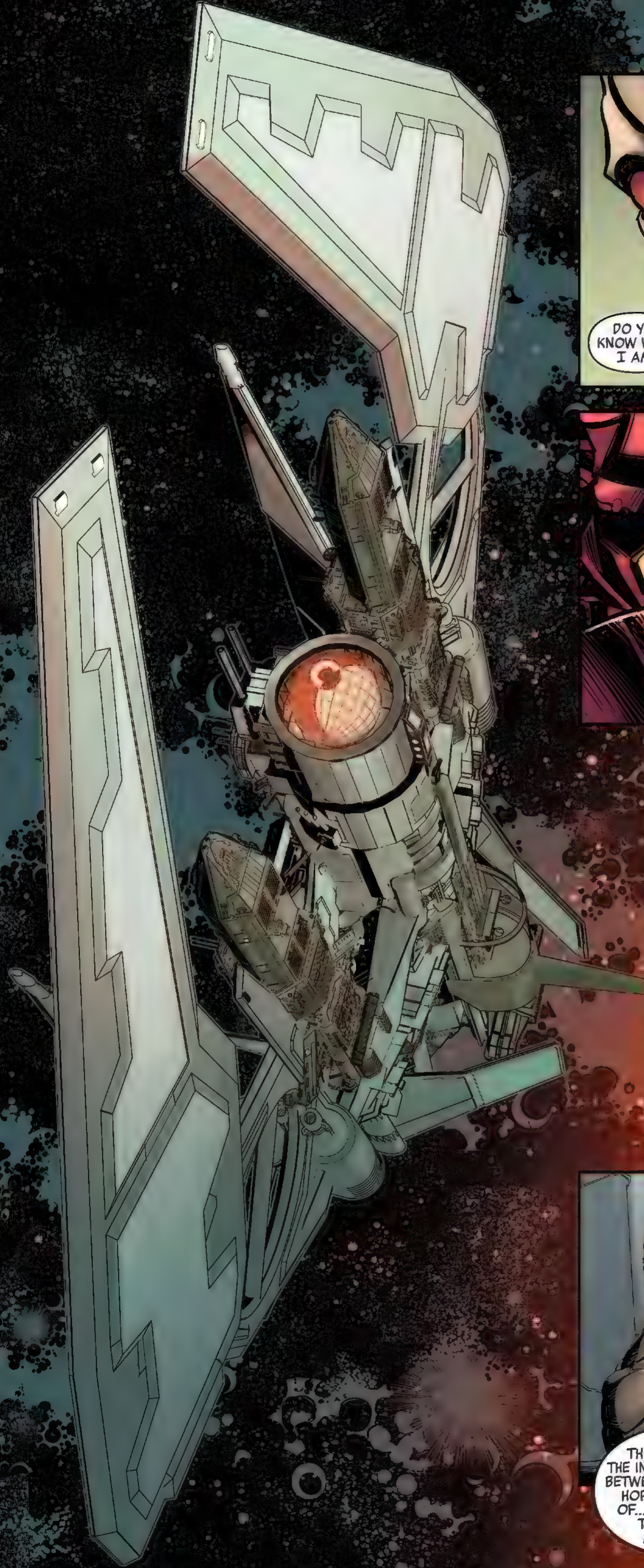
NO.

AARRGGHHH!

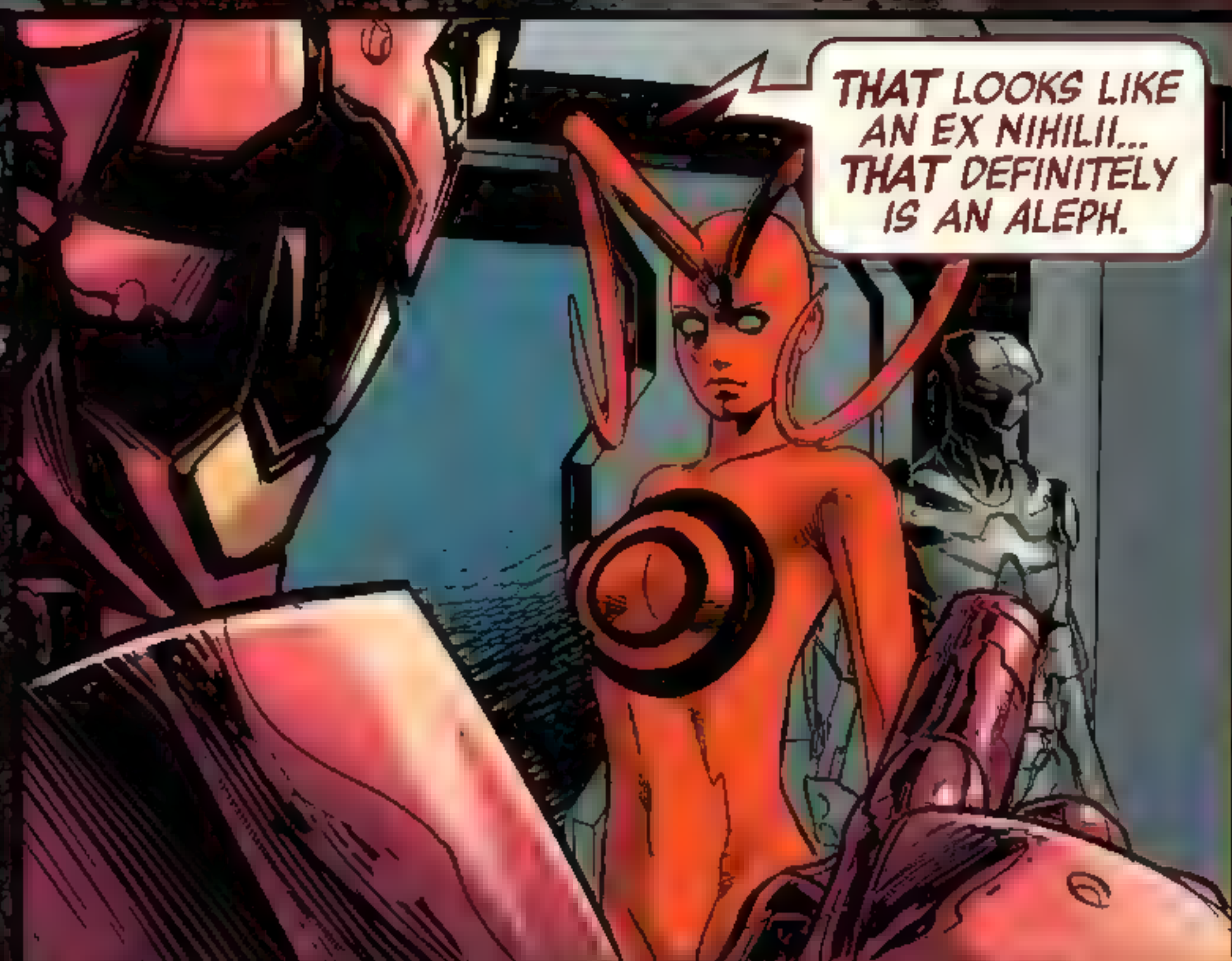
NO
MORE!







DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I AM?



THAT LOOKS LIKE
AN EX NIHILII...
THAT DEFINITELY
IS AN ALEPH.

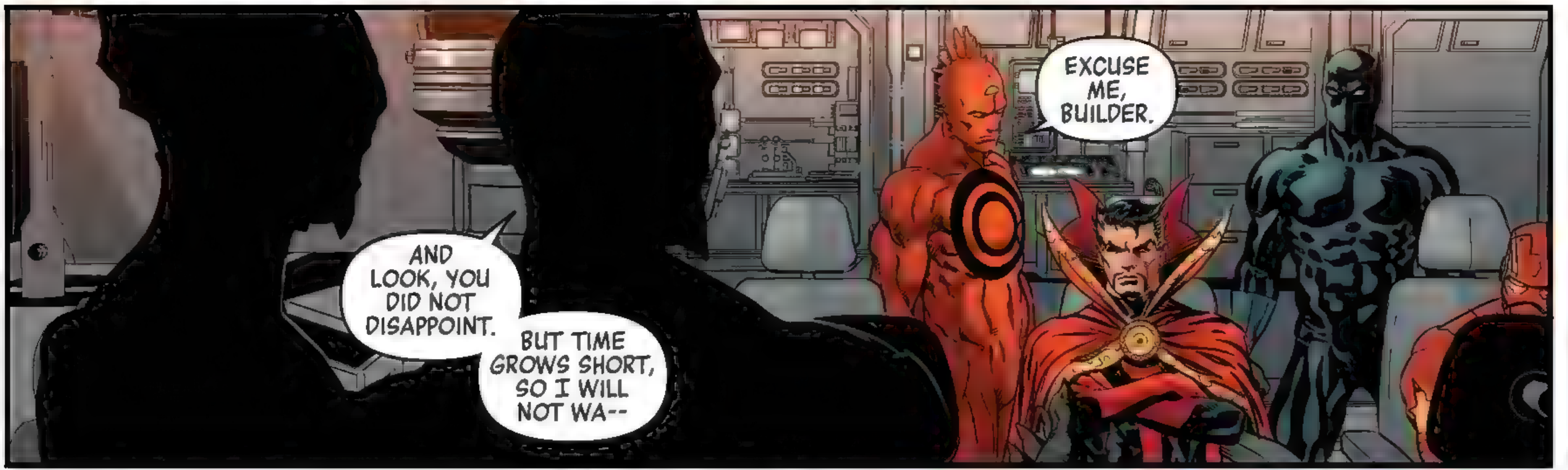


I SPENT SOME
TIME ON A
LEARNING TREE
ONCE...YOU'RE
A BUILDER,
AREN'T YOU?



YES, A CREATOR,
AND THIS...AN
ENGINEER.

I ASKED
THE ALEPH TO OBSERVE
THE INCURSION POINT--EARTH--
BETWEEN OUR TWO UNIVERSES
HOPING THAT SOME TYPE
OF...EVOLVED PRODUCT OF
THE SPECIES WOULD
MANIFEST THERE...





AND
WHAT OF
THE TRIBUTE,
MY LORD?

MY SON WAS
NOT IN THE CITY
BEFORE IT WAS
DESTROYED. I WILL
CONTINUE TO
SEARCH.

HAVE YOU
LOCATED
THE GEM?

WE
HAVE, AS OF
YET, FOUND
NO EVIDENCE
OF IT.

WE WILL
CONTINUE TO
SEARCH...BUT YOU
SHOULD KNOW THAT
WE'VE ALSO FOUND
SOME RATHER
INTERESTING
THINGS HERE...

ITEMS THAT
MIGHT INTEREST
YOU.

SHOW
ME.

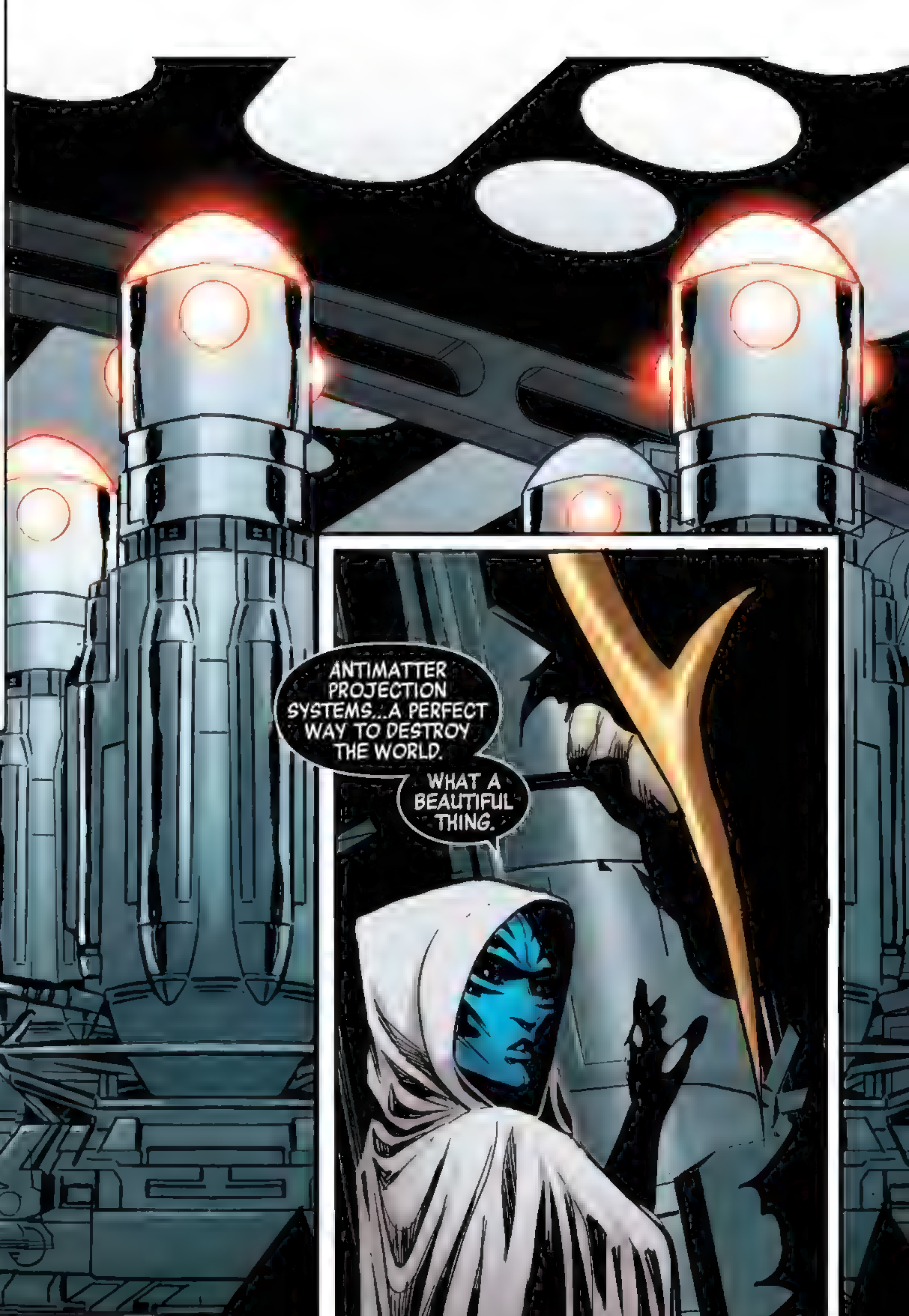


THIS PLACE WAS SEALED UP TIGHT, UNDERSTANDABLE ONCE WE SAW WHAT WAS INSIDE.

LOOK, THANOS...



THEY ARE BUILDING WEAPONS.



ANTIMATTER PROJECTION SYSTEMS...A PERFECT WAY TO DESTROY THE WORLD.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL THING.



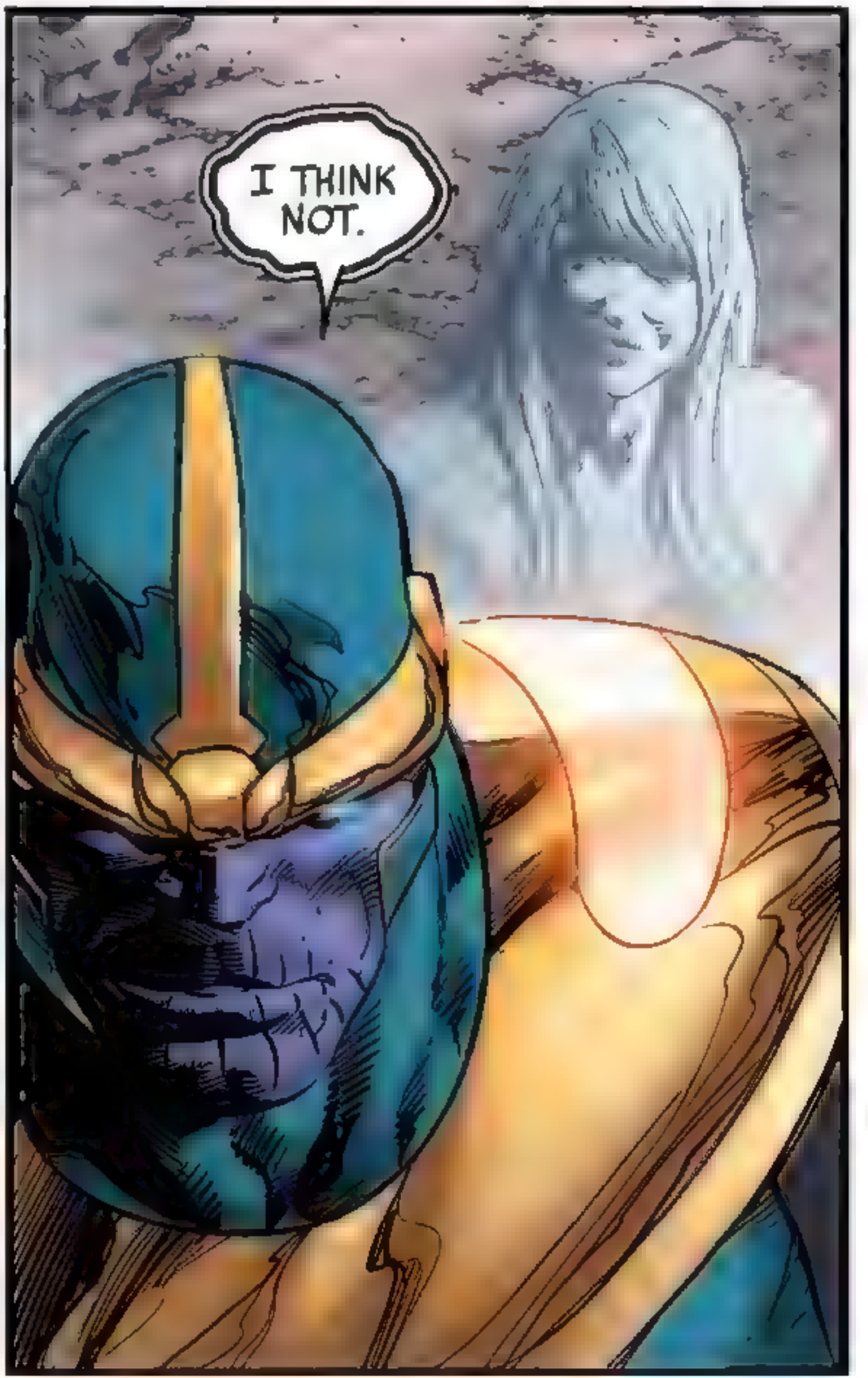
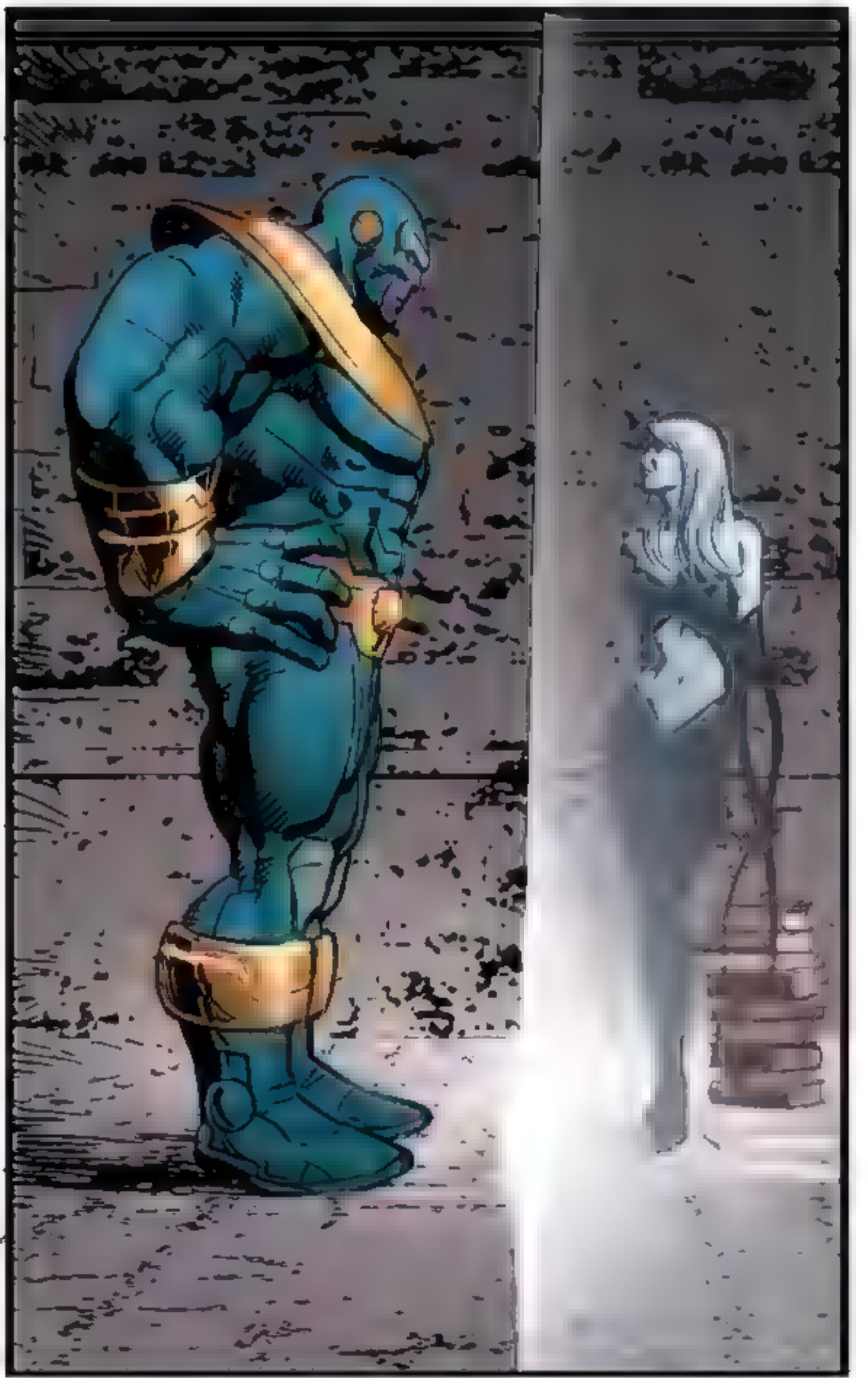
INTERESTING. SO THESE EARTHBOUND HEROES HAVE BEEN BUSY CREATING MACHINES OF DEATH... HOW DELIGHTFULLY UNEXPECTED.

IS THERE MORE?

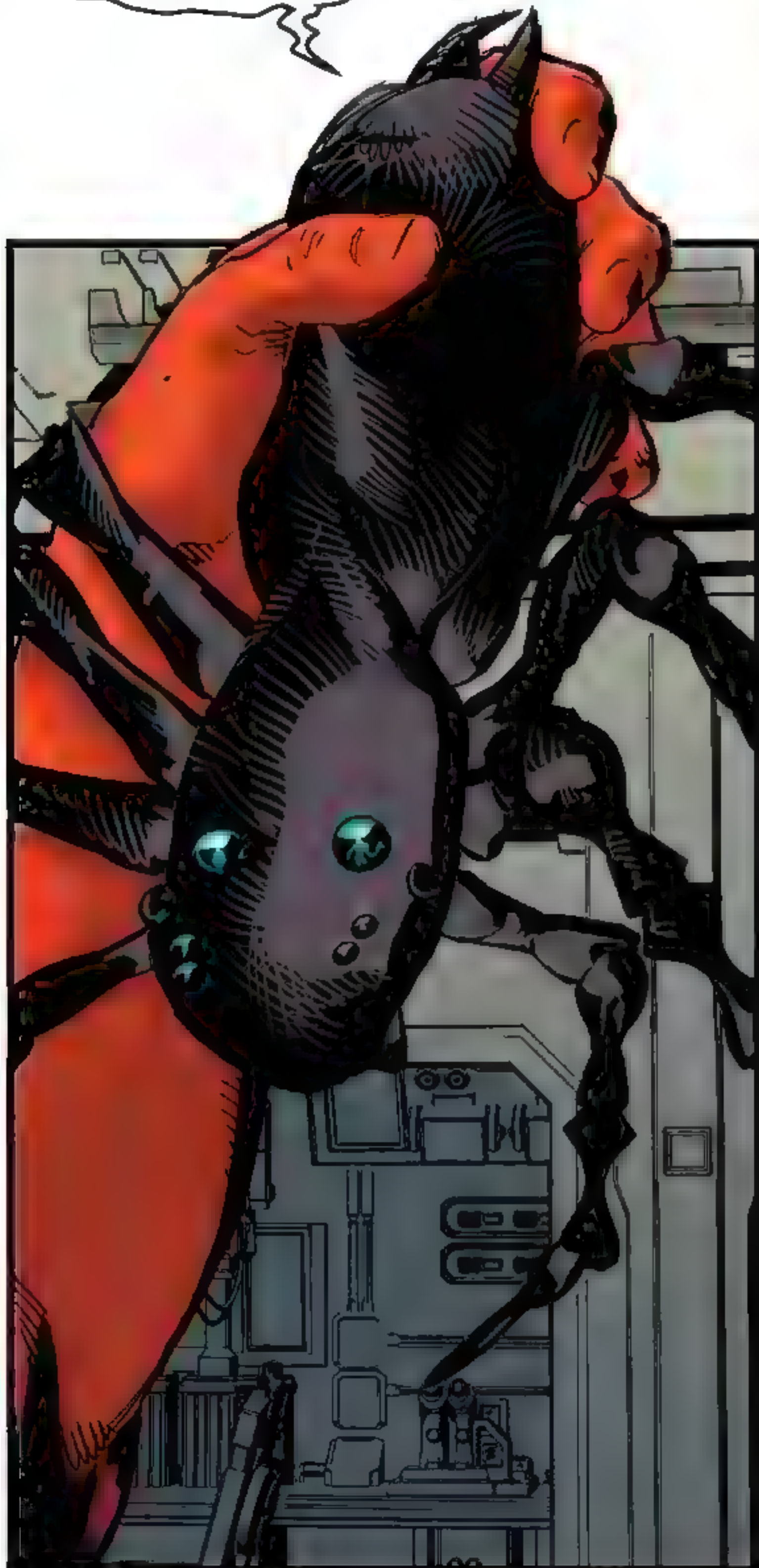
YES. THERE'S A... PRISON.

HMMMM.

I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE THESE HUMANS.



A HIDDEN
INHUMAN TRIBE. THE
GEM IS LOST. LOCATED
IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN
CREVICE OF GREENLAND. ALL
THESE MEN ARE LIARS AND
KINGS. THE SON IS THERE.
THE SON OF THANOS
IS IN LOR.



AH, A MIND WEB, THE INFECTIOUS
NETWORKED REMNANTS OF A
WHISPERER--ARTIFACTING LEFTOVER
FROM A POSSESSION.

I CAN TELL YOU
THE EFFECTS WILL PASS.
THERE ARE NO WHISPERERS IN
THIS UNIVERSE, BUT IN THE
PAST, WE HAVE STUDIED
THEM IN YOURS.



EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE TO ASK,
WHERE ARE YOU
FROM? YOU
KNOW ABOUT THIS
THING, SO DID
YOUR SPECIES
BEGIN IN OUR
UNIVERSE?

WHERE
ANYONE BEGINS IS
INCONSEQUENTIAL,
HUMAN...IT'S WHERE
YOU END UP THAT
MATTERS.

FOR US,
IT WAS THE
ENTIRE
MULTIVERSE.



WAS?



"YES. A VERY SHORT TIME AGO, WE
MOVED FREELY FROM UNIVERSE TO
UNIVERSE, ACCESSING EACH FROM
THE OTHERSPACE THAT EXISTED
BETWEEN THEM--THE SUPERFLOW.

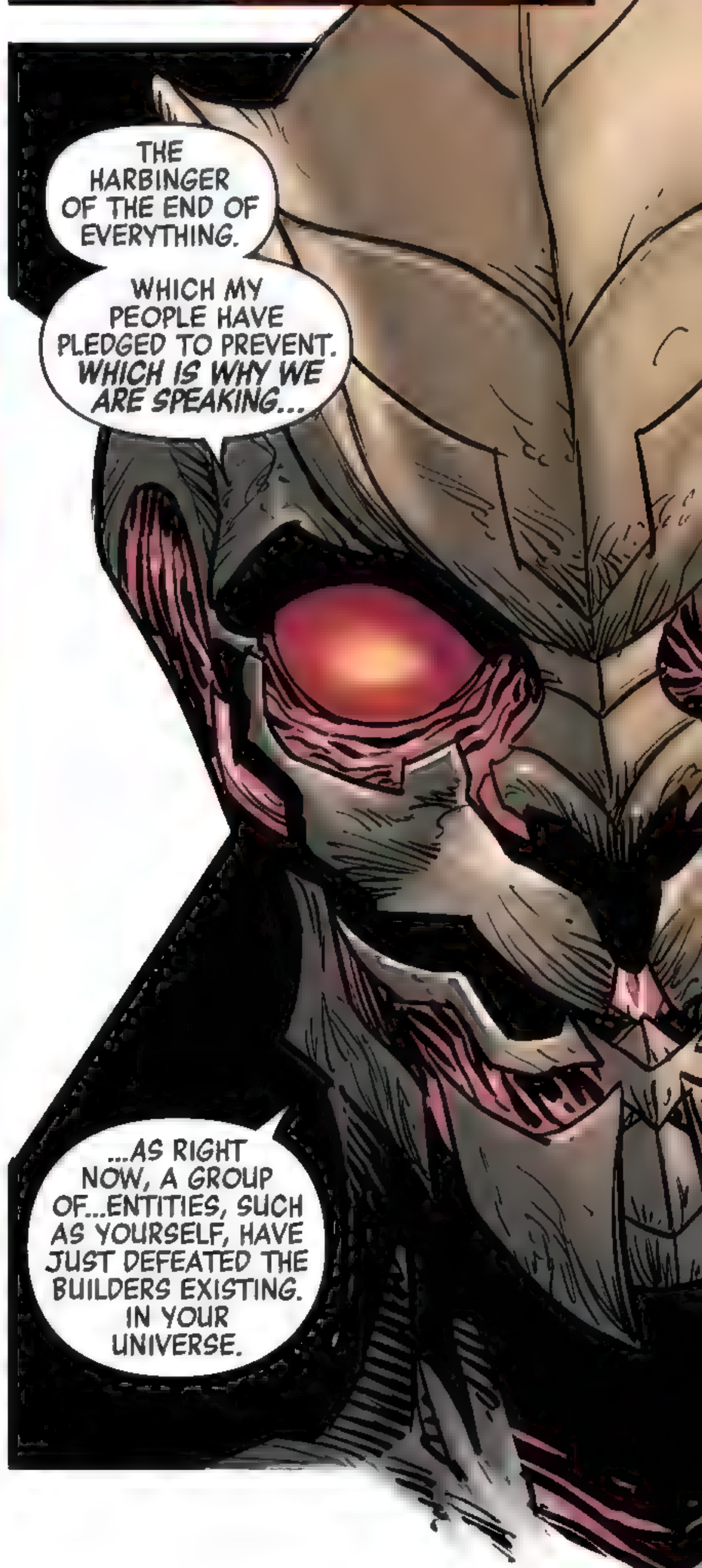


"BUT ALL THAT HAS
COLLAPSED. DESTROYED.
THE SUPERFLOW...
FRACTURED AND NO
LONGER ABLE TO BE
SAFELY NAVIGATED."

THE
HARBINGER
OF THE END OF
EVERYTHING.

WHICH MY
PEOPLE HAVE
PLEGGED TO PREVENT.
WHICH IS WHY WE
ARE SPEAKING...

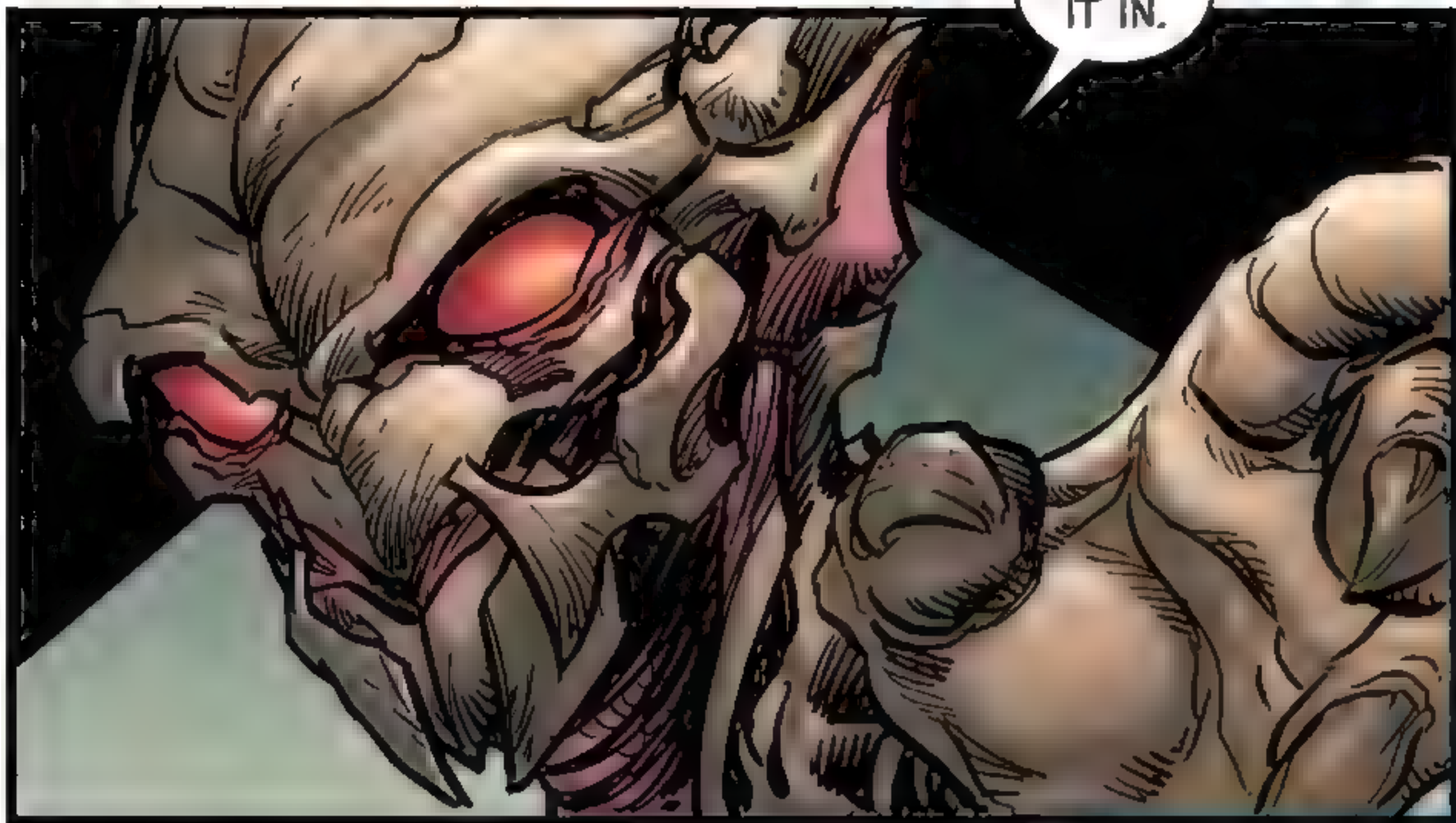
...AS RIGHT
NOW, A GROUP
OF...ENTITIES, SUCH
AS YOURSELF, HAVE
JUST DEFEATED THE
BUILDERS EXISTING.
IN YOUR
UNIVERSE.





HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE ACCESS TO WHAT YOU PROFESS TO POSSESS.



BRING IT IN.



HRRRNNNNN.

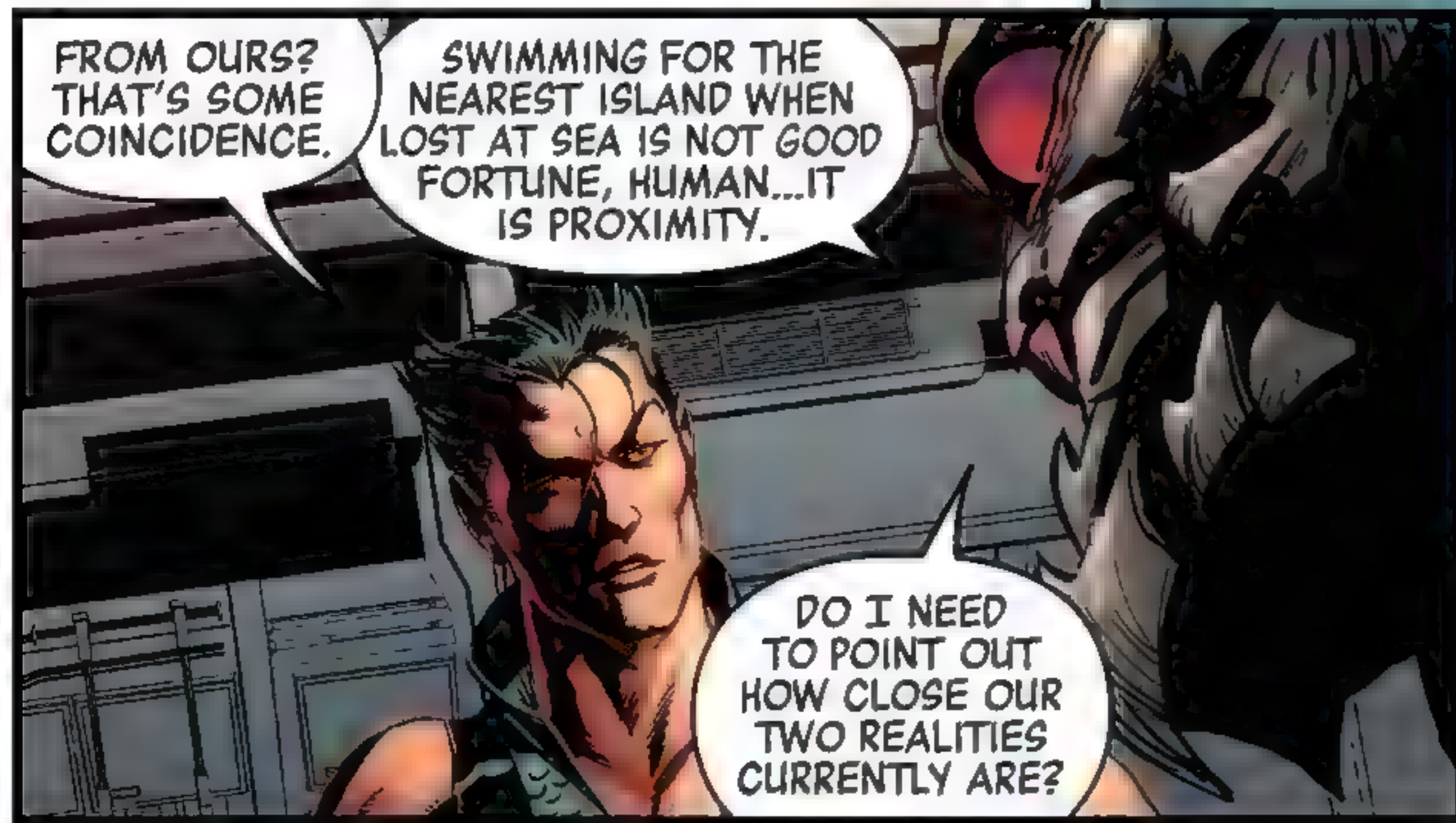


HRRRNNNNNN.

HURTKIG.
SUTTUOY E GOTHERUN
ILLDAMERUN.

THIS FAILED, DYING
THING IS A BUILDER.
USELESS AND DONE,
BUT A CONTAINER
NONETHELESS.

IT
ESCAPED HERE
FROM YOUR
UNIVERSE.



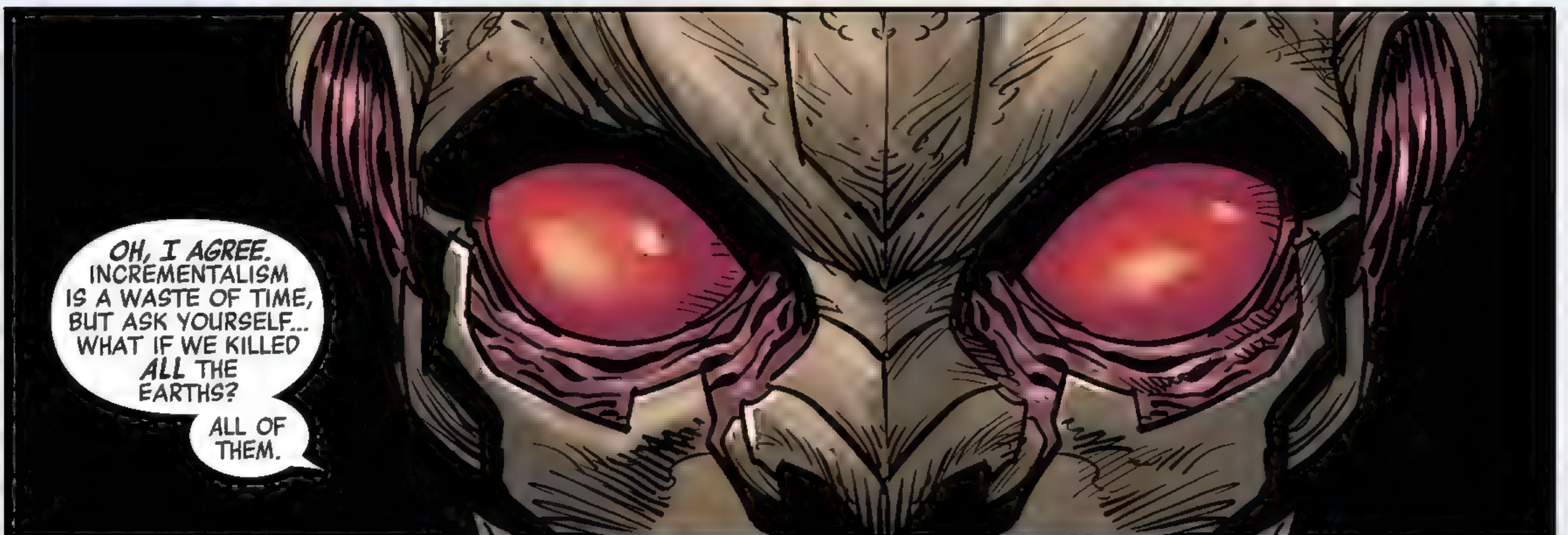
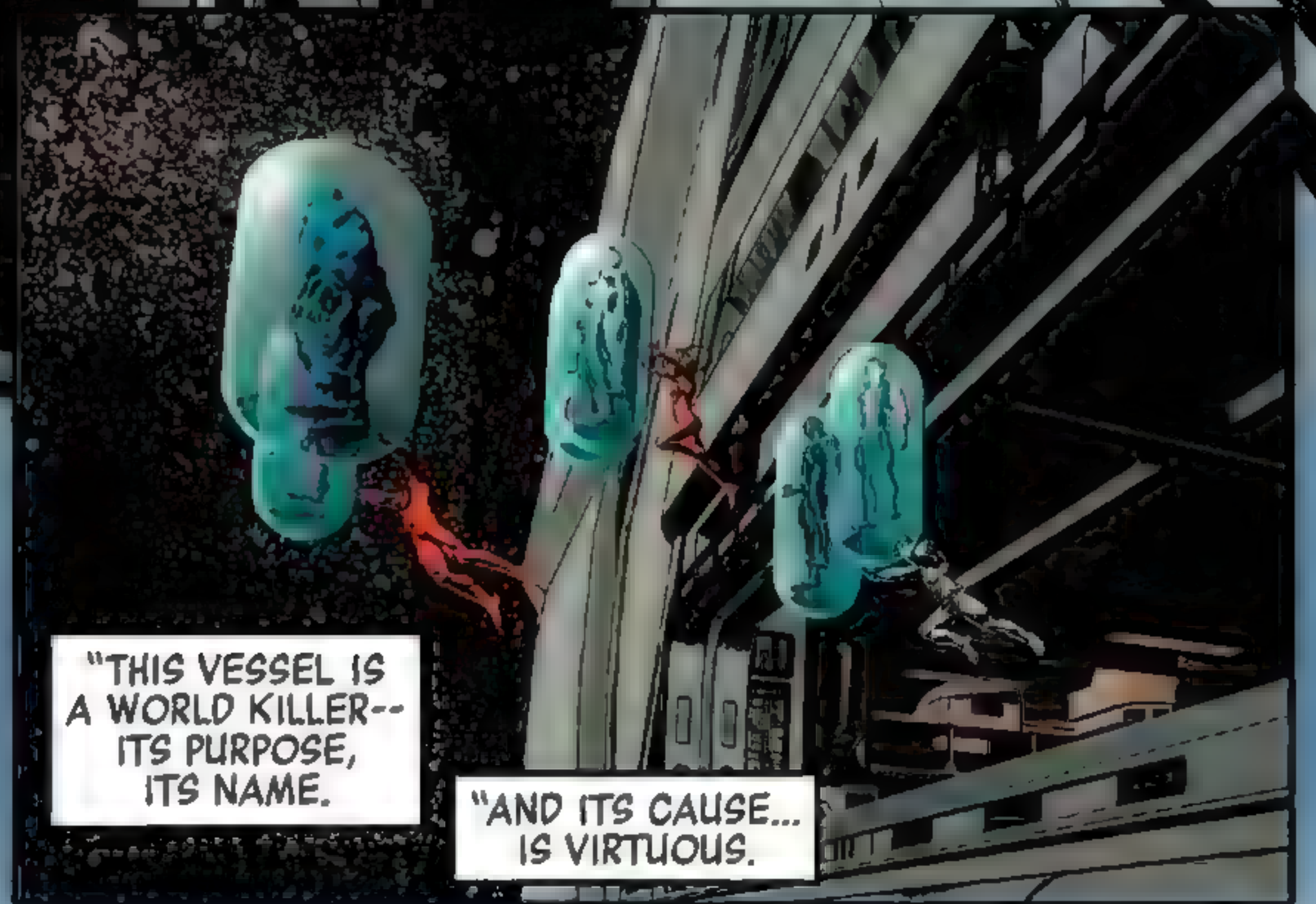
FROM OURS?
THAT'S SOME
COINCIDENCE.

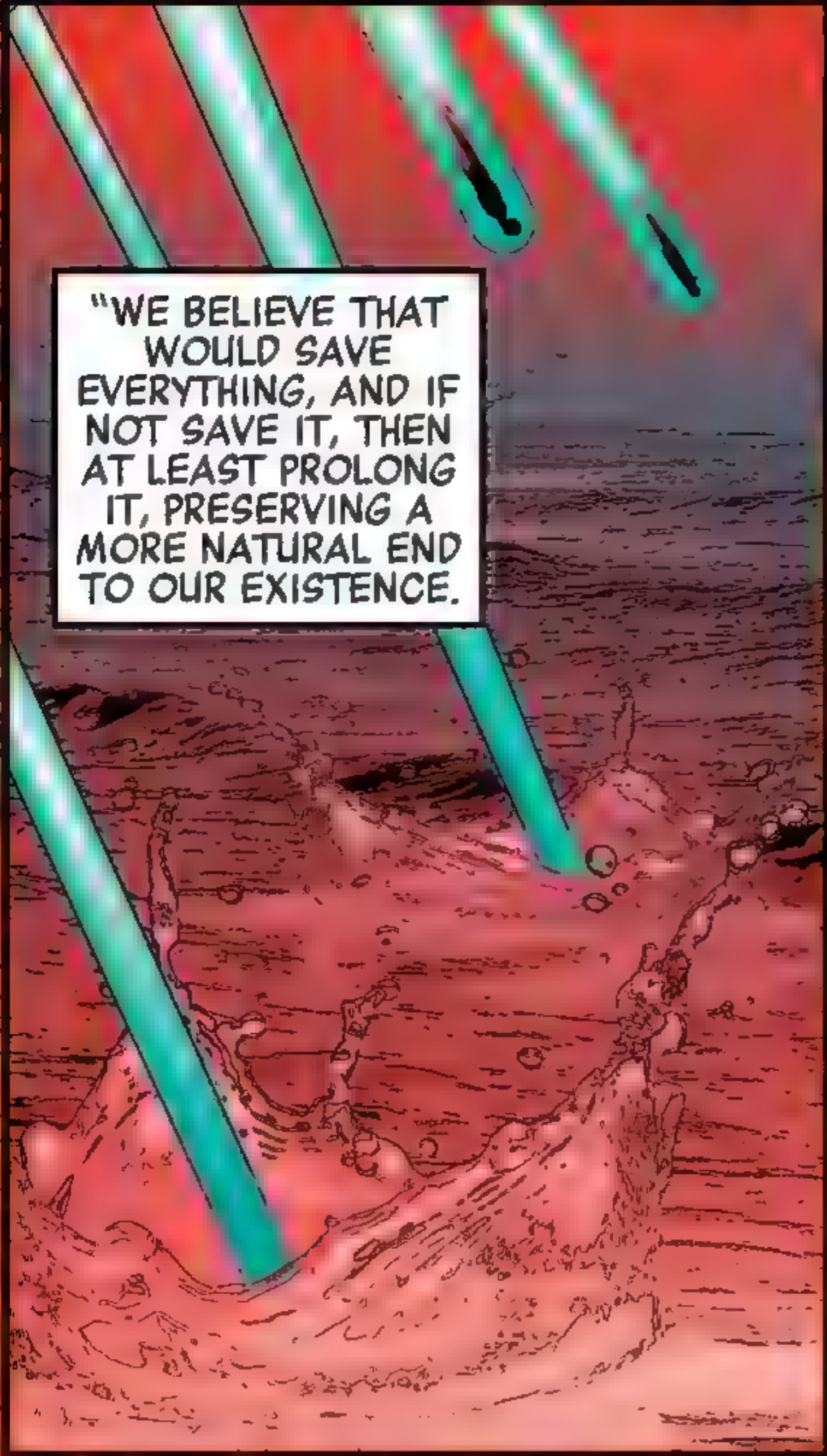
SWIMMING FOR THE
NEAREST ISLAND WHEN
LOST AT SEA IS NOT GOOD
FORTUNE, HUMAN...IT
IS PROXIMITY.

DO I NEED
TO POINT OUT
HOW CLOSE OUR
TWO REALITIES
CURRENTLY ARE?

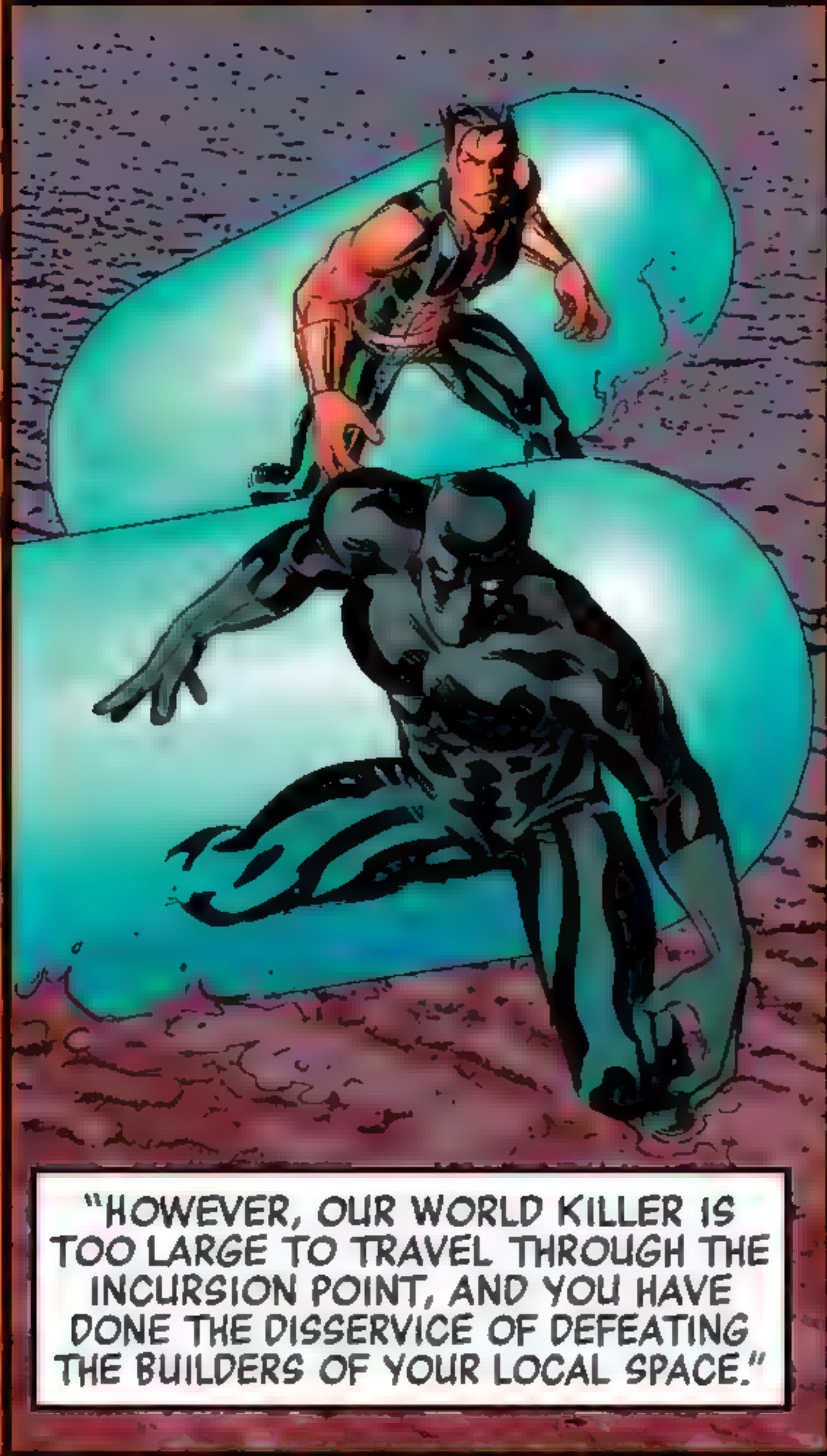


SO...THE
POINT OF THIS
CONVERSATION,
SHALL WE GET
TO IT?





"WE BELIEVE THAT WOULD SAVE EVERYTHING, AND IF NOT SAVE IT, THEN AT LEAST PROLONG IT, PRESERVING A MORE NATURAL END TO OUR EXISTENCE."



"HOWEVER, OUR WORLD KILLER IS TOO LARGE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE INCURSION POINT, AND YOU HAVE DONE THE DISSERVICE OF DEFEATING THE BUILDERS OF YOUR LOCAL SPACE."

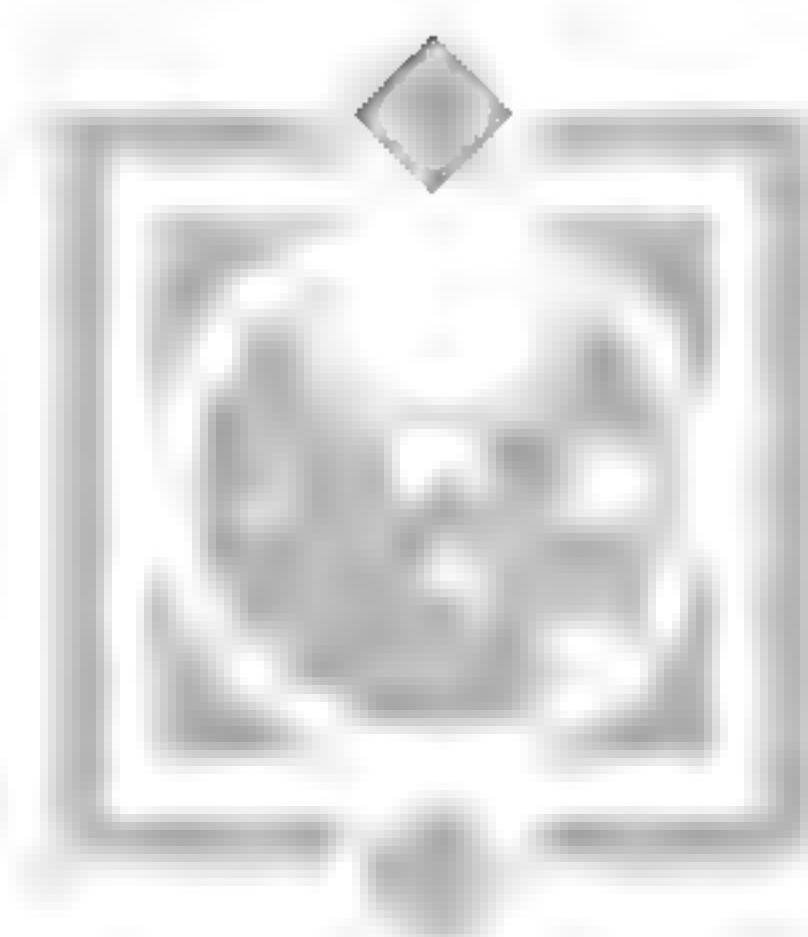


TELL ME, HUMAN...DO YOU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO DESTROY YOUR OWN WORLD?

YES.
WE DO.

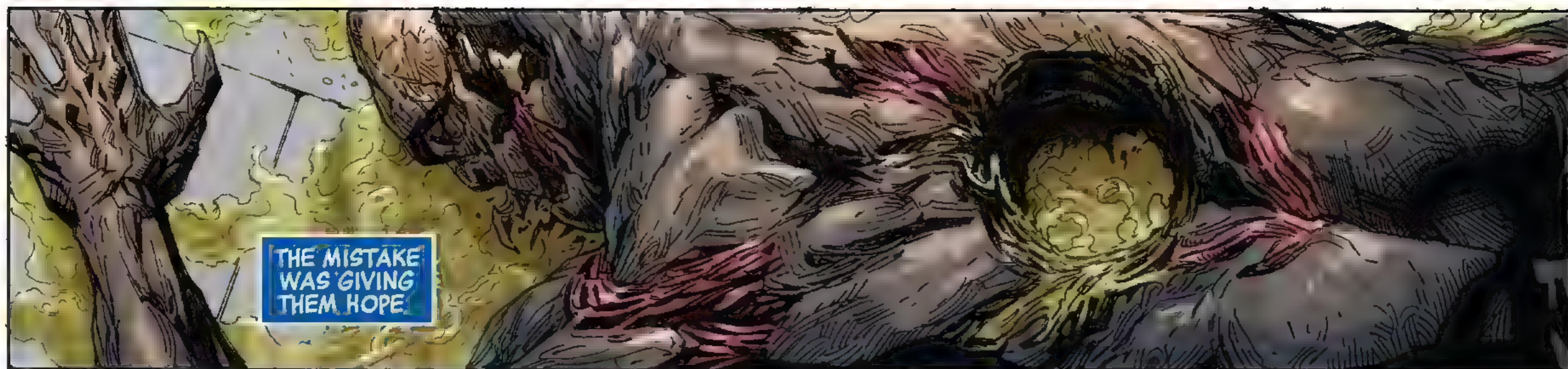


"THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"

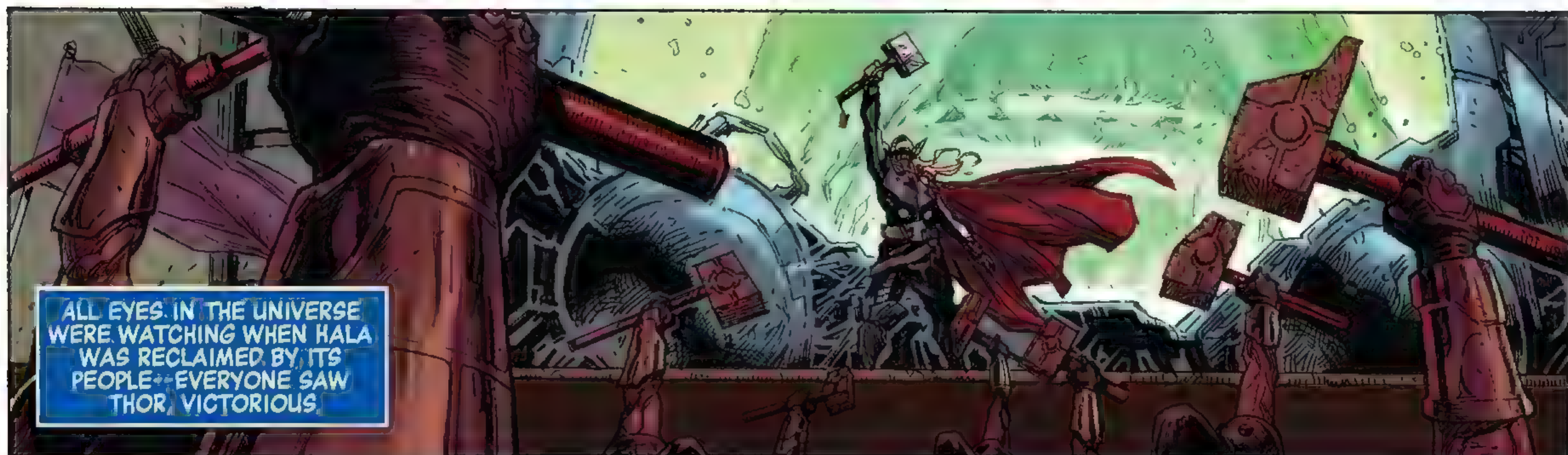


OF SUNS AND STORMS

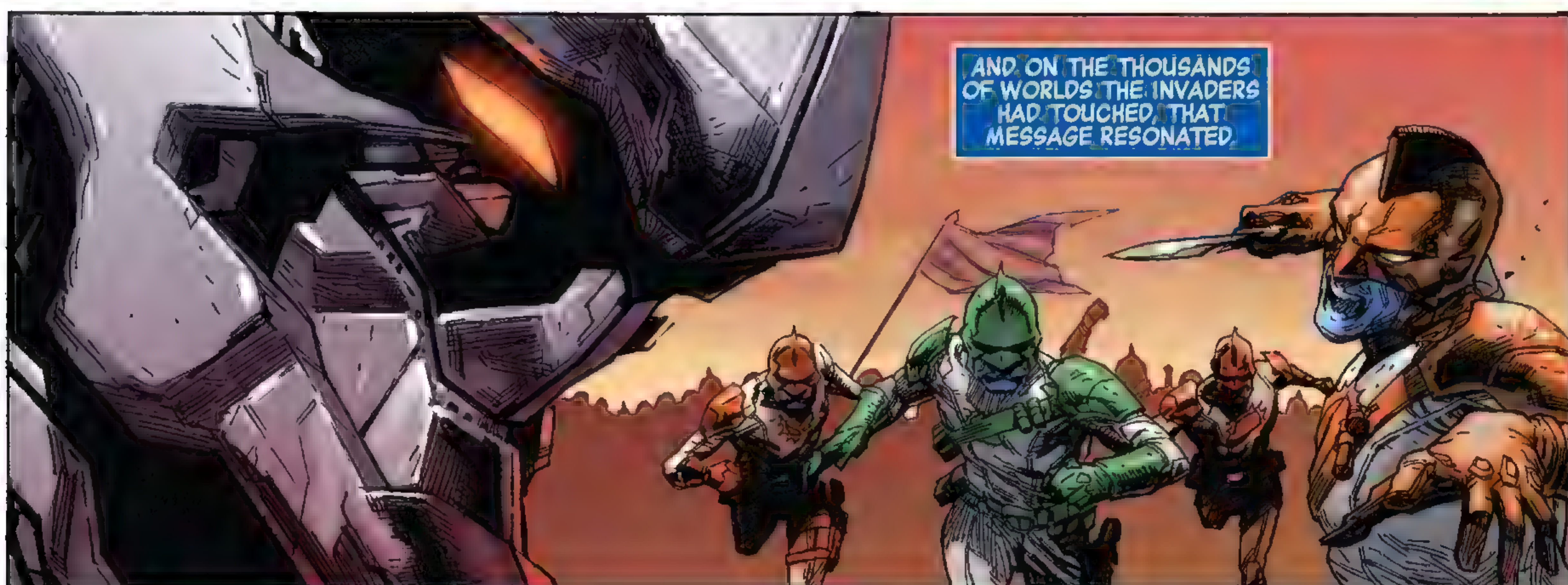




THE MISTAKE
WAS GIVING
THEM HOPE.



ALL EYES IN THE UNIVERSE
WERE WATCHING WHEN HALA
WAS RECLAIMED BY ITS
PEOPLE - EVERYONE SAW
THOR VICTORIOUS.



AND ON THE THOUSANDS
OF WORLDS THE INVADERS
HAD TOUCHED, THAT
MESSAGE RESONATED.



RISE, AND TEAR
DOWN THESE
BUILDERS.

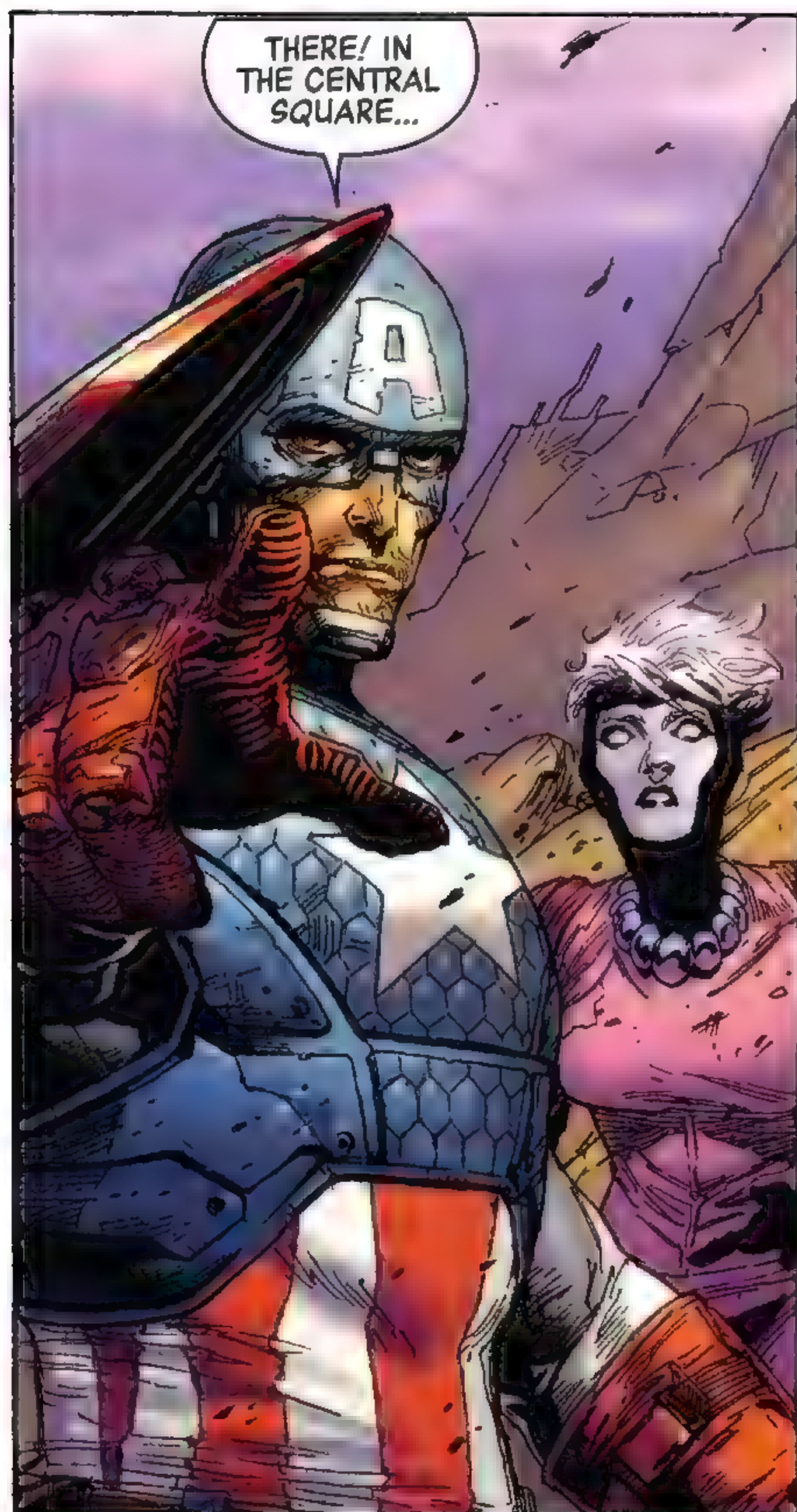
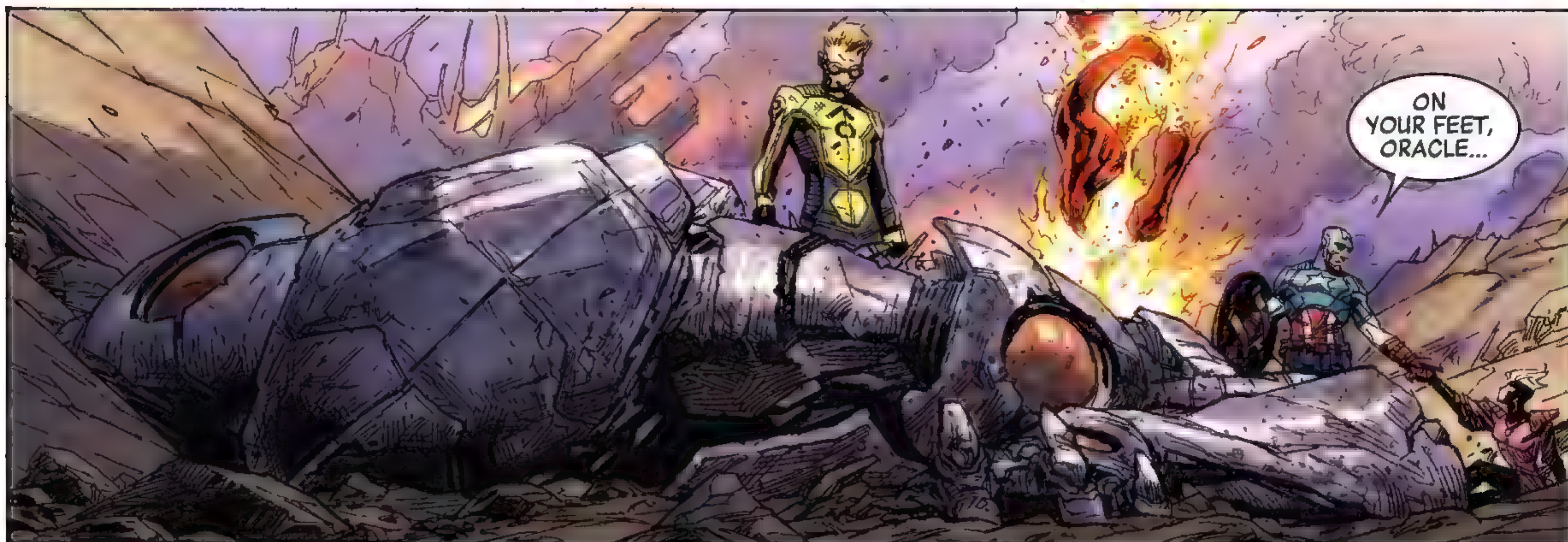
FIGHT, AND
RECLAIM YOUR
WORLDS.

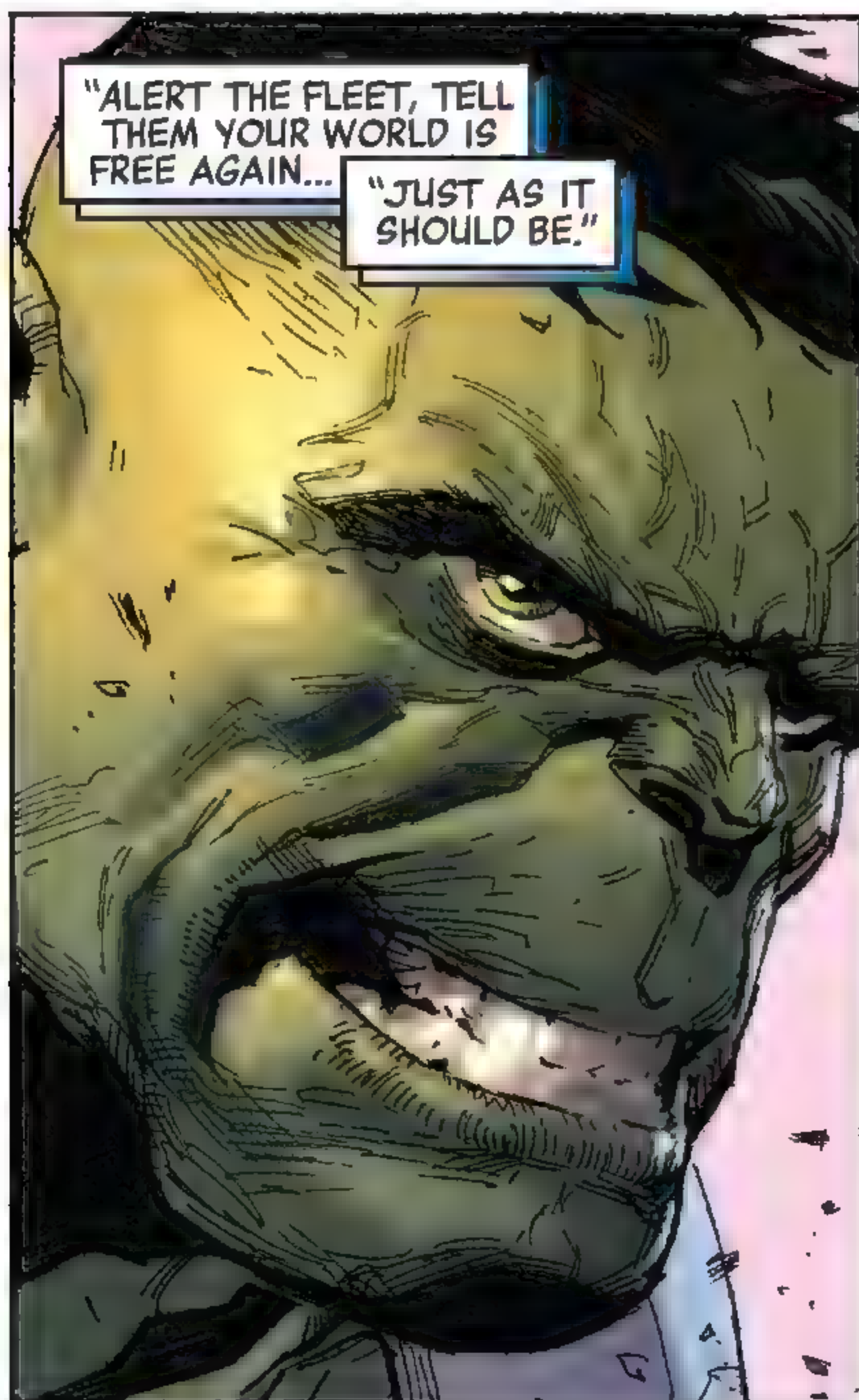


BELIEVE IT
CAN BE DONE.

FOR YOU HAVE
SEEN IT WITH
YOUR OWN EYES.

DOCKRUM VII.





"ALERT THE FLEET, TELL THEM YOUR WORLD IS FREE AGAIN..."

"JUST AS IT SHOULD BE."



AS IT IS...AND THE PEOPLE LOVE YOU FOR IT.

WHAT DO--

TAKE A LOOK.

WHOSE IDEA WAS THAT?

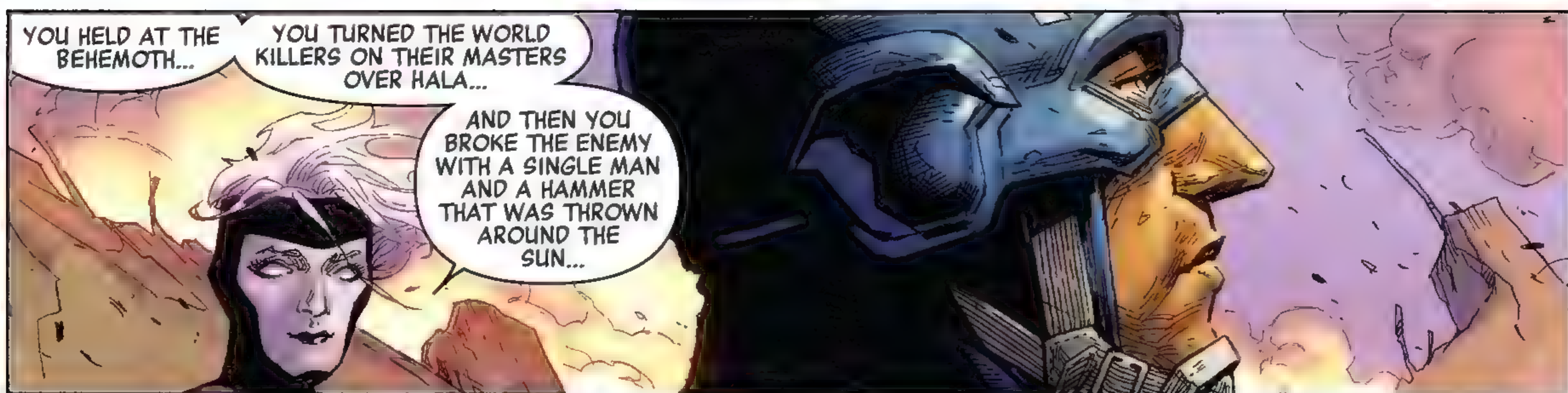
WHY WOULD--



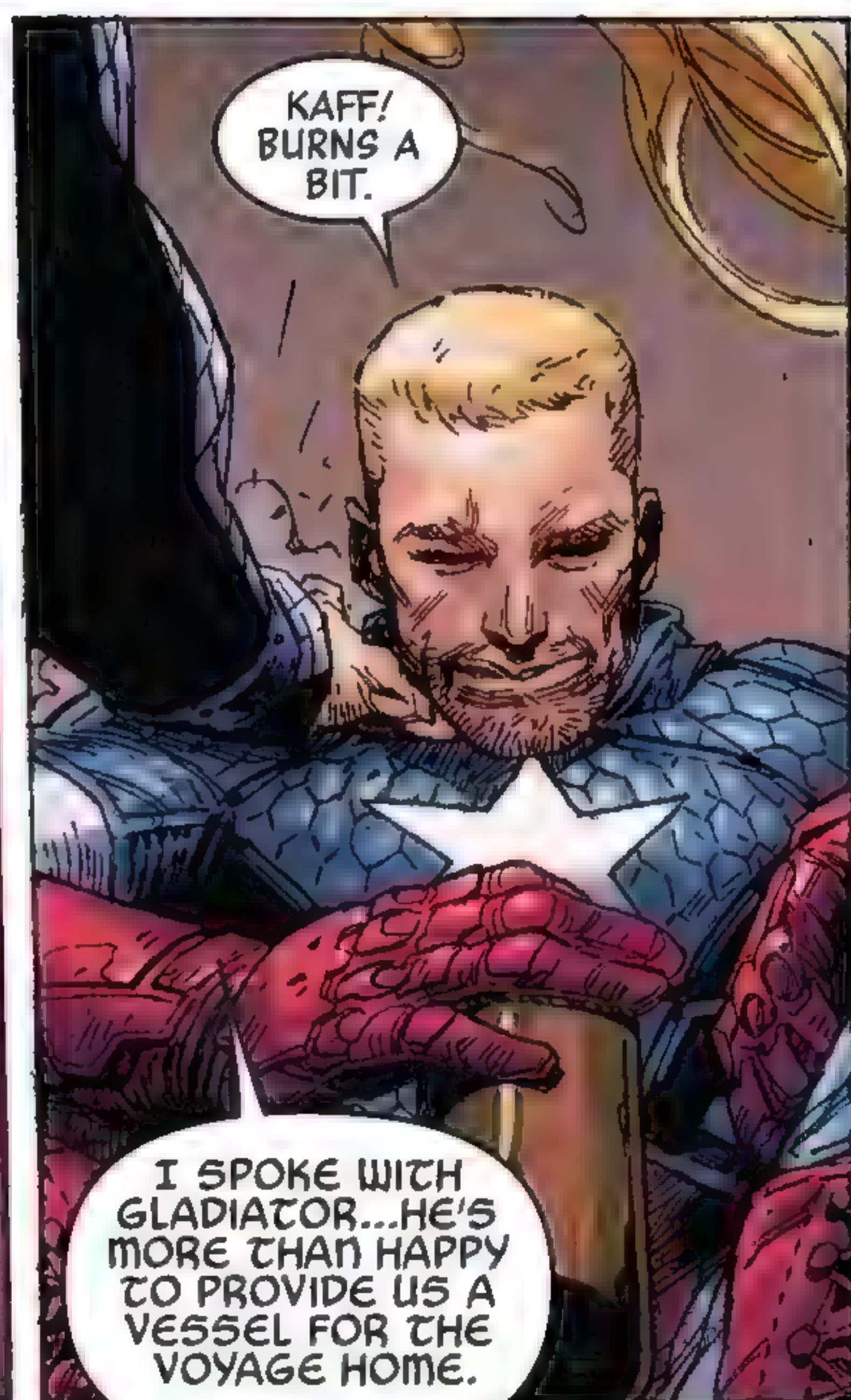
WHY? THIS WAR WAS NOT WON BY AN EMPIRE, OURS OR ANY OTHER.

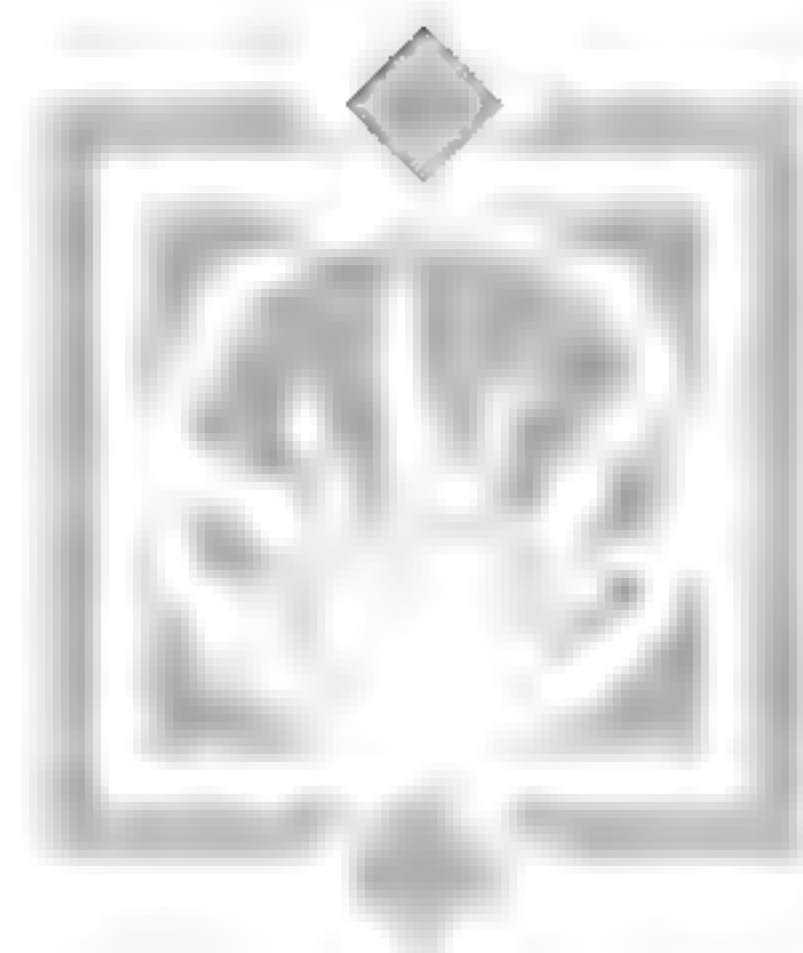
IT WAS NOT WON BY THE COUNCIL, WHO BROKE.

NO, EVERY TIME THE BATTLE TURNED, IT WAS YOU EARTHERS, YOU...AVENGERS...THAT WON THE DAY.









THIS EBDNY NOW



THE HIDDEN INHUMAN CITY OF OROLLAN.

WHAT...
WHAT...DID...
OH, GOD...



WHAT DID I...
WHAT--

WHAT
HAPPENED
HERE?

ALL THIS
PAIN...ALL THIS
DEATH...

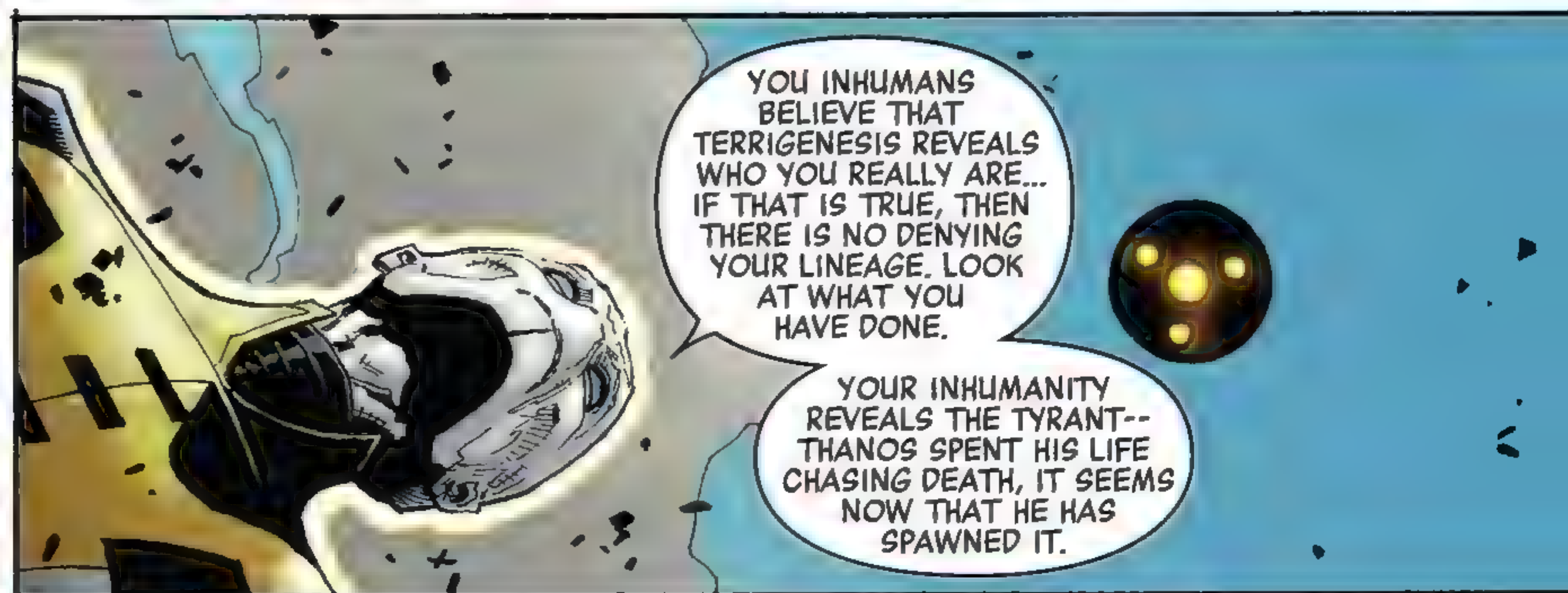


WHY, YOU HAPPENED,
THANE, SON OF
THANOS.

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
I'VE SPENT MY LIFE TRYING
TO ERASE THAT--HELPING
PEOPLE...I SAVE LIVES, I
DO NOT END THEM.

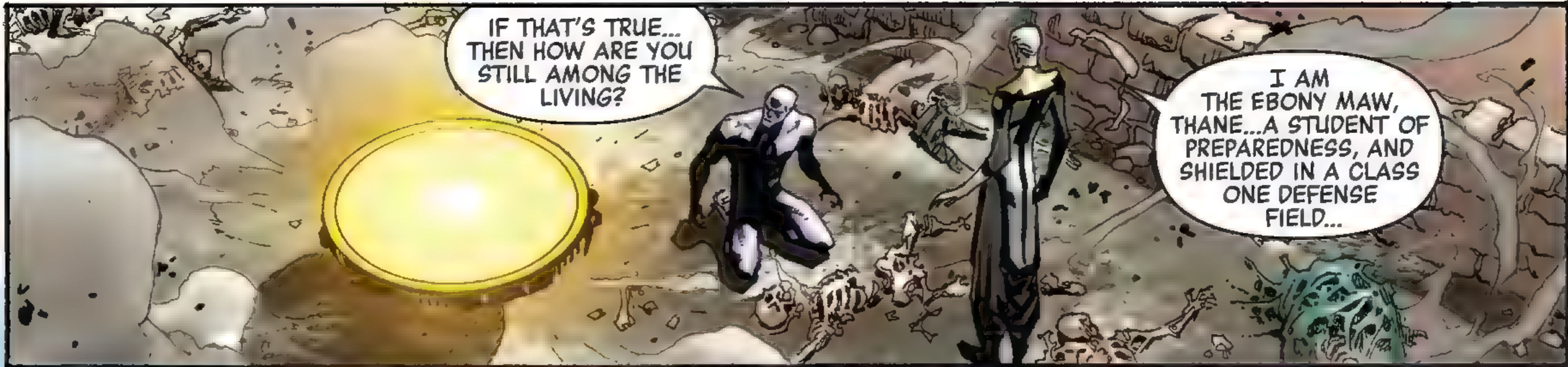
I'M NOT
LIKE HIM, I'M
A HEALER.

NOT ANY
MORE, YOU'RE
NOT.



YOU INHUMANS
BELIEVE THAT
TERRIGENESIS REVEALS
WHO YOU REALLY ARE...
IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN
THERE IS NO DENYING
YOUR LINEAGE. LOOK
AT WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE.

YOUR INHUMANITY
REVEALS THE TYRANT--
THANOS SPENT HIS LIFE
CHASING DEATH, IT SEEMS
NOW THAT HE HAS
SPAWNED IT.



IF THAT'S TRUE...
THEN HOW ARE YOU
STILL AMONG THE
LIVING?

I AM
THE EBONY MAW,
THANE...A STUDENT OF
PREPAREDNESS, AND
SHIELDED IN A CLASS
ONE DEFENSE
FIELD...

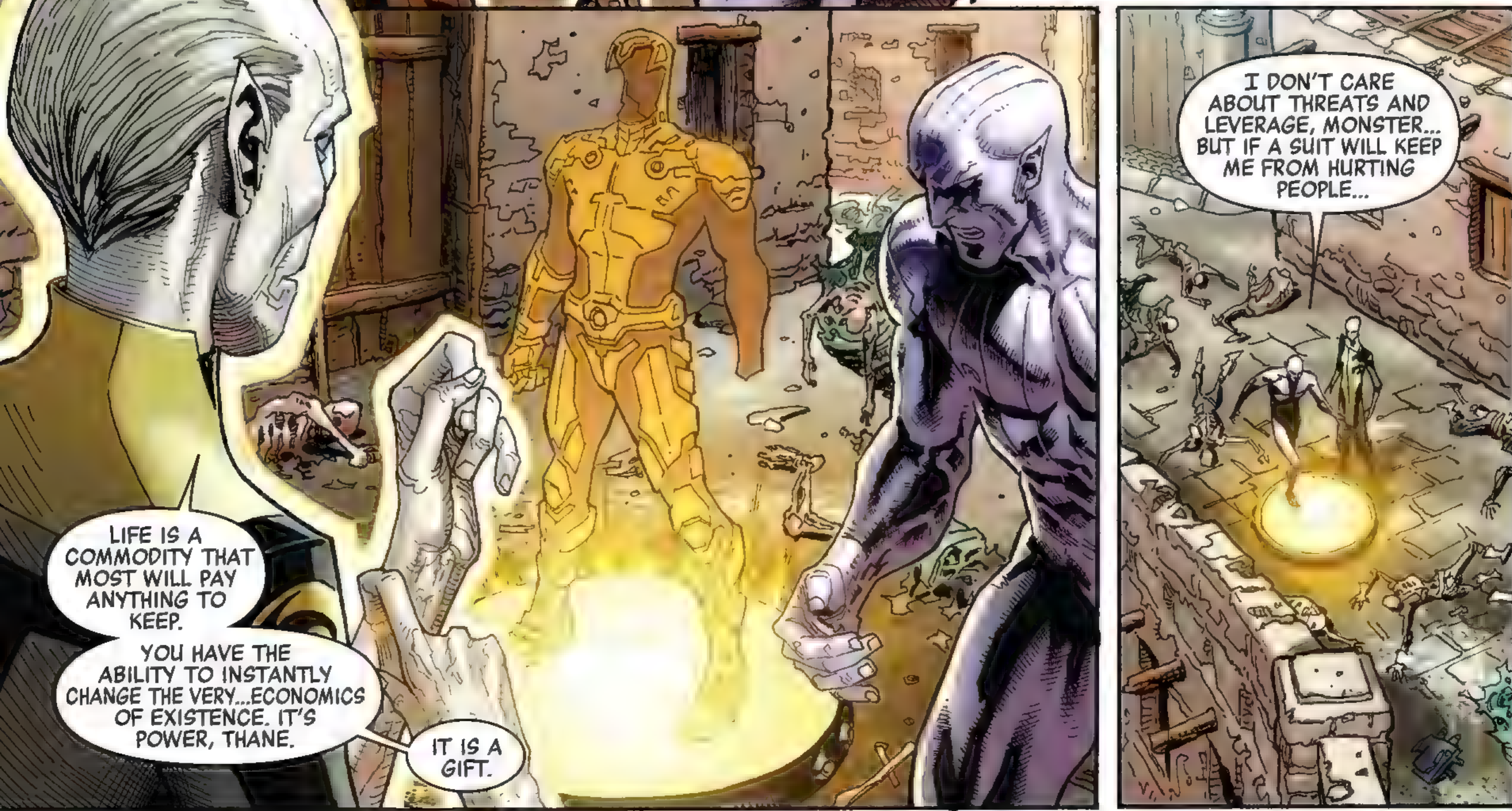


TRUST ME, IF I
WAS NOT WEARING
IT, I WOULD BE AS
DEAD AS ALL THESE
POOR SOULS.

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?

I SEE...
OPPORTUNITY.
A CHANCE TO
INCREASE MY STATURE.
RIGHT NOW, THAT
MEANS HELPING
YOU CONTROL
YOUR GIFT.

THIS...
IS NOT A
GIFT.

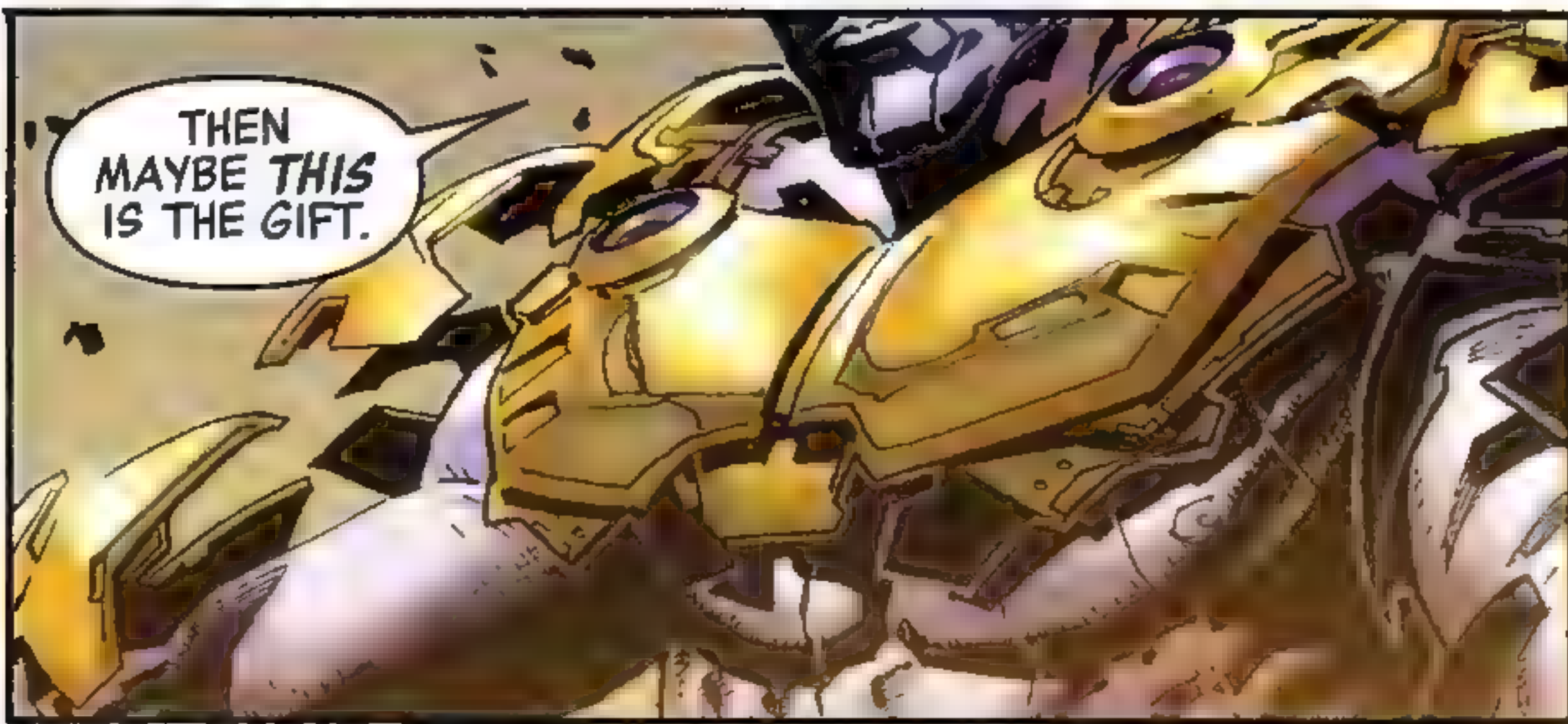


LIFE IS A
COMMODITY THAT
MOST WILL PAY
ANYTHING TO
KEEP.

YOU HAVE THE
ABILITY TO INSTANTLY
CHANGE THE VERY...ECONOMICS
OF EXISTENCE. IT'S
POWER, THANE.

IT IS A
GIFT.

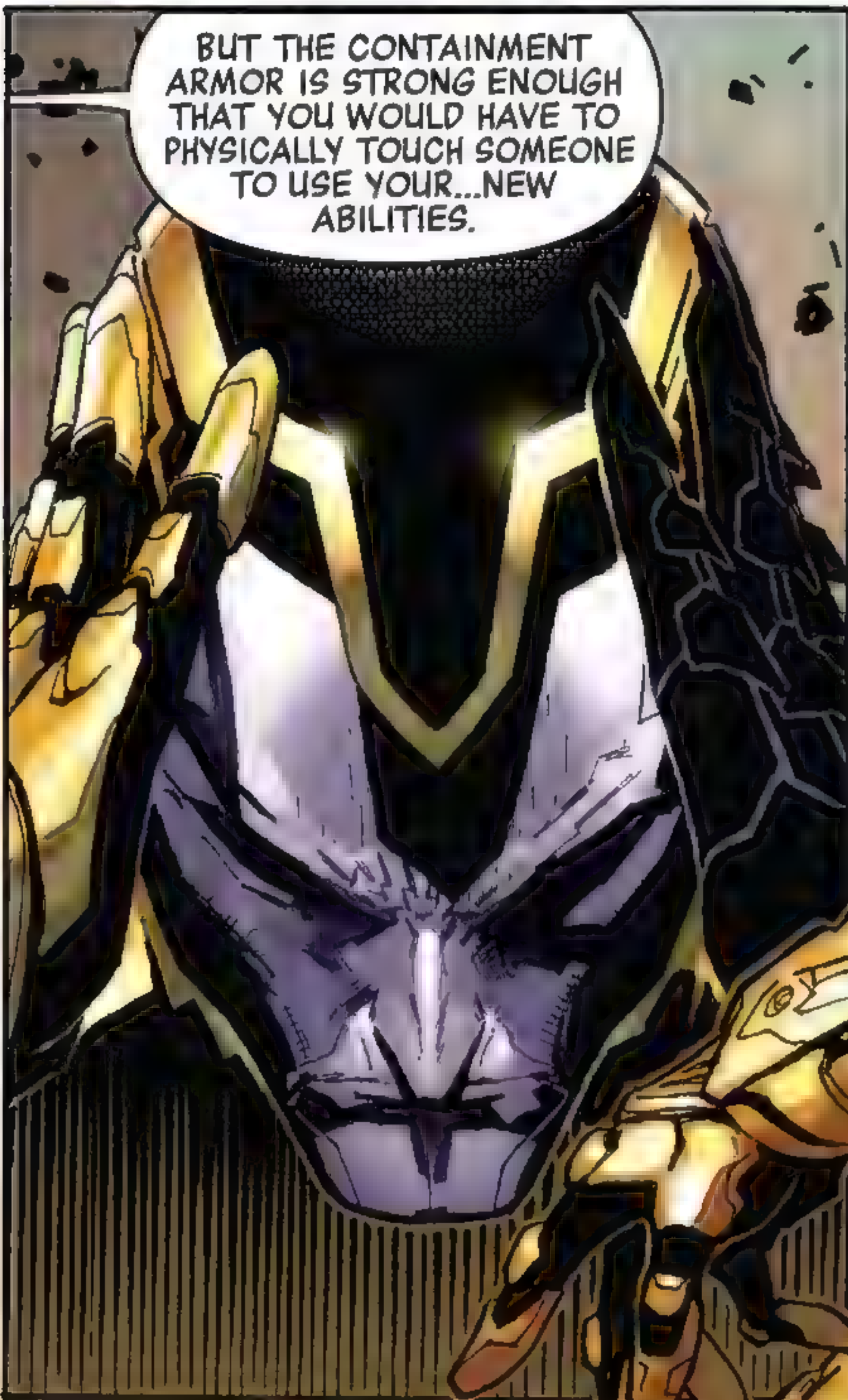
I DON'T CARE
ABOUT THREATS AND
LEVERAGE, MONSTER...
BUT IF A SUIT WILL KEEP
ME FROM HURTING
PEOPLE...



THEN
MAYBE *THIS*
IS THE GIFT.

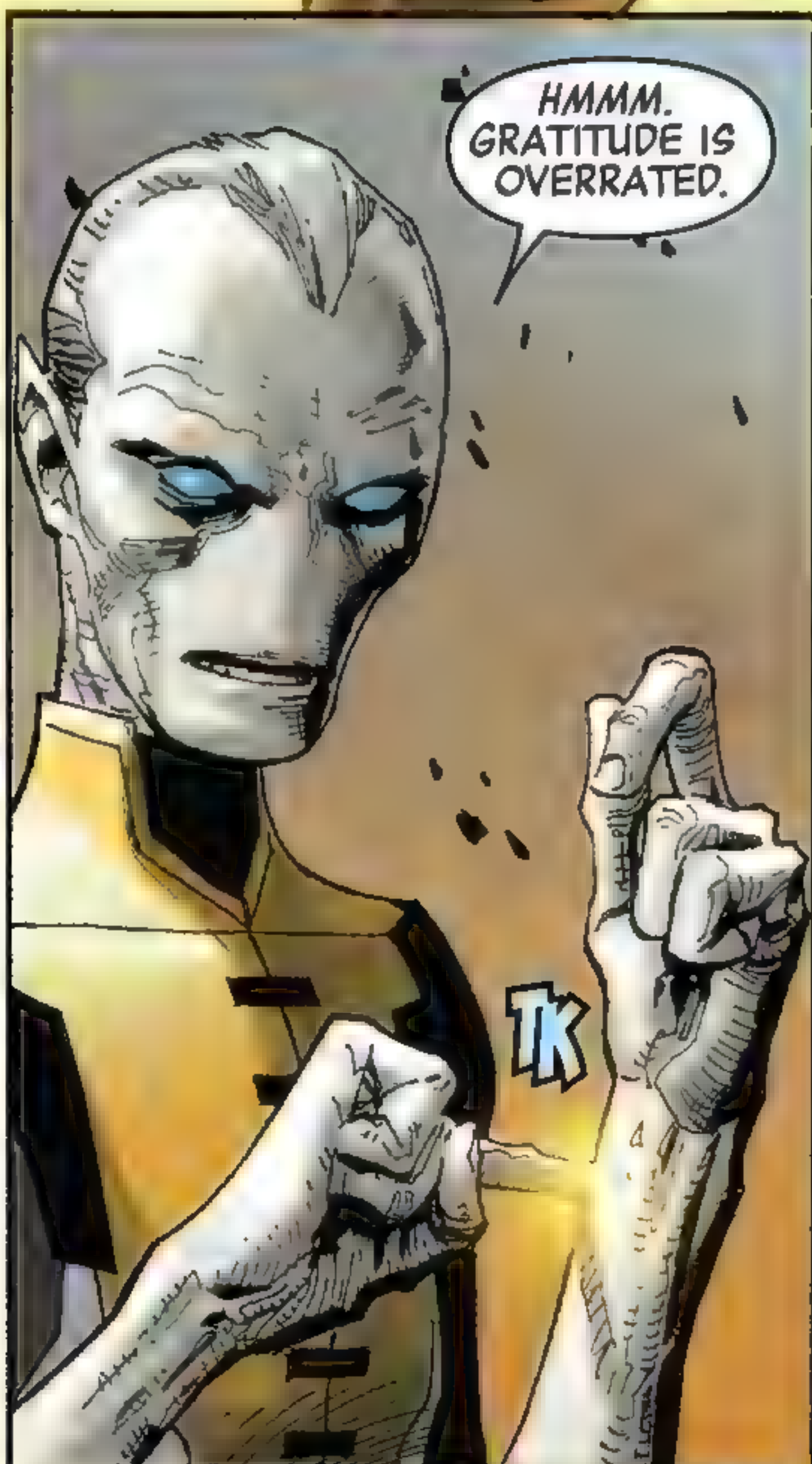


CALL IT
WHATEVER
YOU WILL,
THANE...



BUT THE CONTAINMENT
ARMOR IS STRONG ENOUGH
THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO
PHYSICALLY TOUCH SOMEONE
TO USE YOUR...NEW
ABILITIES.

THEN...I
THANK YOU,
MAW.



HMMM.
GRATITUDE IS
OVERRATED.

TK

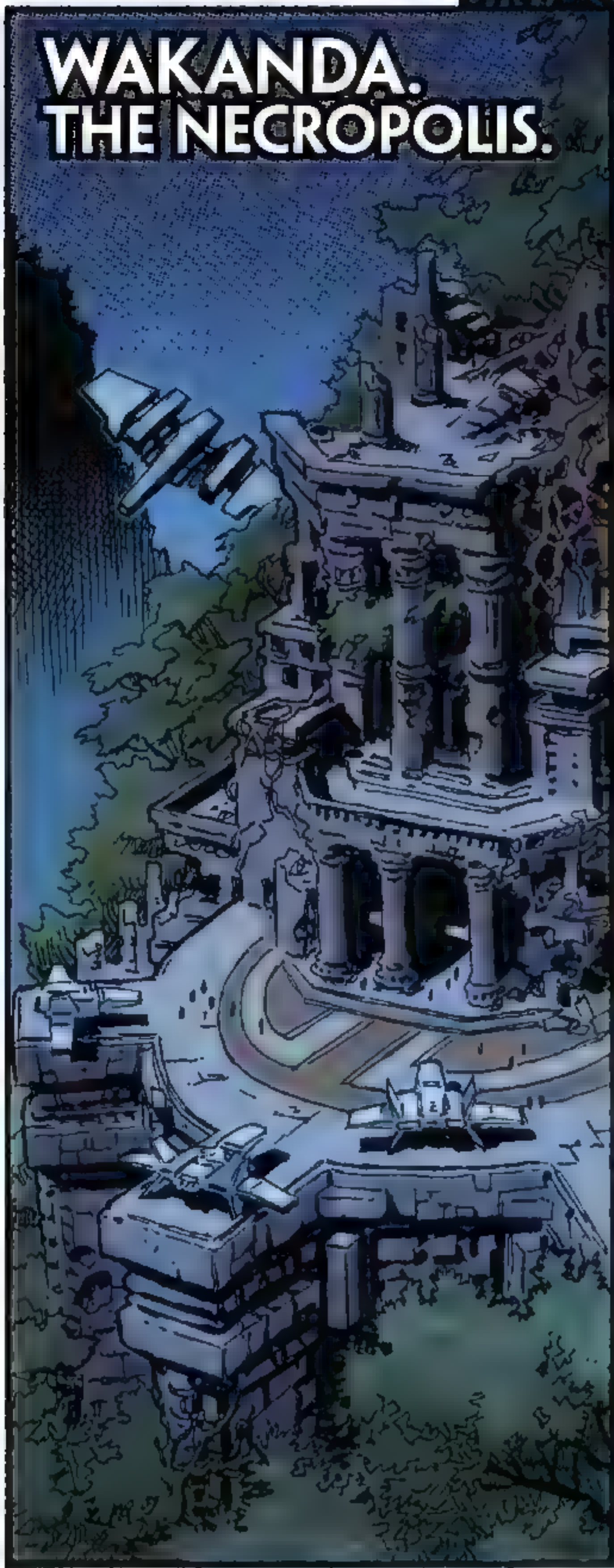


WHAT?

TO SAY
NOTHING OF
BEING A TAD BIT...
PREMATURE.

BEST WAIT
TO SEE WHAT
FOLLOWS...BEST
WAIT TO SEE
YOUR FATHER.

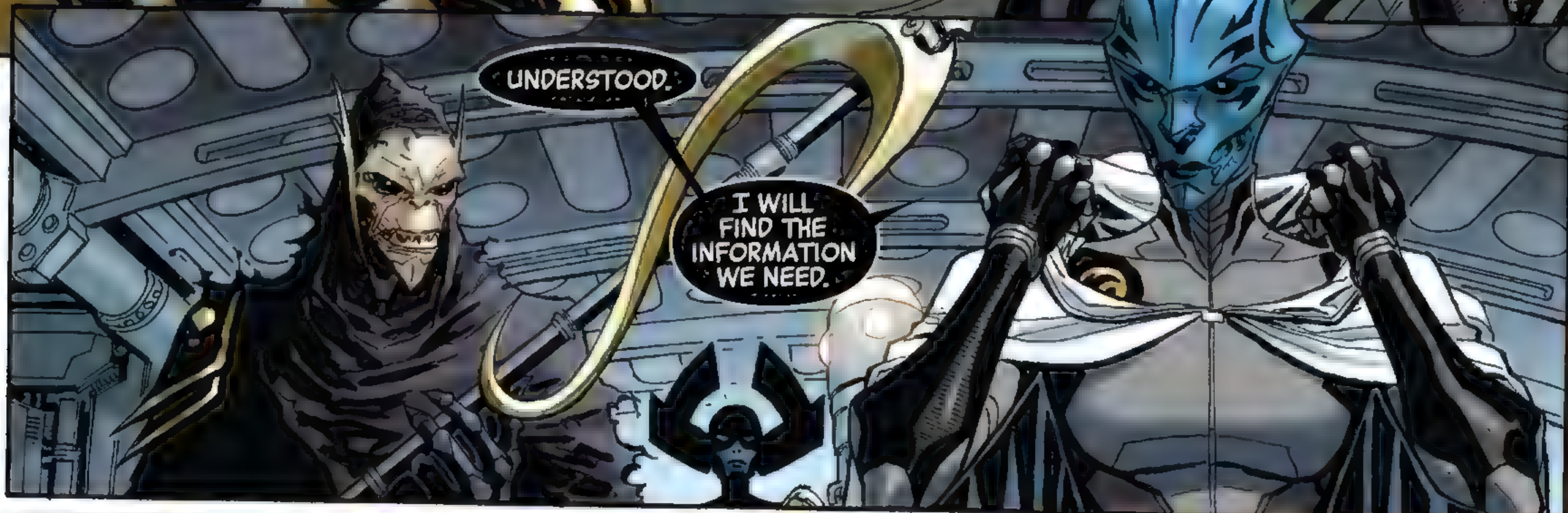






BUT YOU
MIGHT NOT
LIKE WHAT
YOU HEAR.

PERHAPS YOU
NEED A SUBTLER
TOUCH...A MORE
DIRECT WAY TO
GAIN THE
KNOWLEDGE?



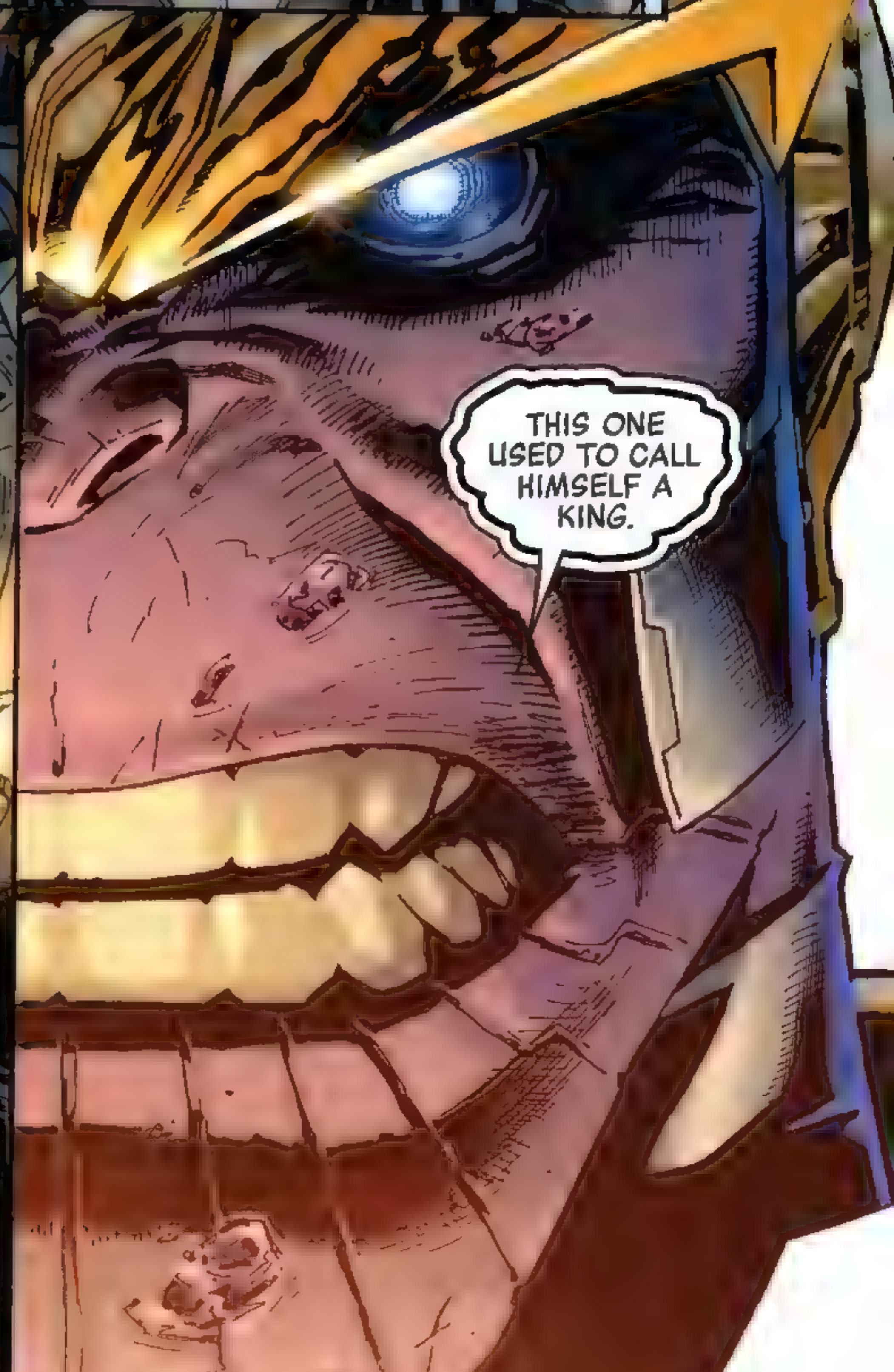
UNDERSTOOD.

I WILL
FIND THE
INFORMATION
WE NEED.



WITH SOME
DELICACY, SERVANT.
WE CANNOT AFFORD
TO BREAK THE INHUMAN,
HE MIGHT STILL HAVE
SOME USES.

REMEMBER...



THIS ONE
USED TO CALL
HIMSELF A
KING.

"ANOTHER WORLD DIES
WHILE TIME CONTINUES
TO RUN OUT ON OURS."



COLLAPSING
SPACE-TIME AND
THE END OF
EVERYTHING...

IS THERE
SOMETHING WRONG
WITH ME THAT I'M
HAPPY WE ONLY HAVE
TO DEAL WITH A
SIMPLE PLANETARY
INVASION?

OF COURSE THERE IS,
ANTHONY. THE QUESTION
IS WHERE TO
START?

THE SPACE TYRANT,
OR SECURING HIS SON...
WHO KNOWS WHAT HAS
HAPPENED WHILE WE
WERE OFF-
PLANET?



I THINK THAT
THEY MIGHT HOLD
THE ANSWERS TO
YOUR QUESTION,
BLACK PANTHER.

"AT THE VERY LEAST,
THEY CAN POINT US IN
THE RIGHT DIRECTION."

WOOF!



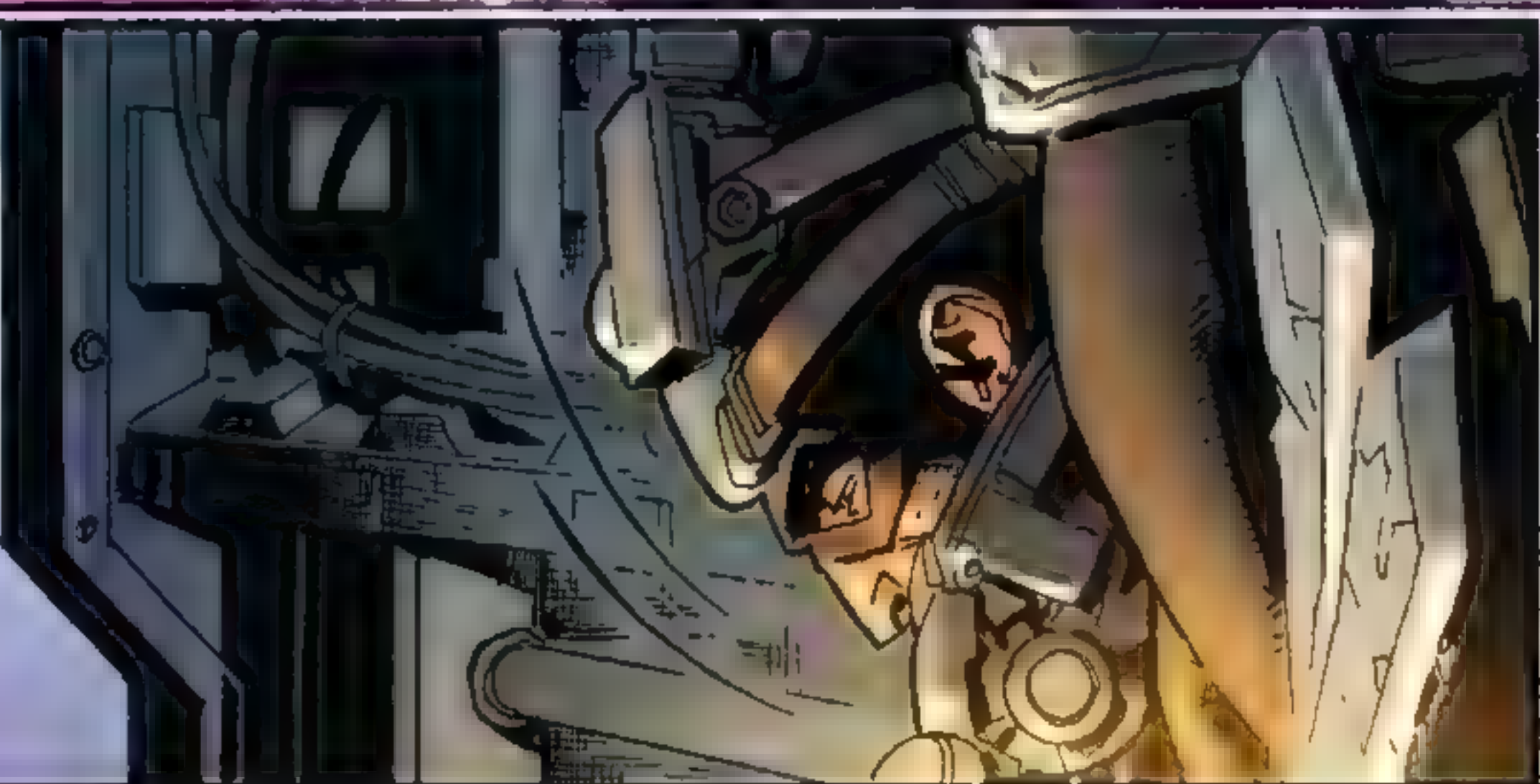


VERY GOOD,
KING...VERY
GOOD...

GIVE ME
WHAT MY
MASTER
DESIRES.



THERE!



I HAVE THE UNLOCKING
SEQUENCE FOR THE WEAPON,
THANOS. THE CONTROL DEVICE--
A TRIGGER--IS ACTUALLY A
SECONDARY MECHANISM.

LOCATED ELSEWHERE
IN THIS LAB...KNOWLEDGE
I NOW POSSESS AS
WELL.

THE
BOMB IS
YOURS.



GOOD.

I WILL
WANT YOU
TO--

BE-DOOP



AH. FINALLY A
WORD FROM THE
WHISPERER.

YOUR
PROLONGED
ABSENCE DEMANDS
AN EXPLANATION,
EBONY MAW...



I FEAR, MASTER,
THAT NO ACCOUNTING
WOULD SUFFICE--ALL
EXCUSES PALE IN
COMPARISON TO
YOUR WILL.

BUT PERHAPS
A GIFT...A SMALL
MEASURE OF
ATONEMENT?



WHAT DO
YOU HAVE FOR
ME, SERVANT?



ONLY YOUR
SON.

THE BOY IS
TRUSSED UP
TIGHT...AND
READY FOR
THE KNIFE.

DO I
PLEASE YOU,
MASTER?



VERY
MUCH.

I HAVE
YOUR LOCATION...
WAIT THERE WITH
THE TRIBUTE.



CORVUS,
PROXIMA, PREPARE
A VESSEL...WE LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY.

AND WHAT
WOULD YOU
HAVE ME DO,
MASTER?



PREPARE
YOUR BOMB,
SUPERGIANT.

WHEN I HAVE
KILLED MY SON, WE
WILL USE THE WEAPON
TO DEAL WITH THIS
DAMNED WORLD ONCE
AND FOR ALL.



FWAKSHH!



LOOK!

NO!

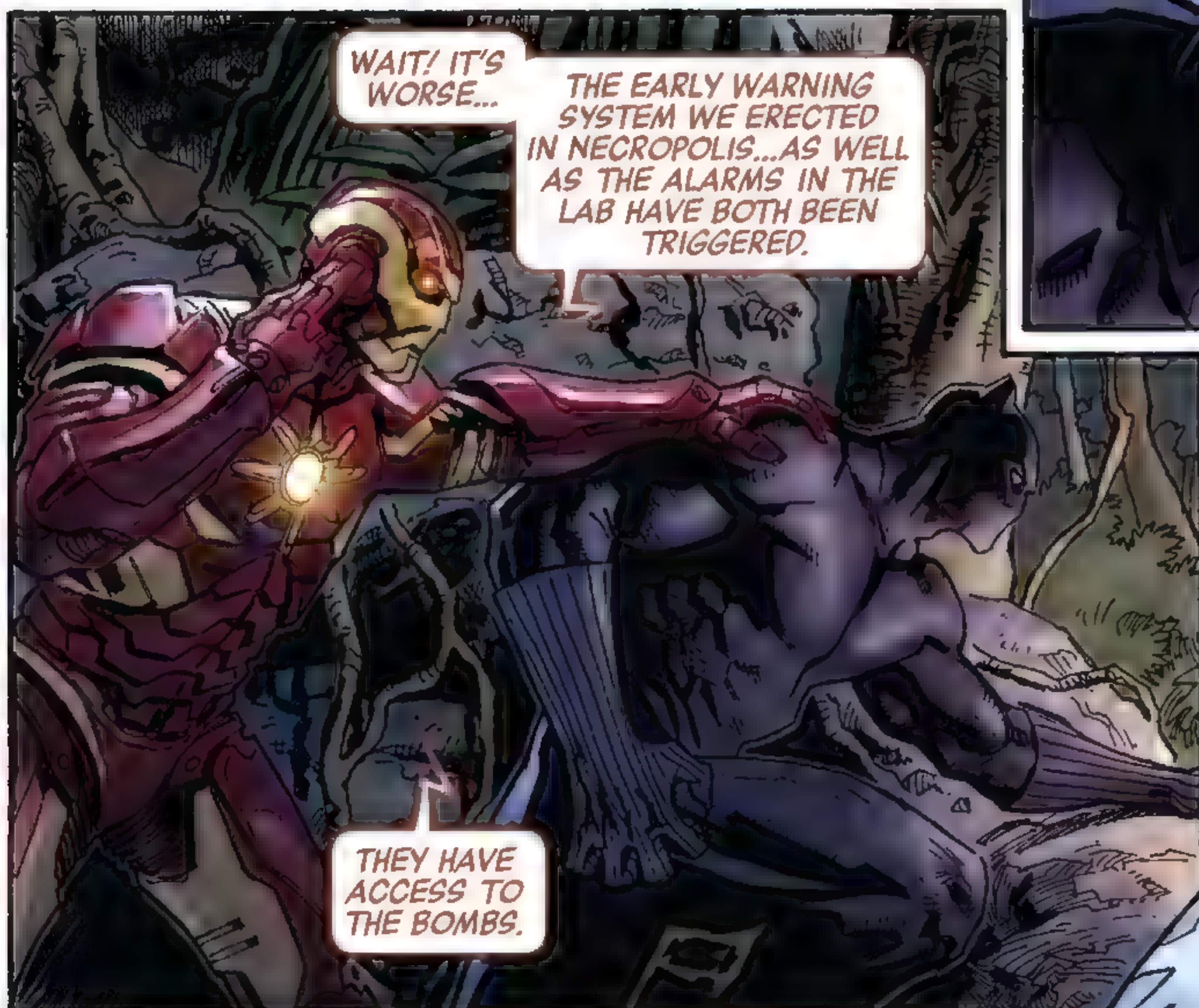


IT'S UNTHINKABLE...
WAKANDA'S DEFENSES
HAVE BEEN BREACHED.

THE
SHINING
CITY IS
OVERRUN.



WE GO...
NOW.



WAIT! IT'S
WORSE...

THE EARLY WARNING
SYSTEM WE ERECTED
IN NECROPOLIS...AS WELL
AS THE ALARMS IN THE
LAB HAVE BOTH BEEN
TRIGGERED.

THEY HAVE
ACCESS TO
THE BOMBS.



**SNIFF
SNIFF**

WOOF!

HE'S GOT QUITE
A NOSE, THIS ONE.
JUST LIKE I'VE
GOT QUITE A
BRAIN...

LOCKJAW
SAYS BLACK BOLT
IS HERE...I'M THINKING
HE'S IN A PINCH...AND
KNOWS A LITTLE
SOMETHING ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN
BUILDING.

ISN'T THIS
FUN? NO? WHY
DOES IT SEEM
LIKE I'M THE
ONLY ONE
ENJOYING
THIS?





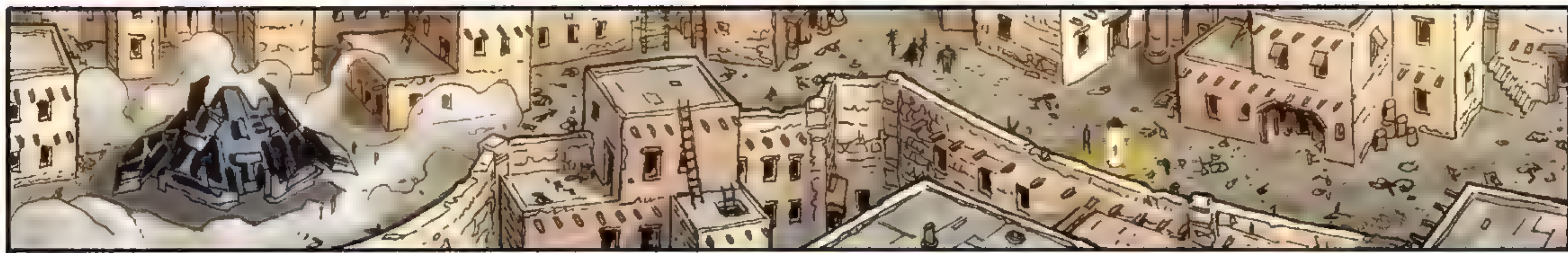
GODDESS
FORGIVE ME...BUT
IF THEY HAVE THE
WEAPONS WE'VE
BUILT, WE HAVE
NO CHOICE.

TELEPORT US TO
NECROPOLIS...

"WE TAKE THE
DEAD CITY FIRST..."

"AND HOPE OUR DELAY
DOESN'T MAKE WAKANDA
THE SAME."

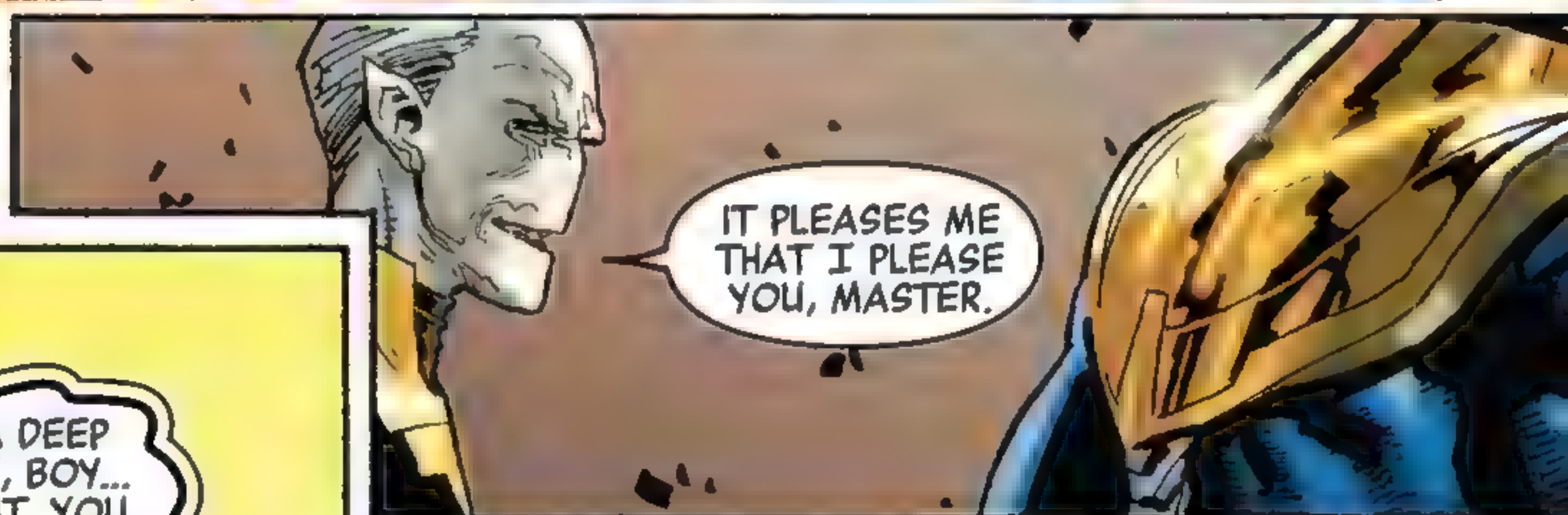
OROLLAN.



JUST AS I PROMISED...

THE TRIBUTE.

WELL DONE, MAW...YOU'RE AN IRRITANT, BUT YOU NEVER DISAPPOINT.

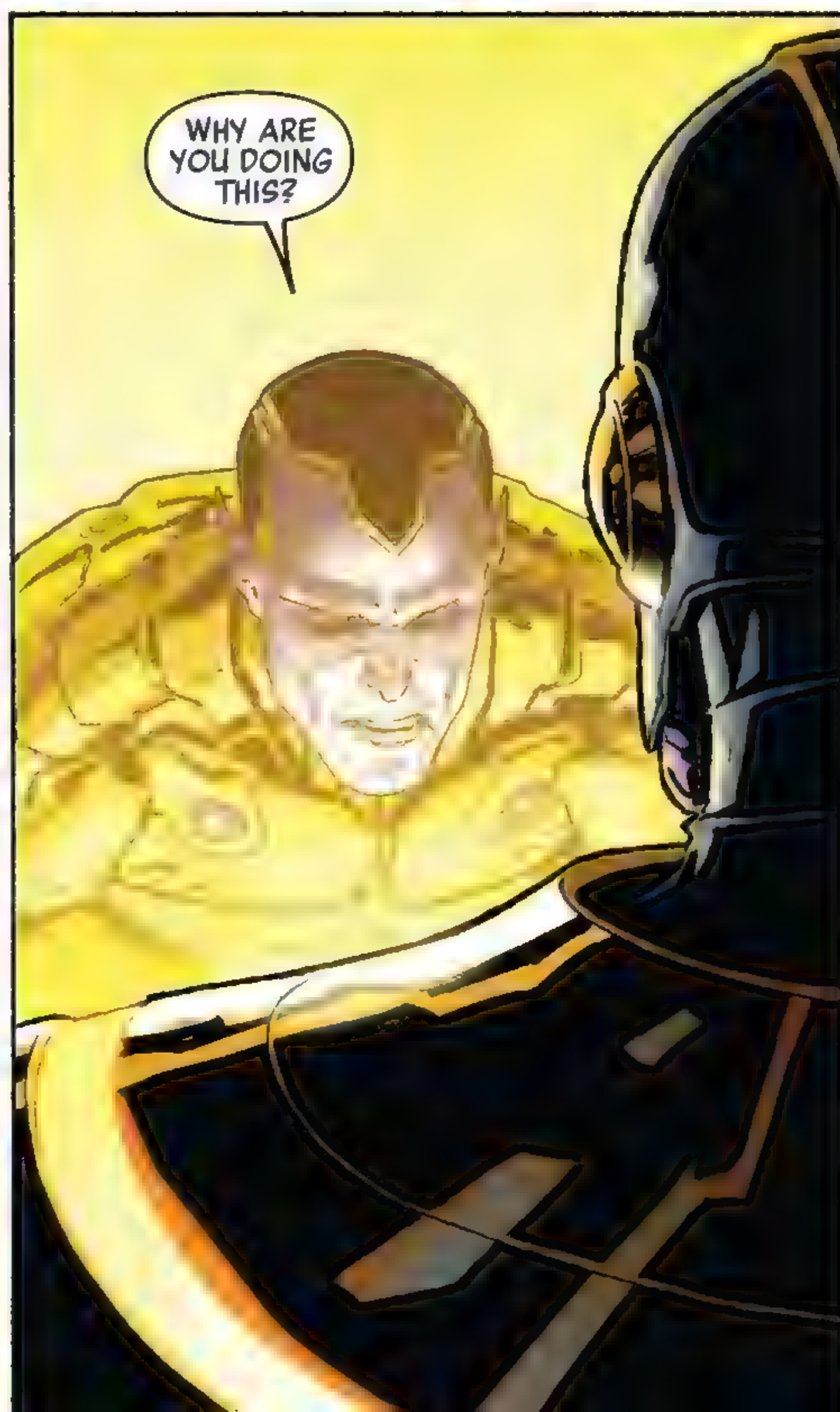


IT PLEASES ME THAT I PLEASE YOU, MASTER.



SO THIS IS THE VERY LAST OF MY OFFSPRING...

TAKE A DEEP BREATH, BOY... ENJOY IT. YOU HAVE SO VERY FEW LEFT.



WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?



BECAUSE
YOU KEEP ME
AWAKE AT
NIGHT.

THE VERY
IDEA OF YOU,
OUT THERE...
EXISTING...



AND SOON
ALL THAT WILL
END.

WHY IS HE IN
A CLASS ONE
CONTAINMENT
FIELD, MAW?

INTERESTING
THING ABOUT HIM,
THANOS...HE
HAS A--

MASTER!



BZZK!
--CAME FROM
NOWHERE...
OUT OF SYSTEM.
WATCHPOST
OVERRUN.
BZZK!



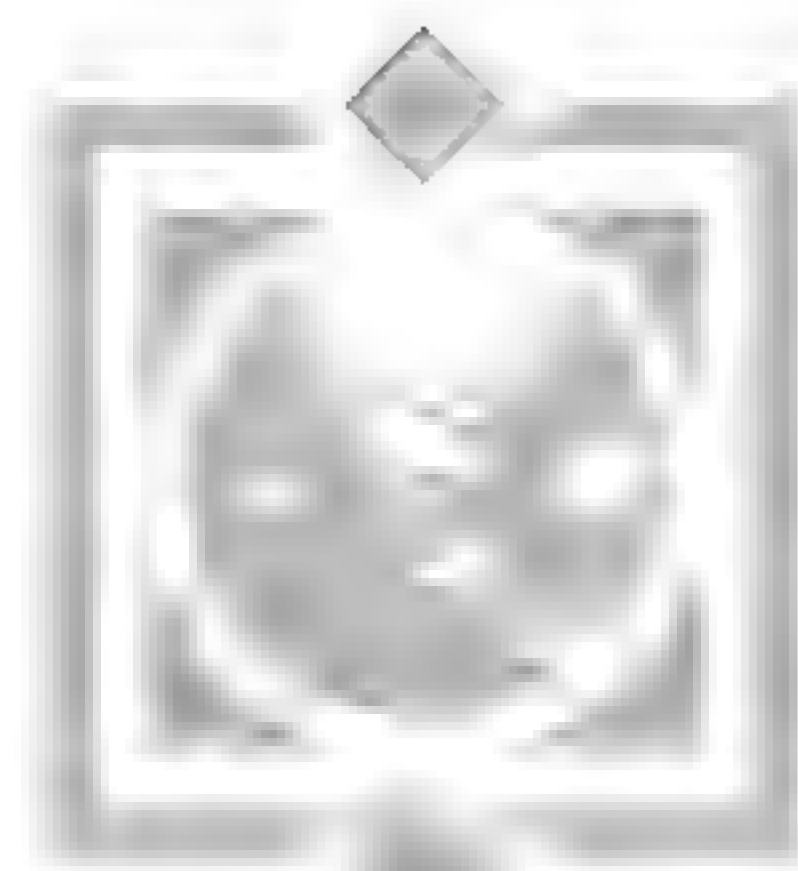
BZZK!
--EY'RE
COMING. THEY'RE
COMI--
BZZK!

WHAT IS IT,
CORVUS?

A MESSAGE,
MASTER...



SOMETHING'S
HAPPENED ON
TITAN.



IN THE SHADOW OF THE GIANTS





THE WATCH
STATION HAS BEEN
KNOCKED OFF-LINE,
MAJESTOR...

AND THE
GAS GIANT
HIDES OUR
SHADOW.



VERY GOOD,
ORACLE.

WELL...SHALL
WE WAGE ONE
MORE BATTLE FOR
THE AGES?



I DID NOT DRAG A PORTION
OF MY REMAINING FLEET ALL
THE WAY OUT HERE FOR
LEISURE, GLADIATOR.

AND YOU,
ACCUUSER?



I CAME
TO JUDGE THE
GUILTY.

AS ARE ALL
WHO STAND
AGAINST THOSE
WHO LIBERATED
THE KREE.



COUNT THE
SHI'AR AMONG
YOUR NUMBER
AS WELL...

FOR YOU
HAVE EARNED
THAT, CAPTAIN.

THE FLEET IS
YOURS ONE LAST
TIME. WE AWAIT
YOUR ORDERS.



THEN
CONSIDER THE
ORDER GIVEN.

JUMP
US TO
EARTH.



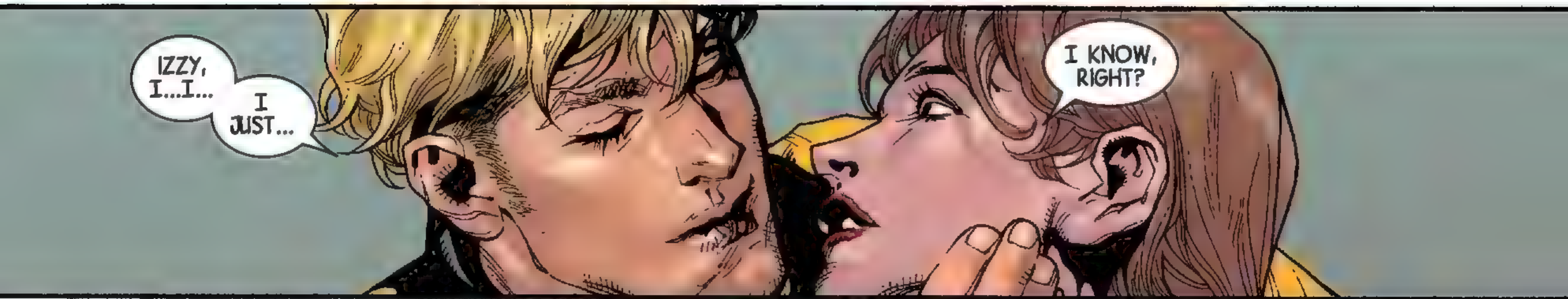
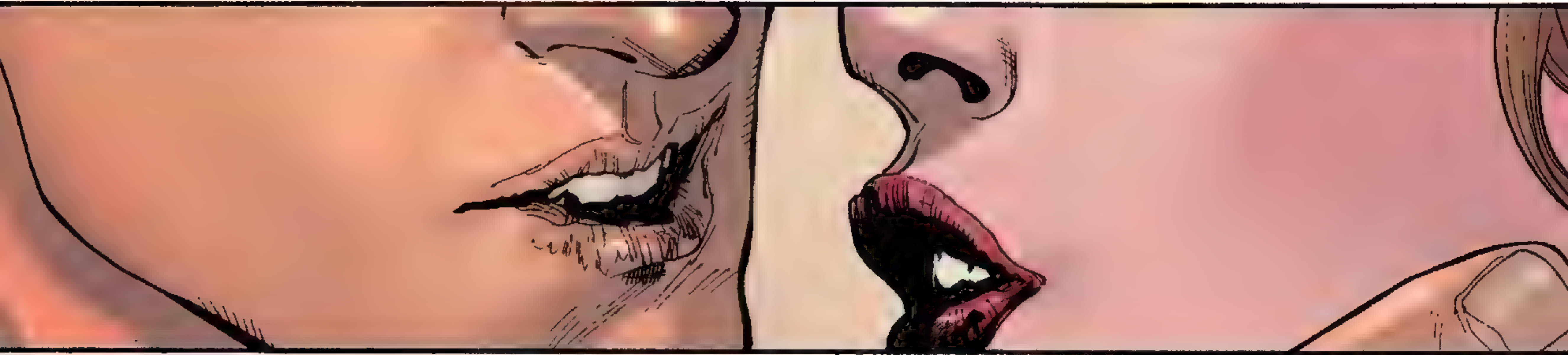
"THERE'S ONE
LAST WORLD THAT
NEEDS SAVING."



HOME COMING



**THE SHI'AA
BATTLESHIP
LILANDRA.**
EN ROUTE TO THE
TERRAN SOLAR
SYSTEM.





THE BOTH OF YOU.
TRAITORS.



THIS IS A TOTAL BETRAYAL...
HOW COULD YOU GO BEHIND MY BACK LIKE THIS?



WE'RE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.



AWW, C'MON, BOBBY.

CAN'T YOU BE HAPPY FOR ME?

RIGHT. US.

FOR US.

YEAH, SAM...

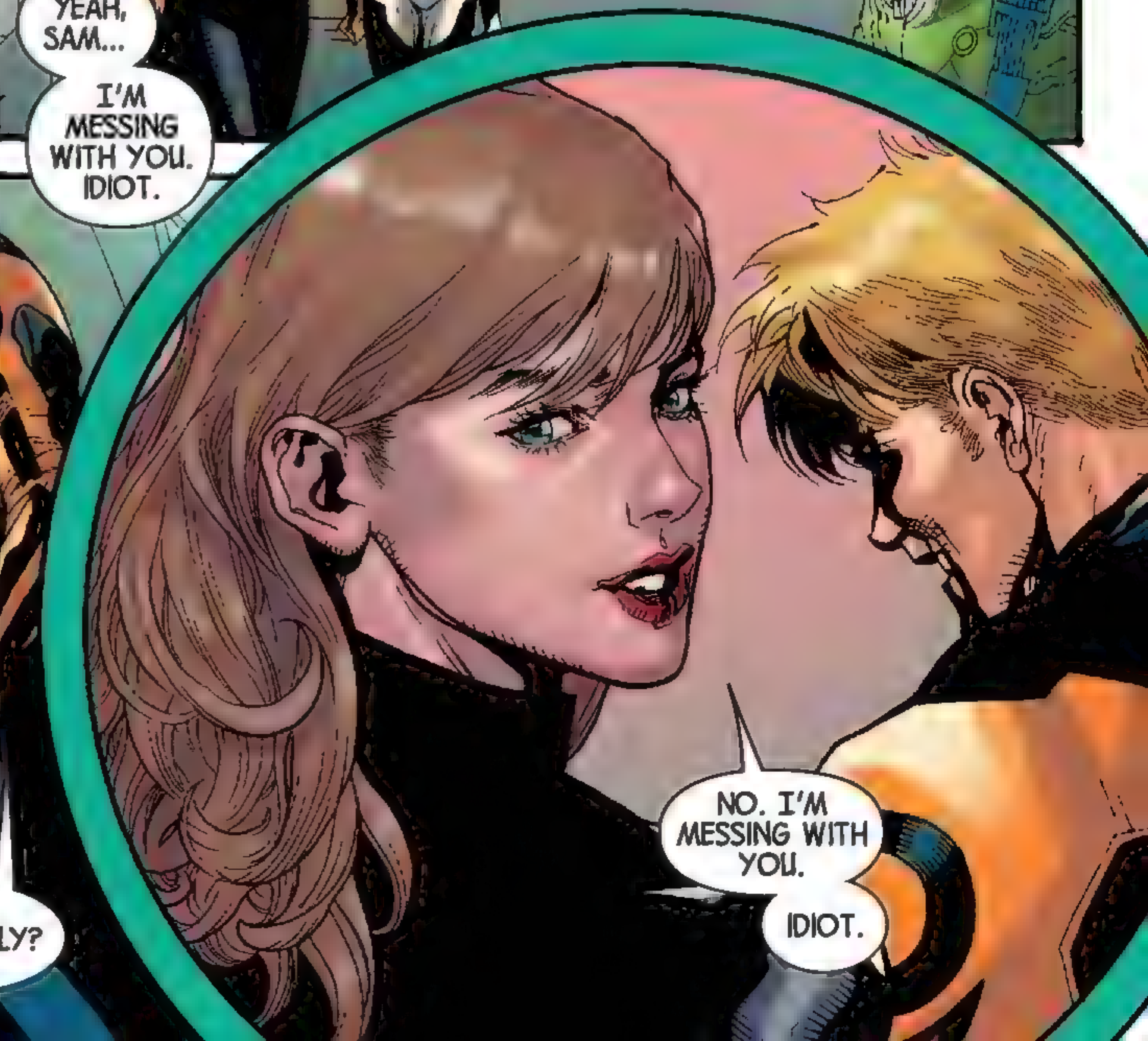
I'M MESSING WITH YOU. IDIOT.



OH...AND YOU'RE MAKING A HUGE MISTAKE, IZZY.

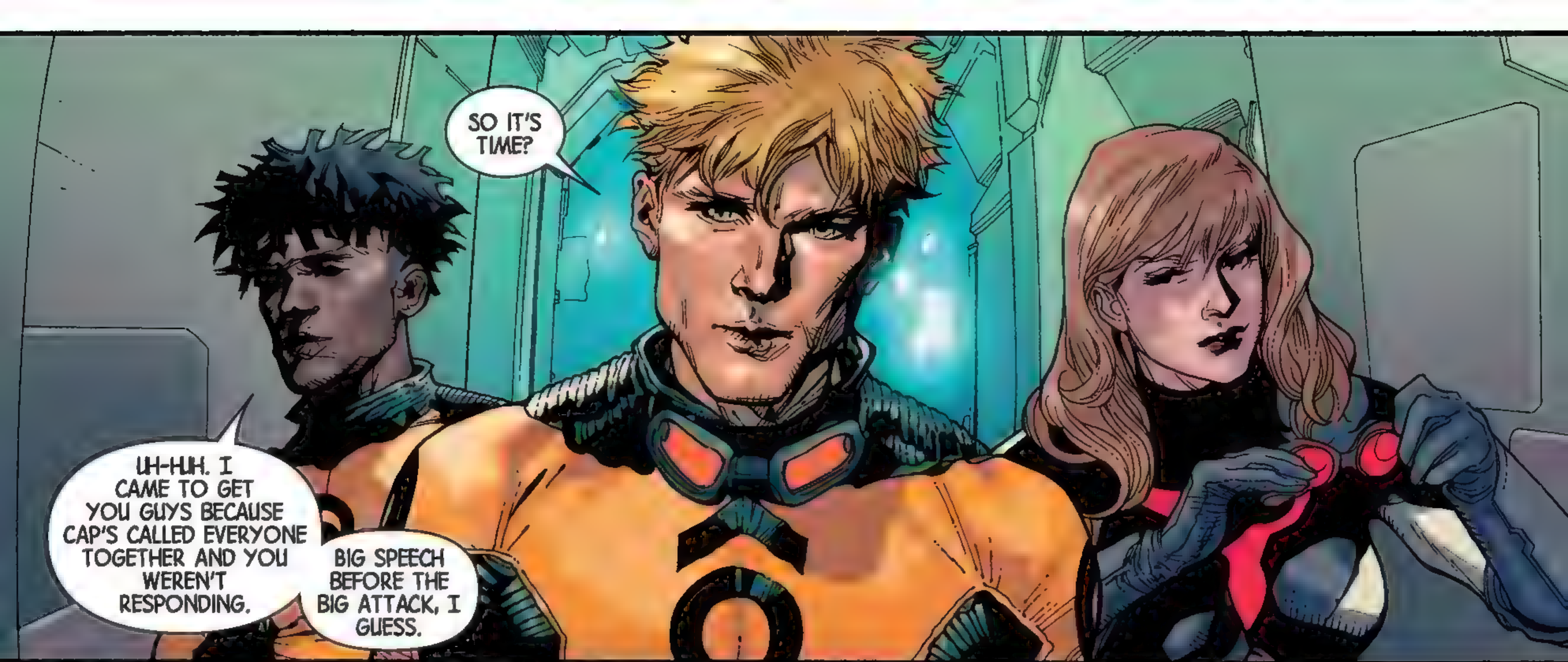
I KNOW... CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT LATER? MAYBE IN MY ROOM?

SERIOUSLY?



NO. I'M MESSING WITH YOU.

IDIOT.



SO IT'S TIME?

UH-HUH. I CAME TO GET YOU GUYS BECAUSE CAP'S CALLED EVERYONE TOGETHER AND YOU WEREN'T RESPONDING.

BIG SPEECH BEFORE THE BIG ATTACK, I GUESS.



MUST BE...



I'VE GOT A STATUS ALERT FROM GLADIATOR AS WELL. THE IMPERIAL GUARD HAS BEEN ACTIVATED.

THIS FEELS SO WRONG...



LISTEN, YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL GUILTY FOR ONE SECOND. SO WHAT IF EVERYONE ELSE UP HERE IS SAD AND ALONE...

YOU DESERVE A BIT OF HAPPINESS WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS MISERABLE.

THAT'S NOT WHAT--

HE KNOWS...



HE'S JOKING BECAUSE IT'S EASIER.

NONE OF US THOUGHT THIS WAS WHAT COMING HOME WOULD BE LIKE.

TITAN.
MOON OF SATURN.





DONE
SPLATTERED
HIM GOOD!

HAR! NICKED
HIM IN THE LEG--
DONE MISSED THE
CENTER AGAIN.

YOU
NEED MORE
PRACTICING,
GURR.

TIRED OF
THE MEAGER
PICKINGS HERE, DAK!
NEED SOME REAL
GAME, NOT NO WEAK
PREY LIKE LIZARDS
AND YOU.

GAH! IF
YOU SHOOT ME,
I BLEED...

WHY YOU
NO--

THUNK!

I KNOW
YOU NO GOOD
AT WORDS, DAK...
BUT WHY...

YOU...

AAKKK!



WE
SECURED THE
MOON...

SCUTTLED
ANY VESSELS THEY
HAD--KNOCKED OUT
ALL THE WEAPONS
SYSTEMS.

THESE TWO
WERE MOST LIKELY
ON PERIMETER WATCH...
FAIR TO ASSUME LONG
RANGE COMMS. DO YOU
WANT ME TO SEND
SOMEONE AFTER
HIM?

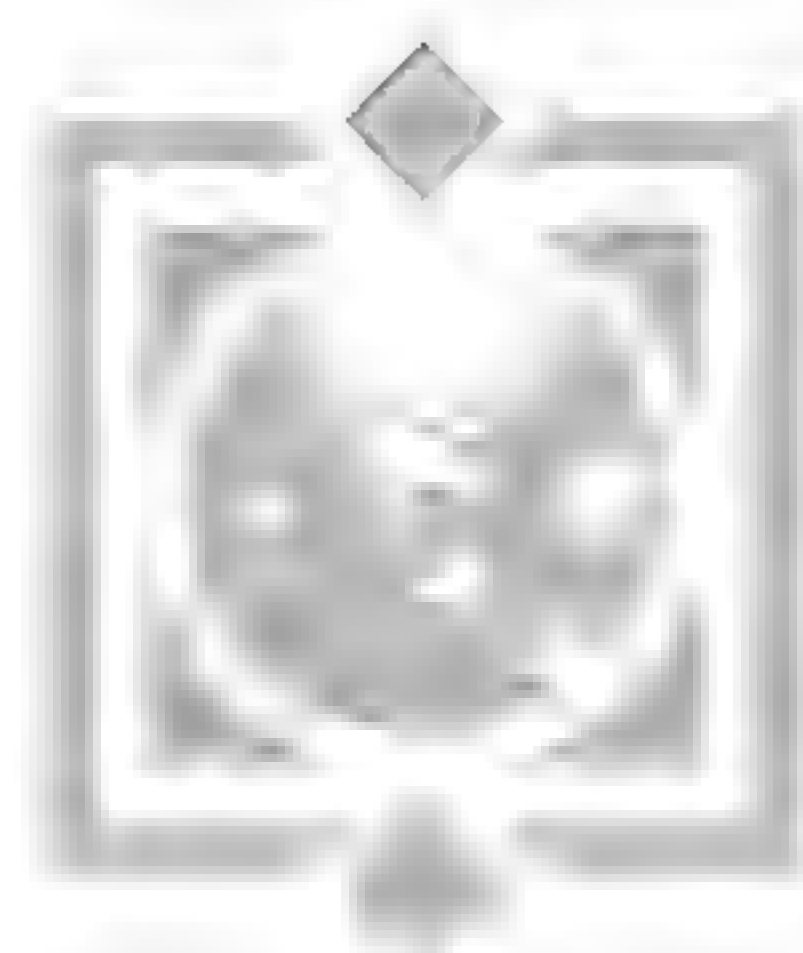
DON'T
BOTHR,
MANTA...

WE JUST
DIDN'T WANT TO
BE WORRYING ABOUT
DOGS NIPPING AT
OUR HEELS.

IF HE
CALLS, HE
CALLS. HELL,
LET 'EM...



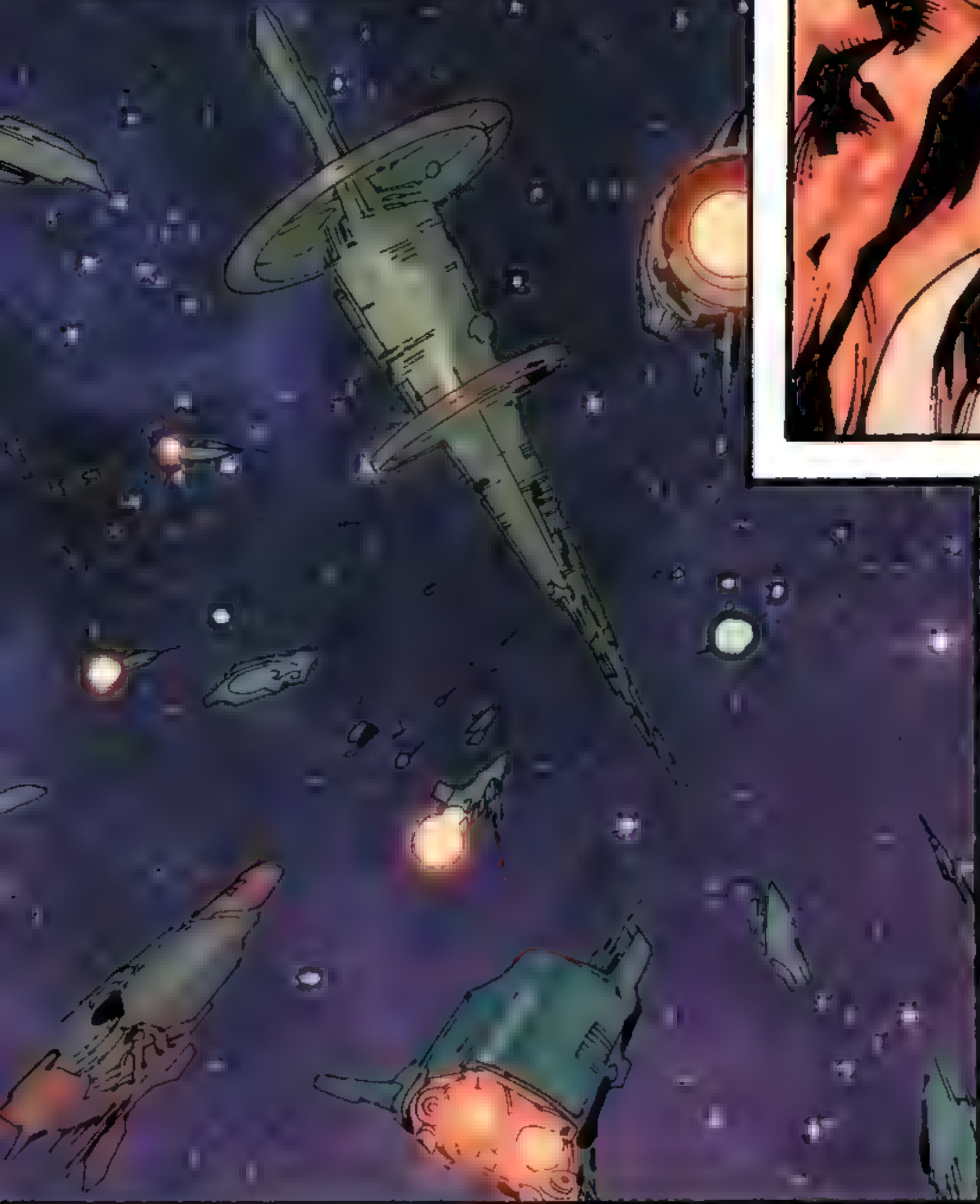
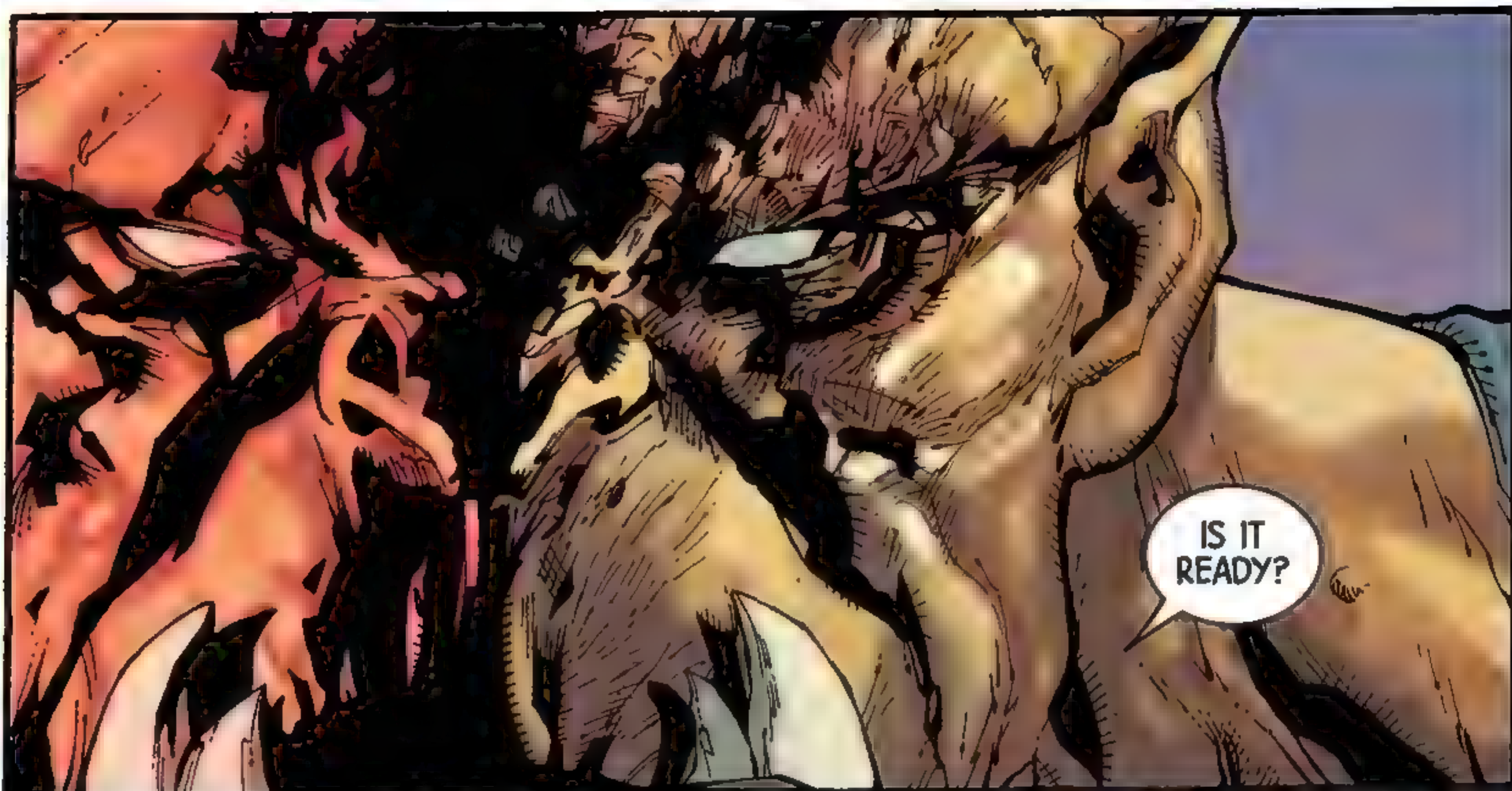
I WANT
THANOS TO
KNOW WE'RE
COMING TO TAKE
OUR PLANET
BACK.



PLANS AND INTENTIONS



THE PEAK.
HEADQUARTERS
OF THE
SENTIENT
WORLD
OBSERVATION &
RESPONSE
DEPARTMENT.



WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD FROM THANOS, WHO HEARD THE SCREAMS FROM TITAN...WE ARE TO EXPECT VISITORS.

WELL, LET THEM COME...WE WILL BE READY FOR--AND REPEL--THEM...



YES. TO PROVE TO HIM YOU ARE WORTHY AGAIN.

THAT WE ALL ARE.



WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

**WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?!**



OH...OH...
ONLY TH...THAT
YOU WOULD PLH...
PROBABLY WANT
TO ERASE
YOUR...

ULP.
SHORTCOMINGS
FROM THANOS'
MEMORY...

SIR.

FORGIVE ME...
I MEANT NO
DISRESPECT.



CONSIDER
IT...ERASED FROM
MY MEMORY.

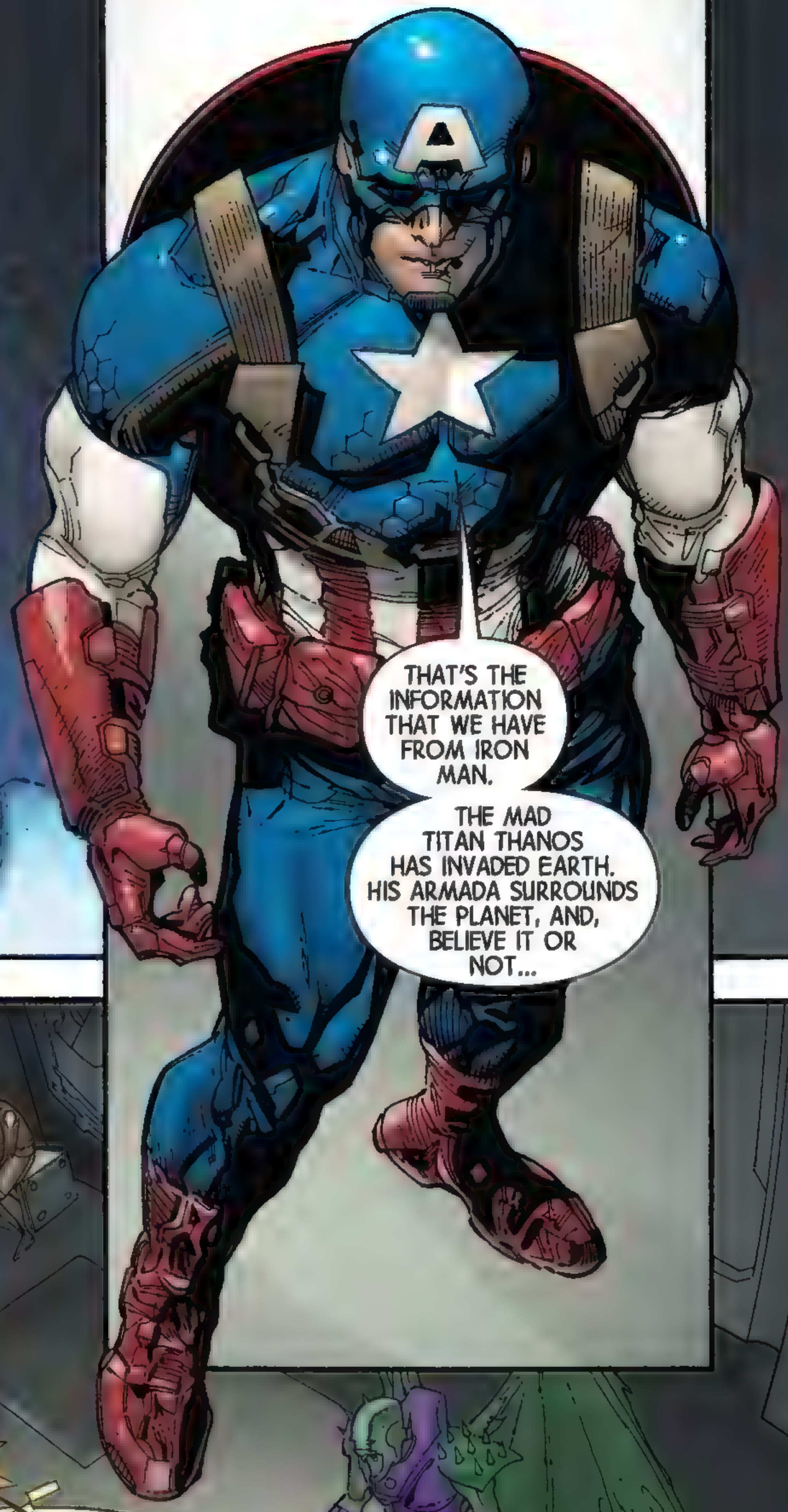
PREPARE THE
STATION...ALERT
ALL VESSELS...



MAKE
READY...FOR
WAR.

THE FLEET.

...I'LL SEE
YOU THERE.



THAT'S THE
INFORMATION
THAT WE HAVE
FROM IRON
MAN.

THE MAD
TITAN THANOS
HAS INVADDED EARTH.
HIS ARMADA SURROUNDS
THE PLANET, AND,
BELIEVE IT OR
NOT...



THIS WHOLE
THING APPEARS
TO BE MOTIVATED
BY AN OVERDUE,
UNYIELDING DESIRE
TO COMMIT
INFANTICIDE.

MAD
TYRANT,
INDEED.



ALL THIS?
TO KILL HIS
KID?

DOES
THAT MAKE
SENSE TO
ANYONE?



YESSSSSSSS.



IT'S THANOS.
EXPECTING SOME TYPE
OF RATIONALITY TO WIN
OUT IS POINTLESS.

AND,
FRANKLY, I
DON'T CARE WHAT
HE WANTS...

I JUST WANT
TO SEND HIM AND
HIS FORCES RUNNING
AS FAST AS THEY
CAN FROM OUR
WORLD.



AND IF THEY
DO NOT RUN, LET IT
BE BECAUSE THEY FIND
THEMSELVES UNABLE
TO DO ANYTHING
BUT CRAWL.



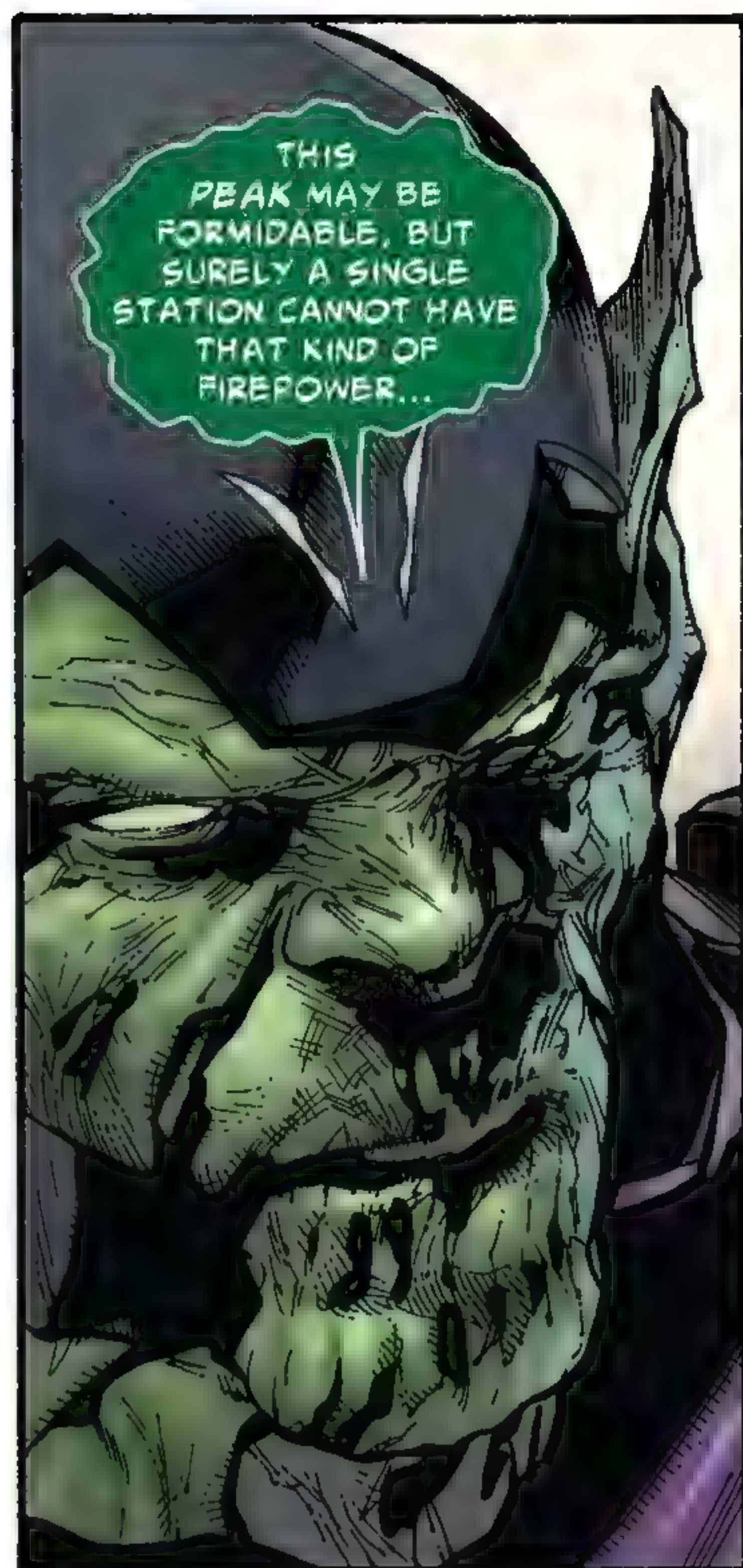
THERE IS A PLAN
FORTHCOMING...

I
PRESUME?



WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE.

WE'RE FAIRLY CERTAIN THEY HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THE ORBITAL STATION, THOUGH...AND THE PEAK PRESENTS A MAJOR PROBLEM.



THIS PEAK MAY BE FORMIDABLE, BUT SURELY A SINGLE STATION CANNOT HAVE THAT KIND OF FIREPOWER...



WELL, THE FIRST ONE DIDN'T... BUT EARTH SEEMS TO HAVE A CONSISTENT INVASION PROBLEM.

SO IT GOT REBUILT... BETTER.



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE KNOW THE BASE. WE HAVE SCHEMATICS, AND, MORE THAN THAT, PERSONAL EXPERIENCE INSIDE THE STATION.

THIS IS A JOB THAT CAN BE DONE...



AND WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF HOW TO DO IT.

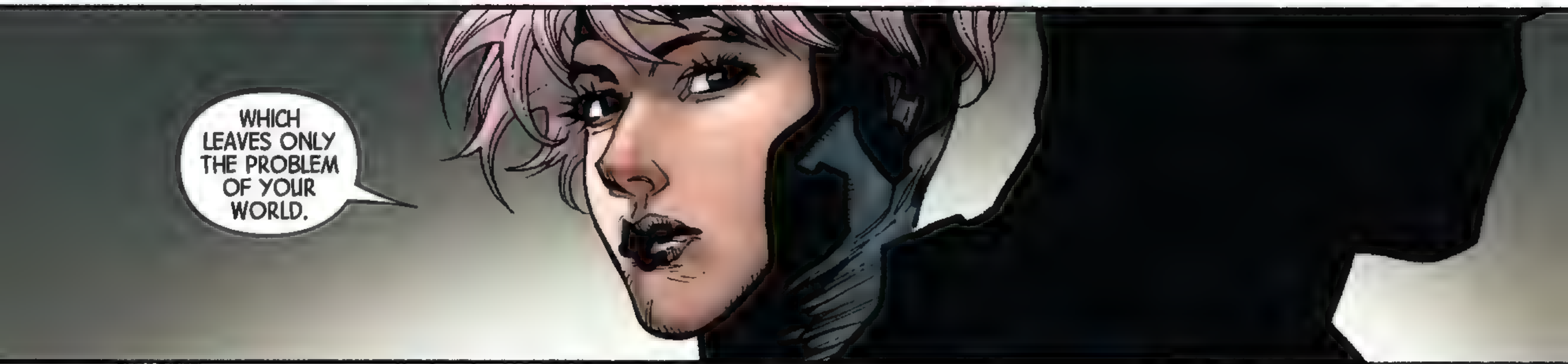
WHICH IS WHERE ALL OF YOU COME IN.



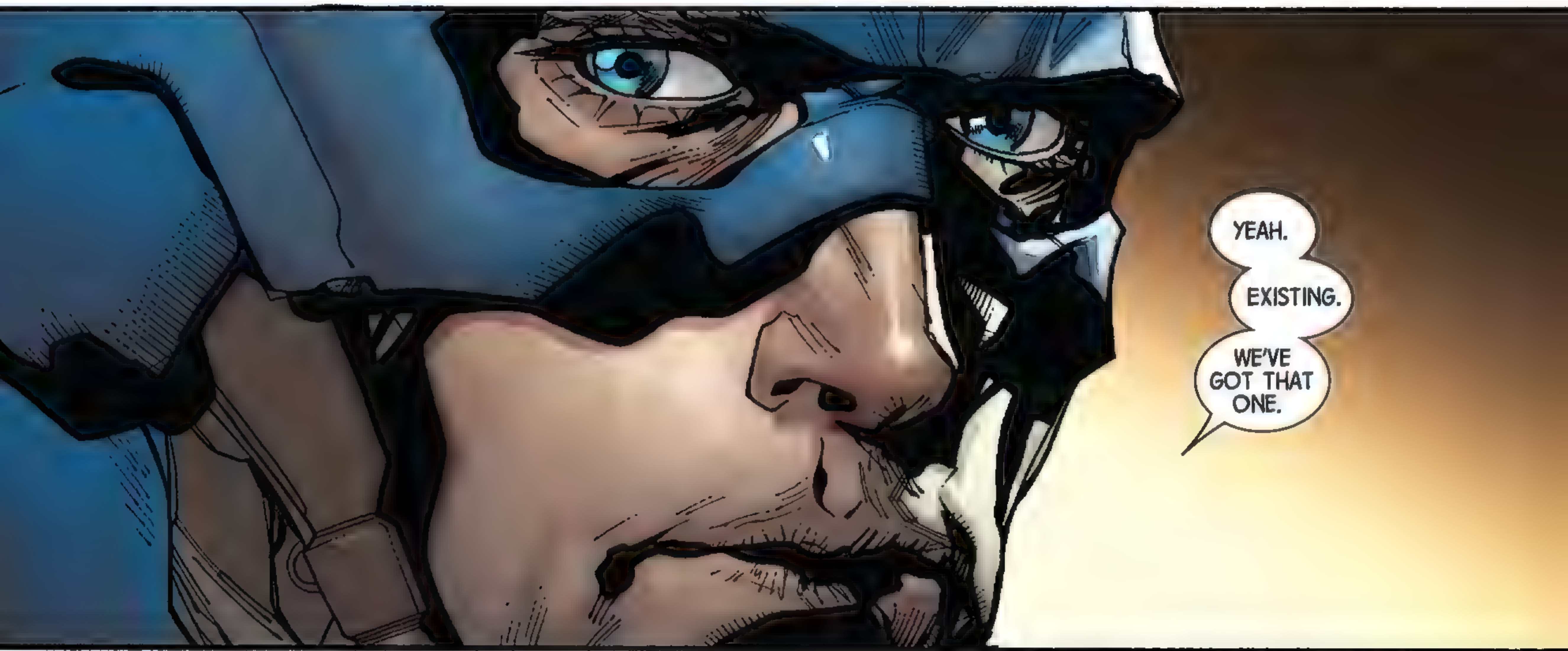
WHATEVER
THE NEED, MY
IMPERIAL GUARD
WILL BE READY.

SO...THE
STATION, A MICRO-
PROBLEM NEEDING A
SURGICAL
SOLUTION...

THE BLOCKADE,
A MACRO ONE
MET BY, I ASSUME,
OUR FLEET...



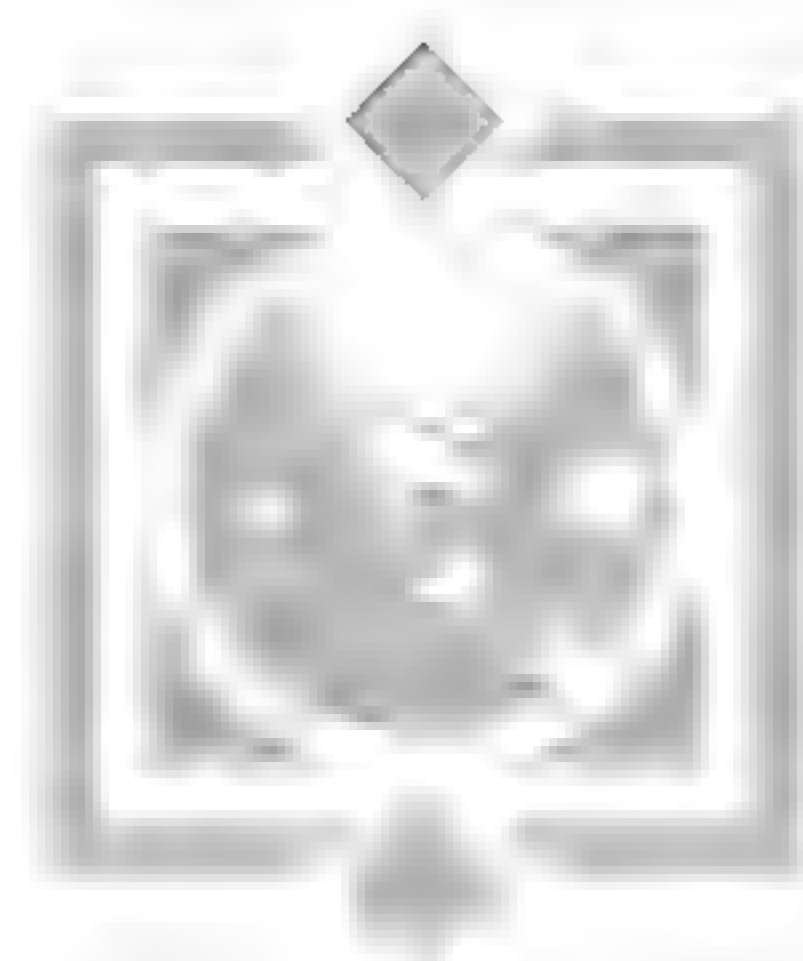
WHICH
LEAVES ONLY
THE PROBLEM
OF YOUR
WORLD.



YEAH.
EXISTING.
WE'VE
GOT THAT
ONE.



SO HERE'S
WHAT WE'RE
GOING TO
DO...



A GREATER PURPOSE



INNER SYSTEM.
SPACE BETWEEN EARTH AND MARS.



JUMP'S COMPLETED. ON
OUR FINAL APPROACH NOW.
A FORERUNNER HAS
CONFIRMED WHAT THE SHI'AR
LONG RANGE SCANS
PICKED UP.

WE'RE
BASICALLY
GOING TO BE
CRASHING A
BLOCKADE.

AS EXPECTED.
NUMBERS?

THE COUNCIL WORLDS SPARED
WHAT THEY COULD IN THE
HOPES THAT WE WOULD
OVERWHELM THE PIRATES...SEND
THEM RUNNING WHEN THEY
SAW WHAT WAS
COMING.

BUT THEY'VE
GOT ABOUT WHAT
WE HAVE...

AND IN
ADDITION TO
THAT--

THEY'RE
FRESH,
RESTED...NOT
BROKEN AND
BEATEN.

LIKE BEASTS
WAITING ON
WOUNDED
PREY.

SOMETHING
YOU WANT TO
SAY, EDEN?

I'M TIRED. I CAN'T
BELIEVE WHAT I
JUST LIVED THROUGH.
AND NOW I HAVE
TO DO IT
AGAIN...

AND
THIS TIME
WITH THE LIVES
OF MY FAMILY
AND PEOPLE
AT STAKE.

IT SEEMS FUTILE AND UNENDING...HOW DO YOU KEEP GOING?

HOW DO YOU MAKE SENSE OF IT?

FAITH? FATE?

DON'T OVER-MYTHOLOGIZE IT, KID.

BELIEVE WHATEVER YOU WANT, JUST MAKE SURE YOU HIT THE OTHER GUY BEFORE HE HITS YOU.

KNOCK HIS ASS OUT.

LISTEN TO CAROL, EDEN...

I'M NOT A BELIEVER IN HEROIC QUESTS UNDERTAKEN BY MEN AND WOMEN OF FATE.

THERE IS NO HERO'S JOURNEY... THERE'S JUST LIFE AND HOW WE CHOOSE TO LIVE IT.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO?

YES.

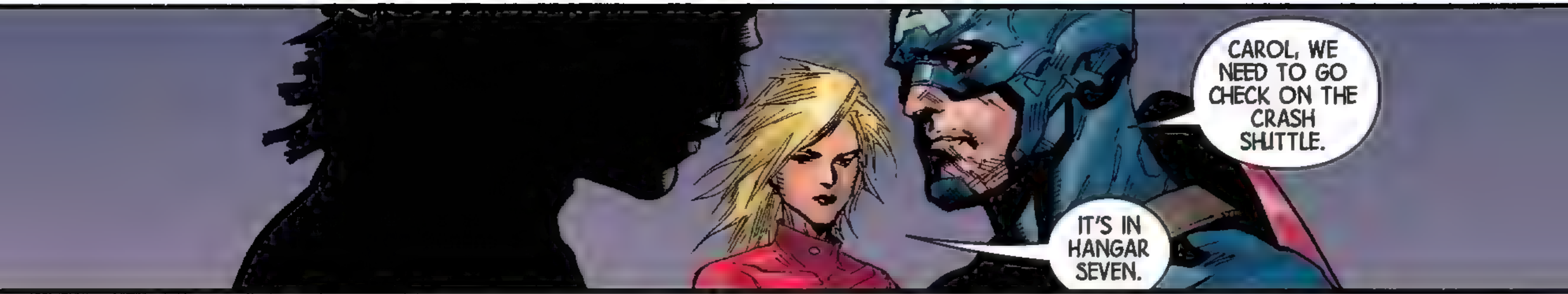
WAIT UNTIL WE'RE ENGAGED. THEN JUMP A TEAM BEHIND THEIR LINES. OPEN THE DOOR WHEN NO ONE'S LOOKING.

THAT'S RIGHT...

DO YOUR JOB, BECAUSE WE ARE ALL DEPENDING ON YOU.

THAT'S ALL ANYONE CAN ASK--YOUR BEST.





CAROL, WE
NEED TO GO
CHECK ON THE
CRASH
SHUTTLE.

IT'S IN
HANGAR
SEVEN.



YOU
OKAY?

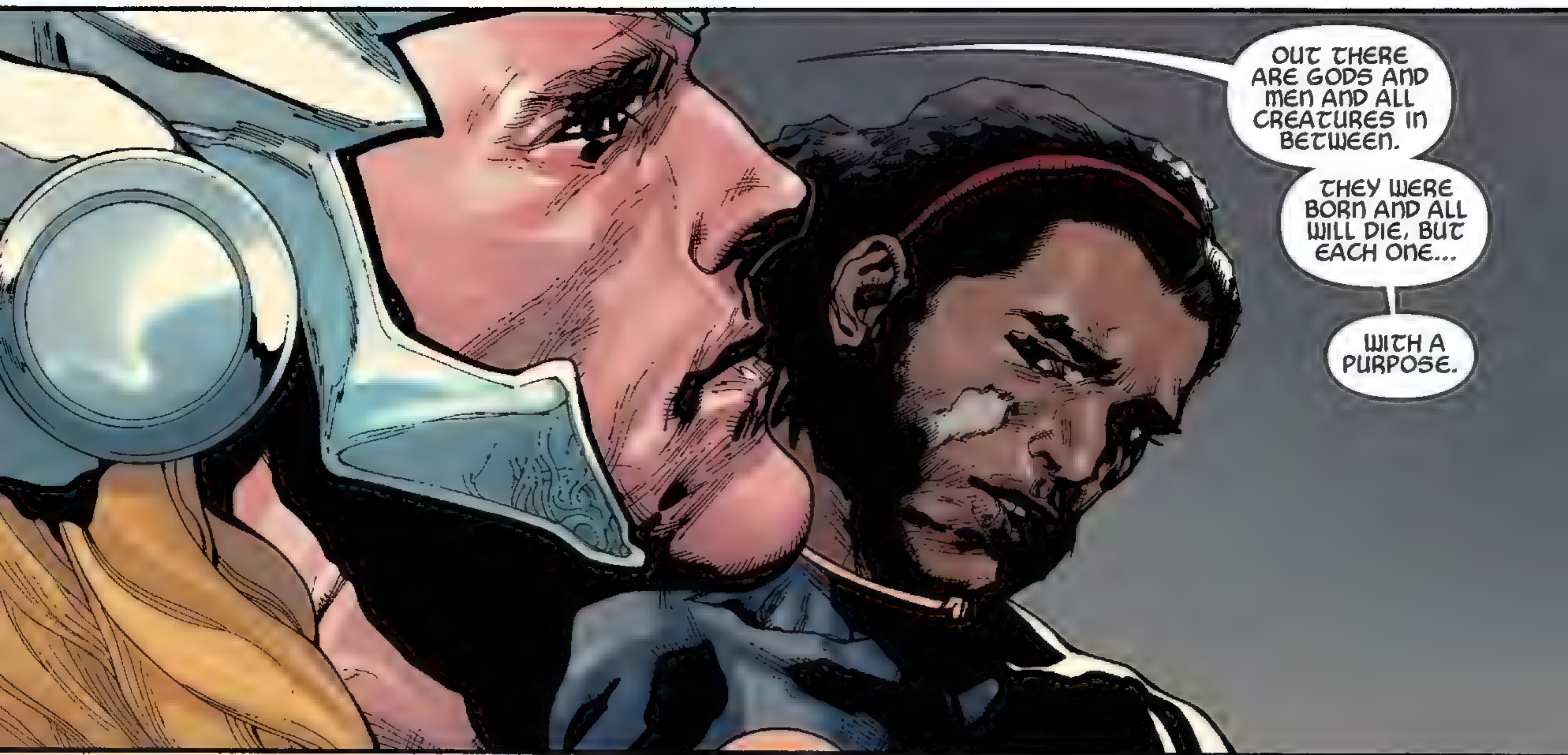
YEAH.

HANG IN
THERE.



STEVE ROGERS
AND CAROL DANVERS
ARE GREAT WARRIORS.
I AM HONORED TO
CALL THEM MY
FRIENDS...

BUT THEY
COULD NOT
BE MORE
WRONG.



OUT THERE
ARE GODS AND
MEN AND ALL
CREATURES IN
BETWEEN.

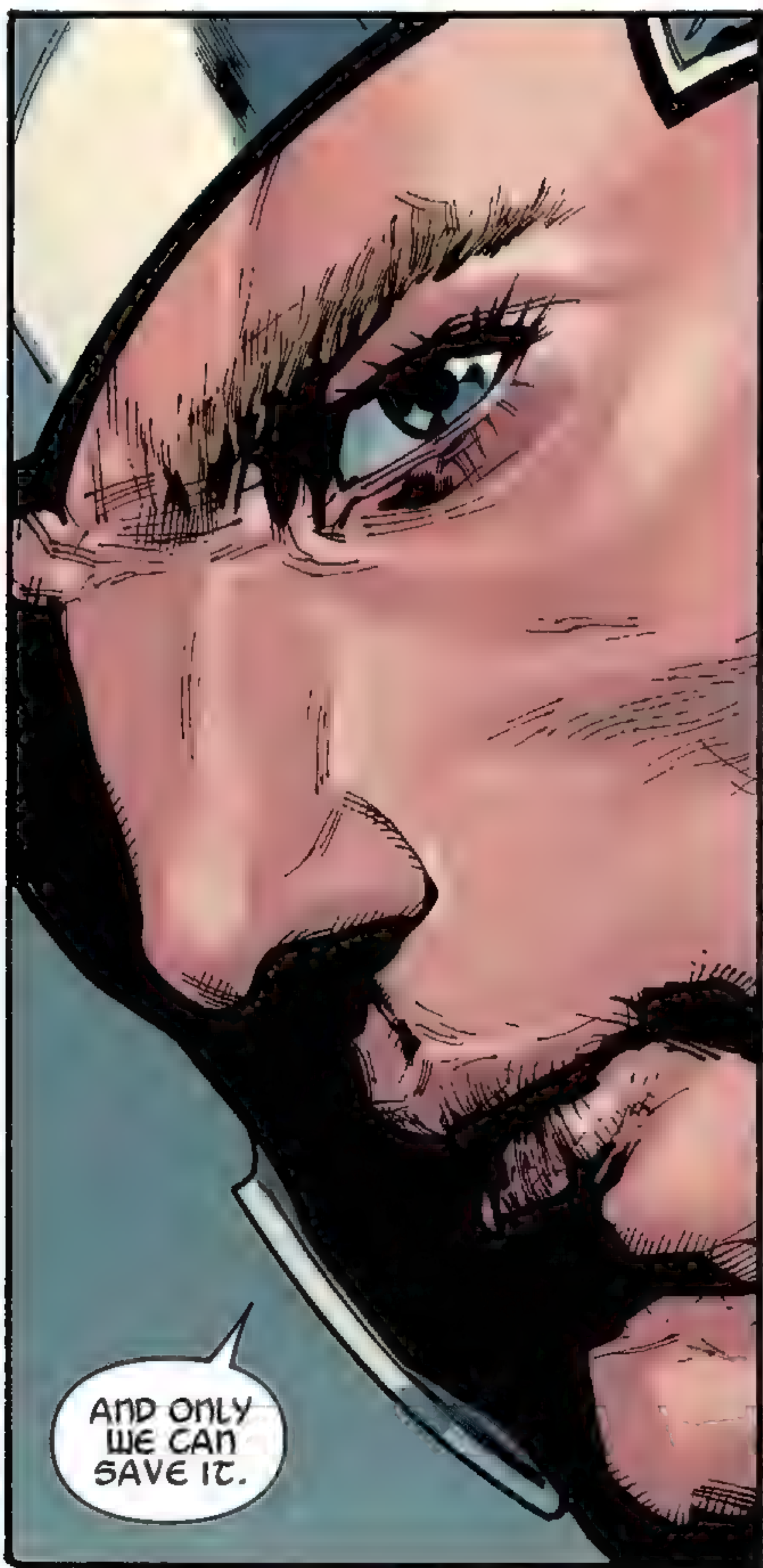
THEY WERE
BORN AND ALL
WILL DIE, BUT
EACH ONE...

WITH A
PURPOSE.

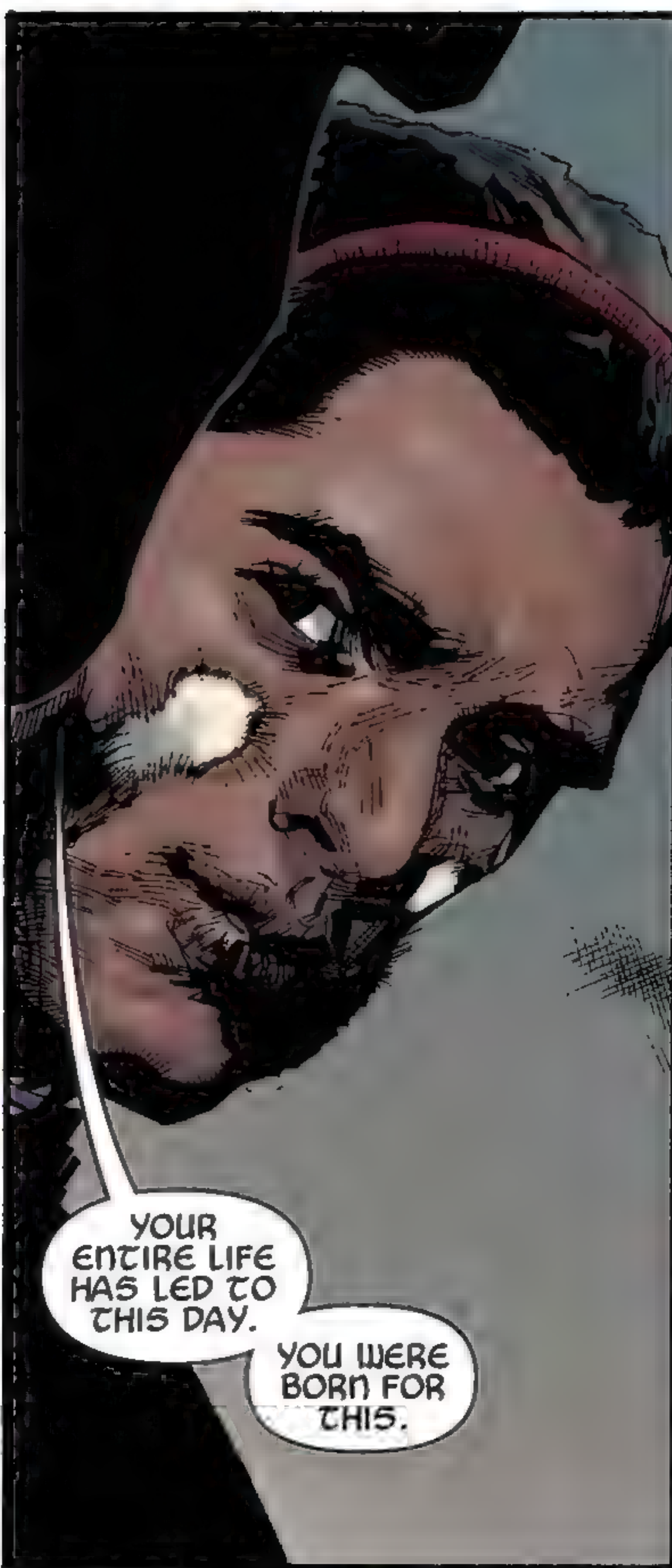


SURELY I
TELL YOU THAT
THE UNIVERSE HAS
CONSPIRED TO PUT
THE WORLD IN OUR
VERY HANDS.

IT IS A
TEST FOR
TITANS...



AND ONLY
WE CAN
SAVE IT.



YOUR
ENTIRE LIFE
HAS LED TO
THIS DAY.

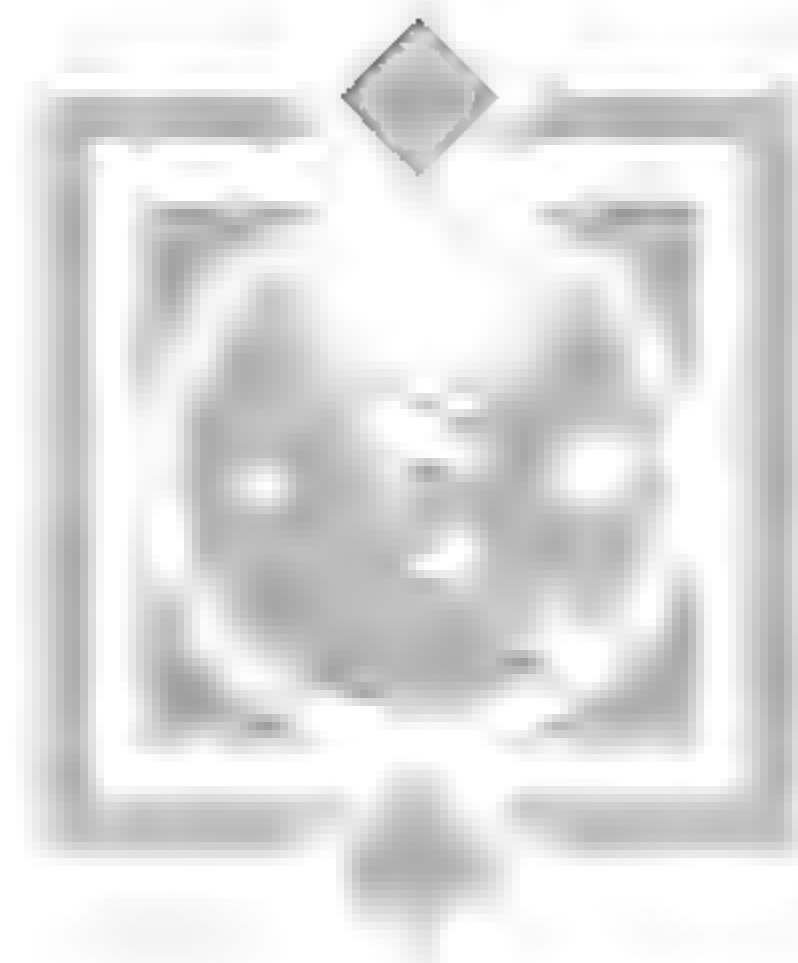
YOU WERE
BORN FOR
THIS.



AS
WAS I.

"WILL YOU JOIN ME
IN TEACHING THE
OLDEST LESSON
OF ALL?"





A WORD FROM THE HEAVENS



WAKANDA.
FOUR HOURS AGO.

BE-DOOP

WELL. WELL.

I FEEL LIKE MY MOTHER'S CALLING. "WE WERE ONLY GONE FOR A FEW DAYS, ANTHONY...CARE TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HOUSE?"

HI,
MOM...

I KNOW IT LOOKS BAD...BUT I'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE BACK.

ME TOO,
TONY.

WHERE
ARE YOU
NOW?

WAKANDA.
IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT THANOS--
WAIT...YOU
KNOW ABOUT
THANOS?

WHEN THE
UNIVERSAL NET
POPPED BACK UP
I GOT THE
MESSAGE YOU
SENT.

YEAH. I
KNOW ABOUT
THANOS.



OKAY, SO HIS CREW MIGHT HAVE...GAINED ACCESS TO SOME DOOMSDAY WEAPONRY... AND THEY'RE LOCATED HERE IN WAKANDA.

ME AND SOME OTHERS ARE MOVING TO STOP THEM.

WELL...WE'RE ON OUR WAY, AND WE'LL BE THERE SOON.

WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE BLOCKADE FIRST, BUT ONCE WE PUNCH THROUGH, I'LL BEELINE IT TO THE SHINING CITY.

NEGATIVE, STEVE.

WE'RE GOING NOW, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M SENDING YOU COORDINATES TO WHERE THANOS *WILL BE*. HE'S THE PRIMARY TARGET.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS... AND I'LL SEE YOU THERE.

OKAY.

HEY, DID EVERYONE MAKE IT THROUGH?

I DON'T THINK ANY OF US ARE COMPLETELY WHOLE AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...

BUT WE HAVEN'T LOST ANYONE YET.

GOOD LUCK.

SEE YOU SOON.



HOME COMING



NEAR EARTH.
NOW.

FLEET
VECTOR
LINEAR...

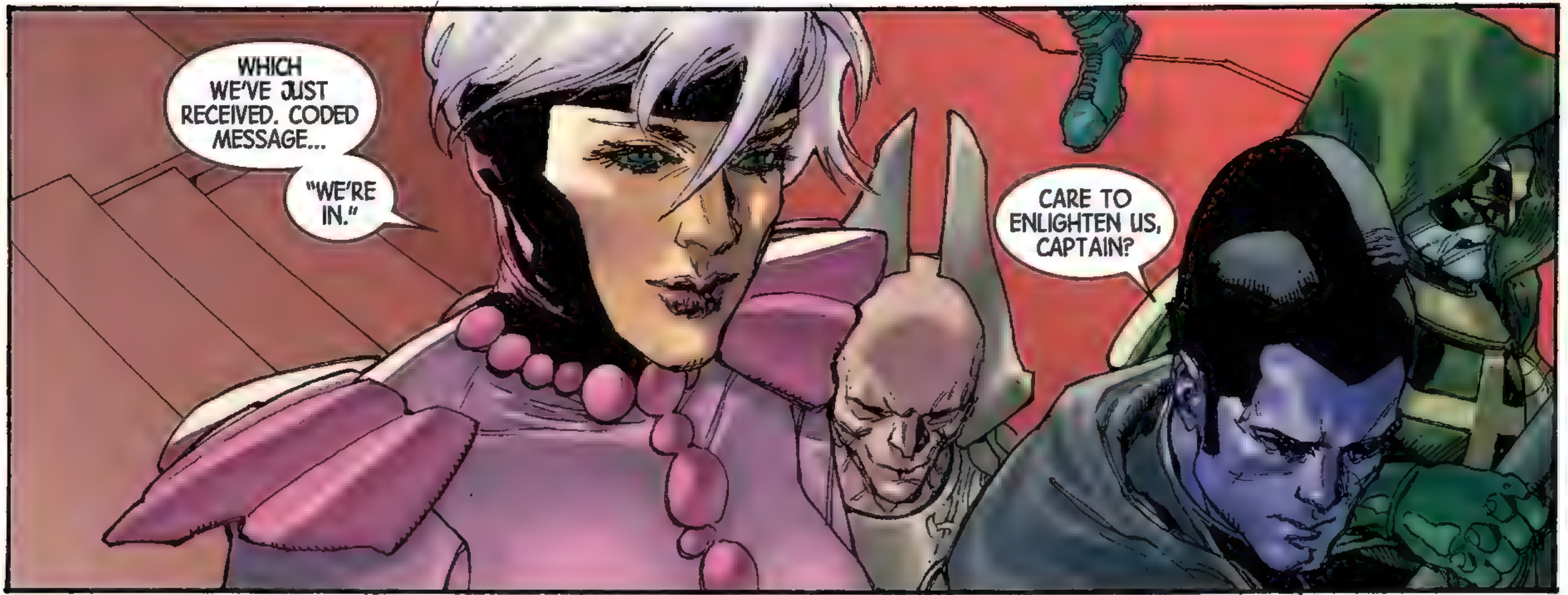
WE HIDE OUR
APPROACH IN
THE MOON'S
SHADOW.

WHY
HIDE? THEY
KNOW WE'RE
COMING.

NO ONE
WANTS TO
GET THERE
SOONER THAN
WE DO,
KL'RT

WE'RE JUST
WAITING FOR
THE GREEN LIGHT
TO GO.

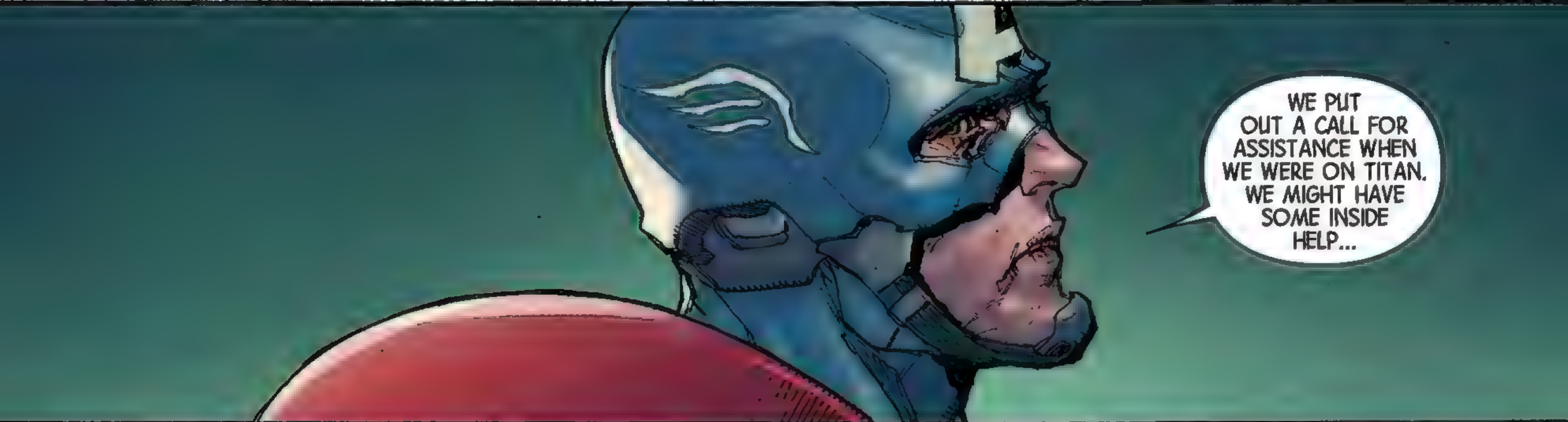
A SIGNAL
FROM THE
PEAK
STATION.



WHICH WE'VE JUST RECEIVED. CODED MESSAGE...

"WE'RE IN."

CARE TO ENLIGHTEN US, CAPTAIN?



WE PUT OUT A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE WHEN WE WERE ON TITAN. WE MIGHT HAVE SOME INSIDE HELP...

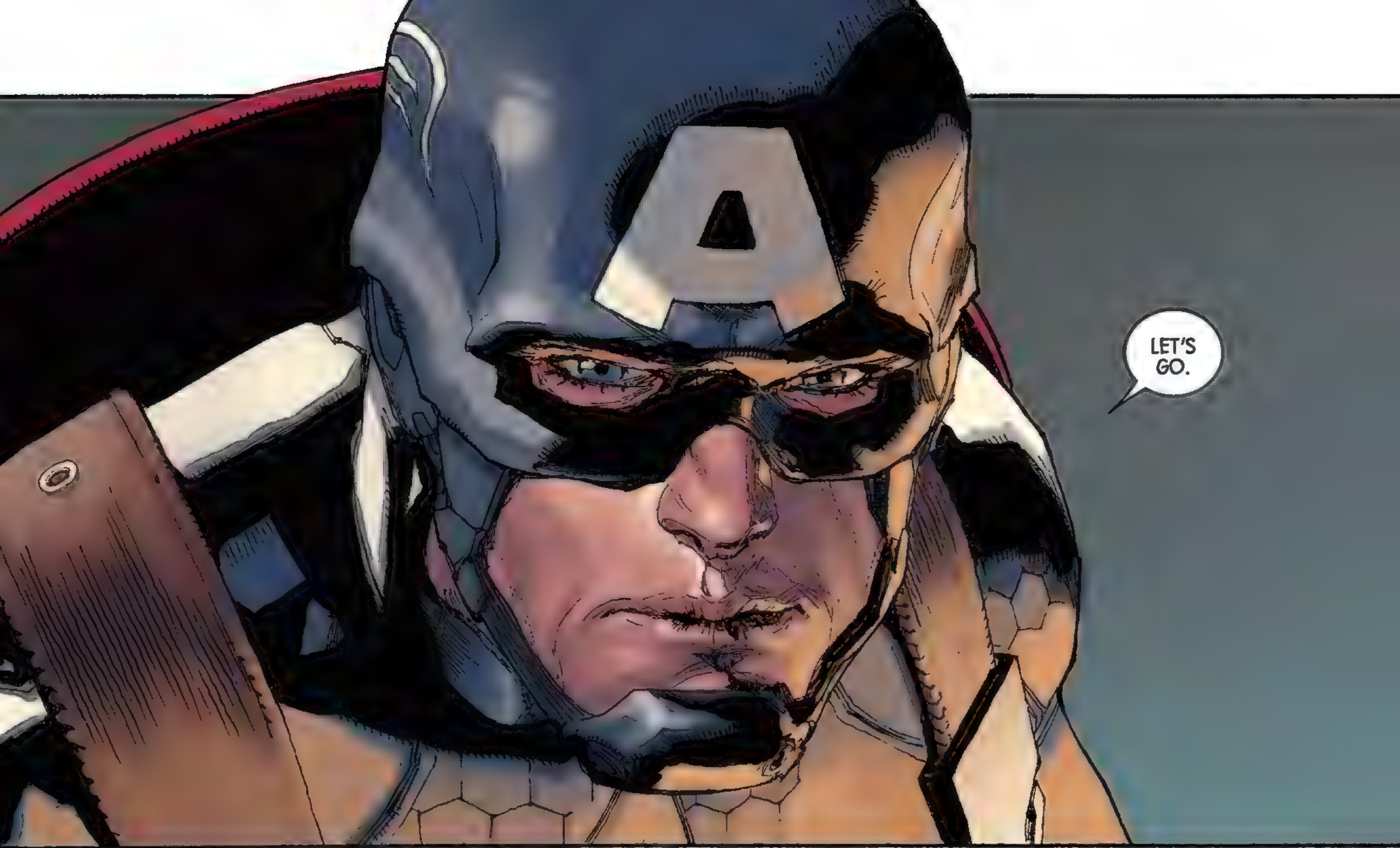


★ "THE HOPE IS THAT THEY CAN BRING THE PEAK'S DEFENSES DOWN FROM INSIDE."

"SAVE US FROM DOING THREE THINGS INSTEAD OF TWO."



EITHER WAY, THE SIGNAL MEANS IT'S TIME...



THE PEAK.
HEADQUARTERS
OF THE
SENTIENT
WORLD
OBSERVATION &
RESPONSE
DEPARTMENT.

GENERAL!
THE PROXIMITY
ALARM!

WE HAVE
MULTIPLE SIGNALS...
COMING AT US
FROM BEHIND THE
MOON.

WE'RE UNDER
ATTACK!



"OPEN FIRE AS
SOON AS THEY
ARE IN RANGE.



"BURN THEM
FROM THE
HEAVENS."



"SEND THEM
EARLY TO THE HELL
WE ALL CRAVE."

MAJESTOR!

WE'VE LOST
THE PINNACLE
AND KYRIN'S
PRIDE.



THE
STATION'S
KILL ZONE IS
FURTHER OUT
THAN WE
THOUGHT...

EMERGENCY
ACTIONS! RELEASE
THE *GUARD*!

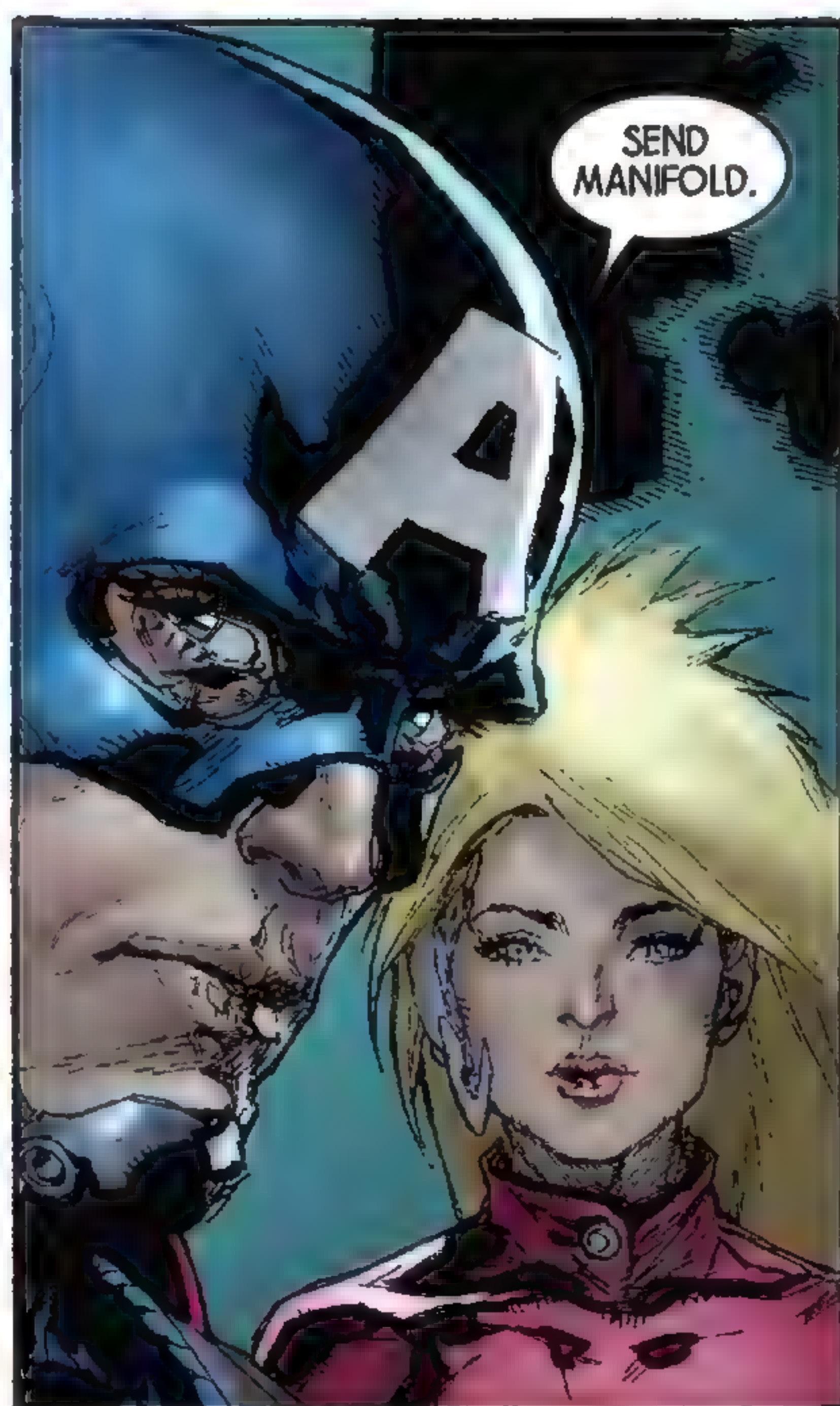
AVENGERS...

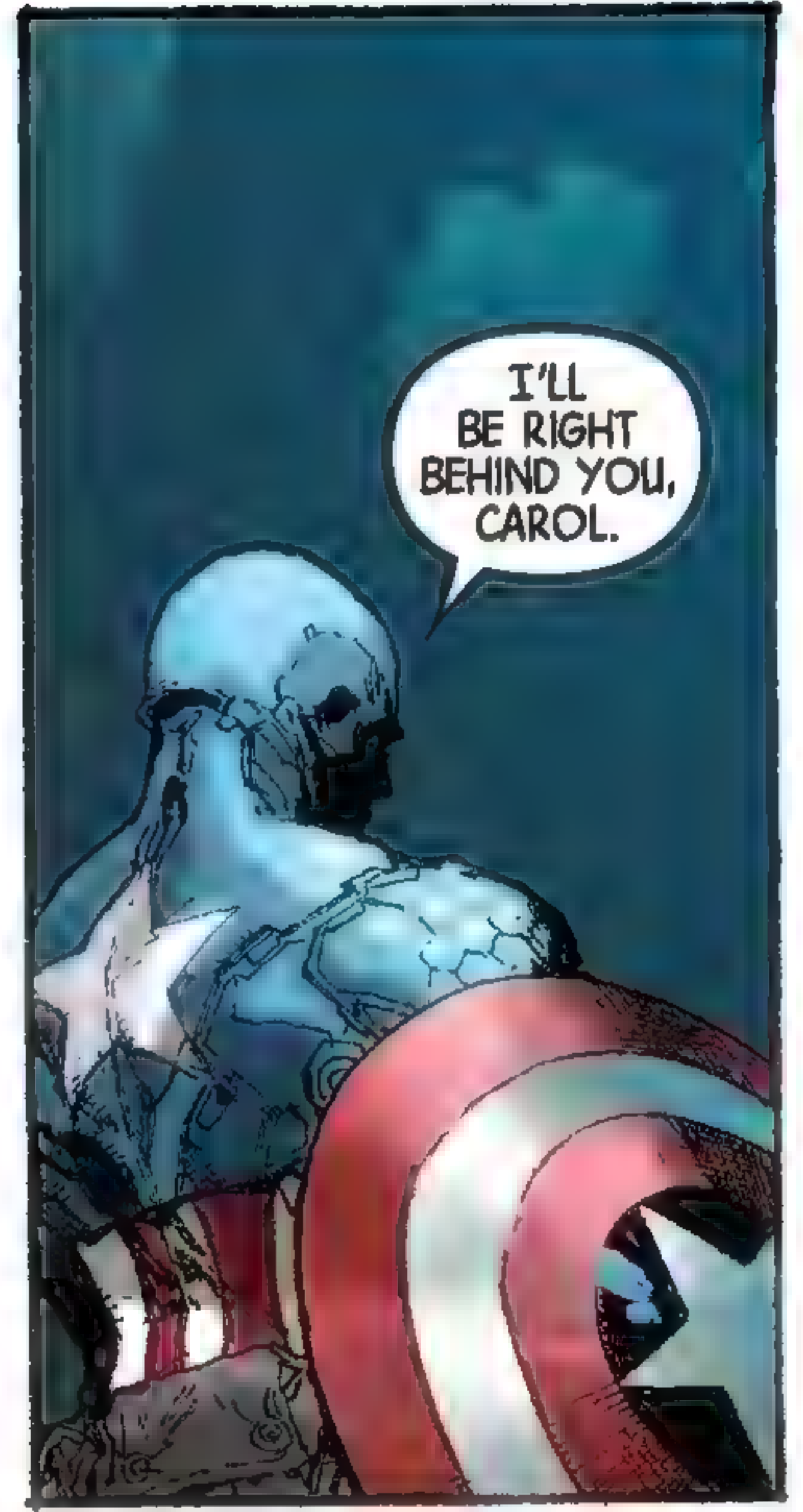
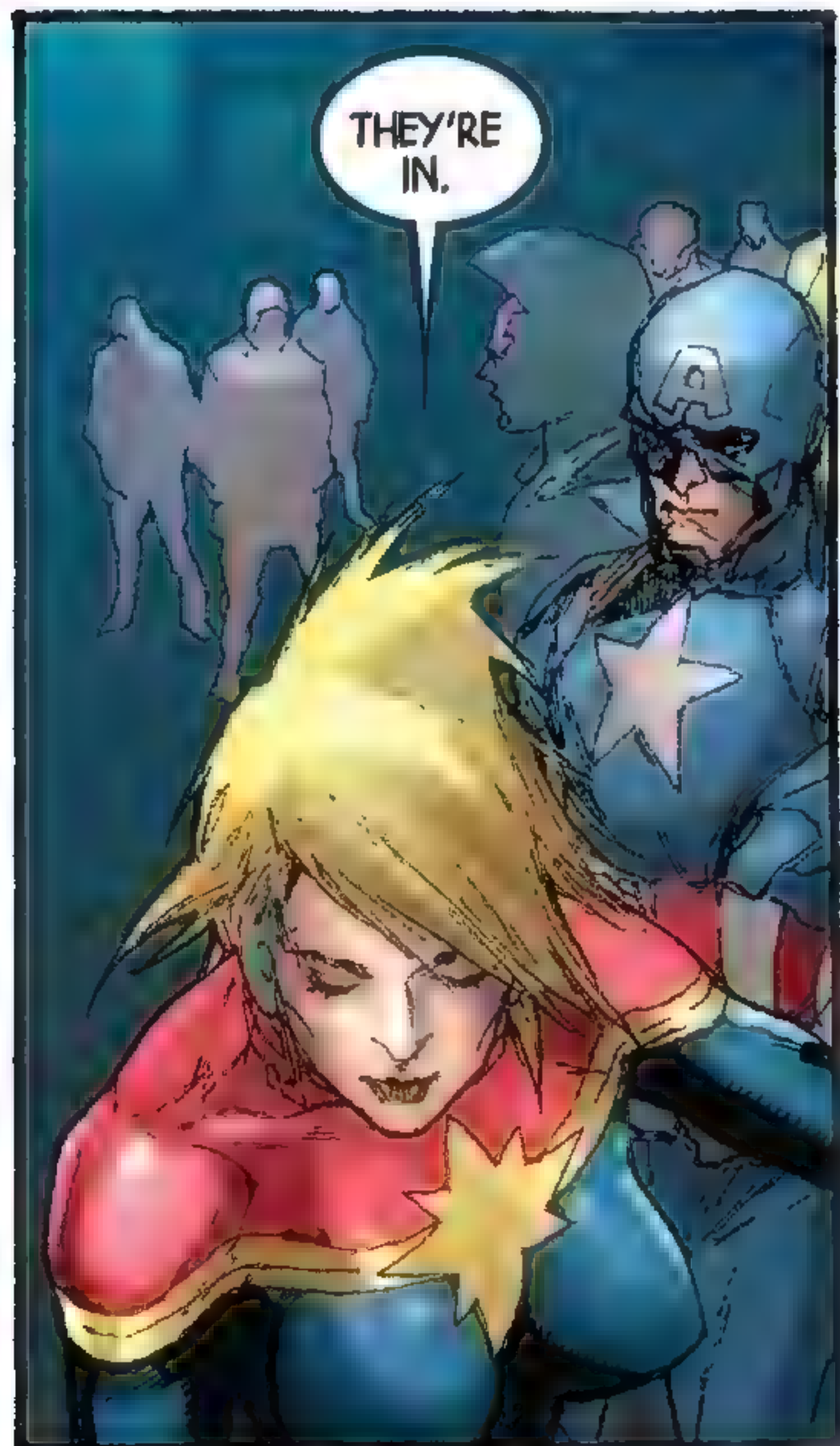
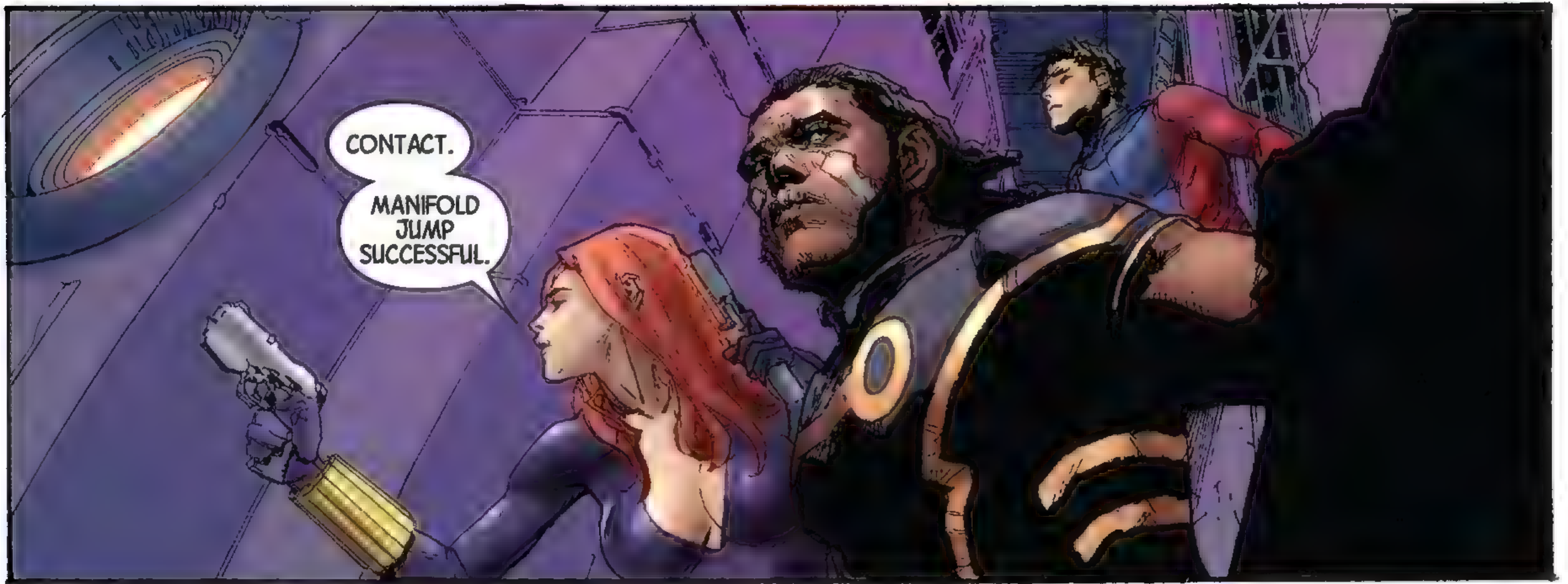
"ASSEMBLE!"

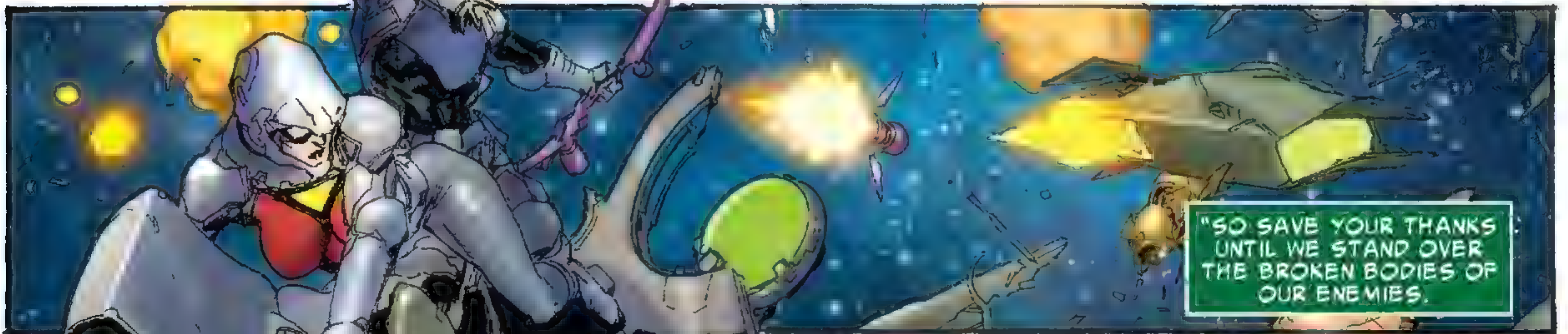
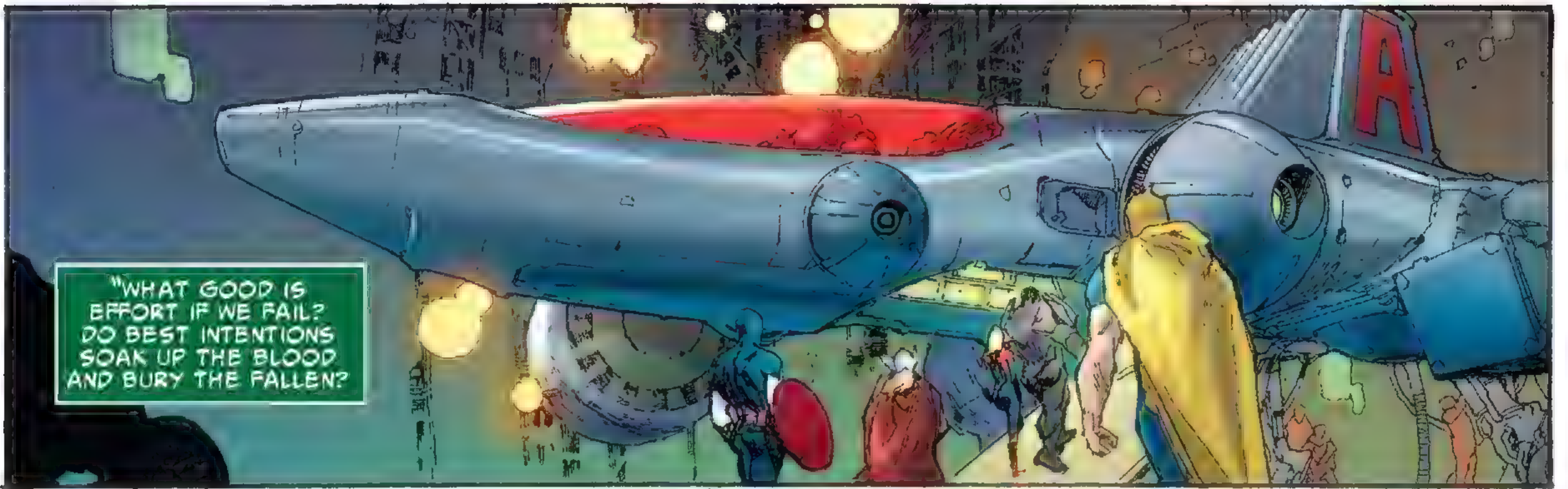


WE'VE LOST
SUPERGUARDIAN
TITAN,
COMMAND...

THE FIRE'S
TOO HEAVY TO
BREAK THROUGH
WITHOUT
SIGNIFICANT
LOSSES.









THE PEAK.

WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE ANY OF THE ACCESS PANELS ON THE COMMAND LEVEL...

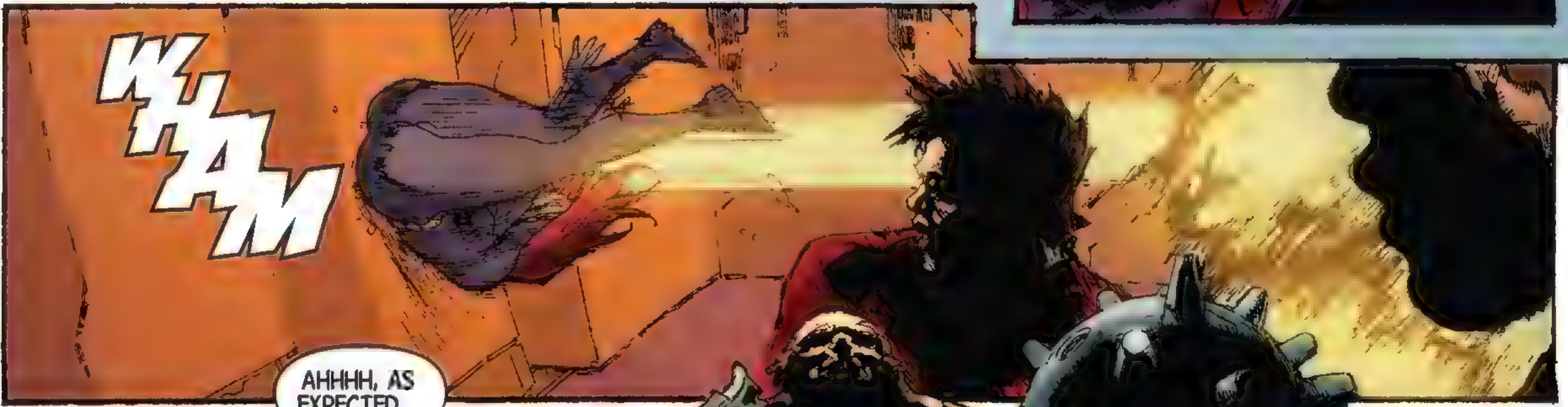


SO, KIDDO... WHAT LEVEL IS THIS?



I'M PRETTY SURE EDEN PUT US RIGHT WHERE WE NEEDED TO BE, WIDOW, BUT I--

LOOK OUT!



WAM

AHHHH, AS EXPECTED...



LIKE THIEVES IN THE NIGHT... LIKE COWARDS AFRAID OF THEIR SHADOWS...



SNEAKING IN HERE TO SHAME ME ONCE AGAIN.

WELL, YOU'LL FIND THE BLACK DWARF IS HARDIER FARE THAN THAT...



MORE
THAN
ENOUGH
TO CHOKE
ON.



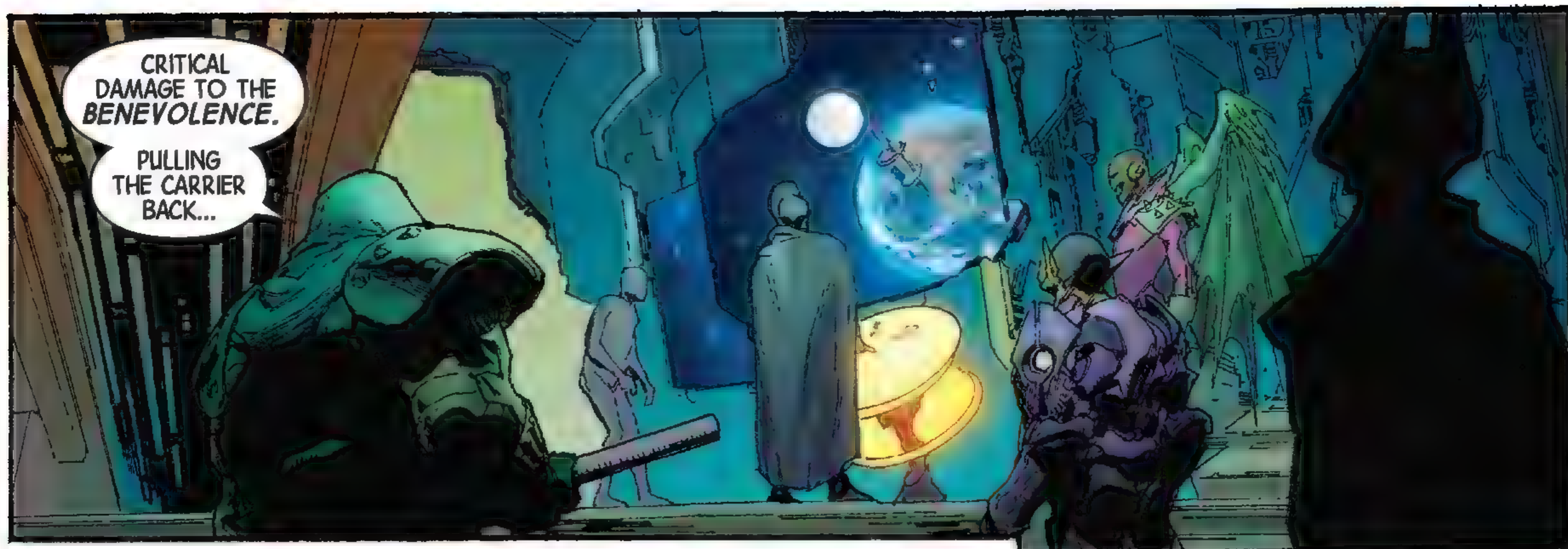
MANIFOLD!
GET BACK TO
THE SHIP...

TELL THEM
WE'RE NOT
GOING TO GET
THE FIELD DOWN
IN TIME!

BRING
BACKUP!



ZZZZNNNN





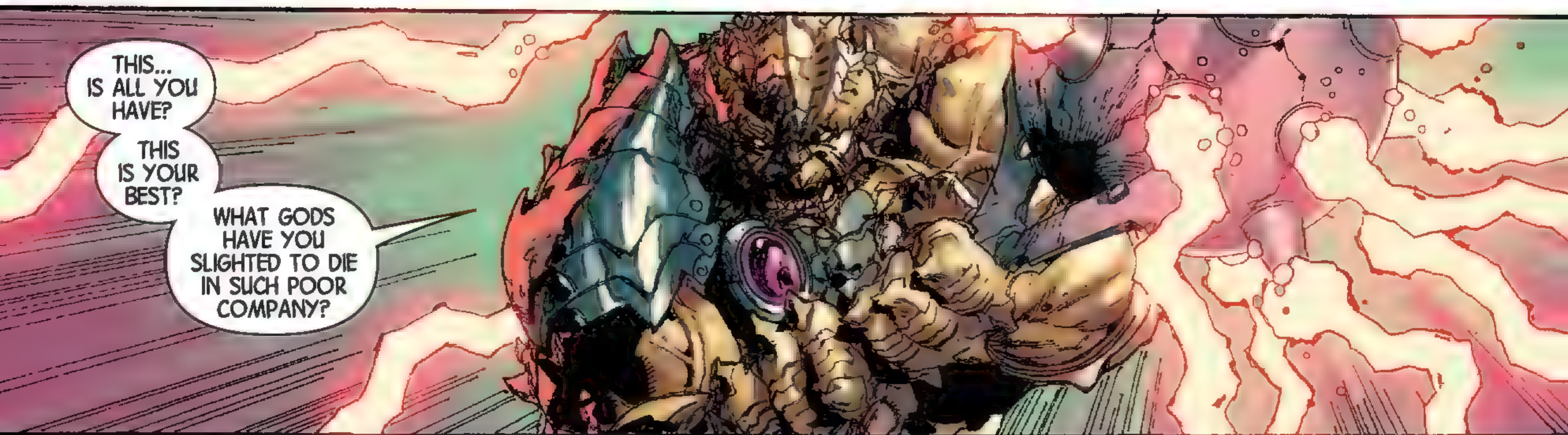
GET YOUR
COMPANIONS,
HUMAN. DO
YOUR JOB...

WE
WILL HANDLE
THIS.



A STRONTIAN
PRINCE. A KREE
JUDGE. A RELIC
FROM A BROKEN
EMPIRE.

AND SOME
DEAD THING
FROM ANOTHER
PLACE AND
TIME...



THIS...
IS ALL YOU
HAVE?

THIS
IS YOUR
BEST?

WHAT GODS
HAVE YOU
SLIGHTED TO DIE
IN SUCH POOR
COMPANY?



ARRGHH!



THE DAY IS
ALMOST DONE,
VILLAIN.

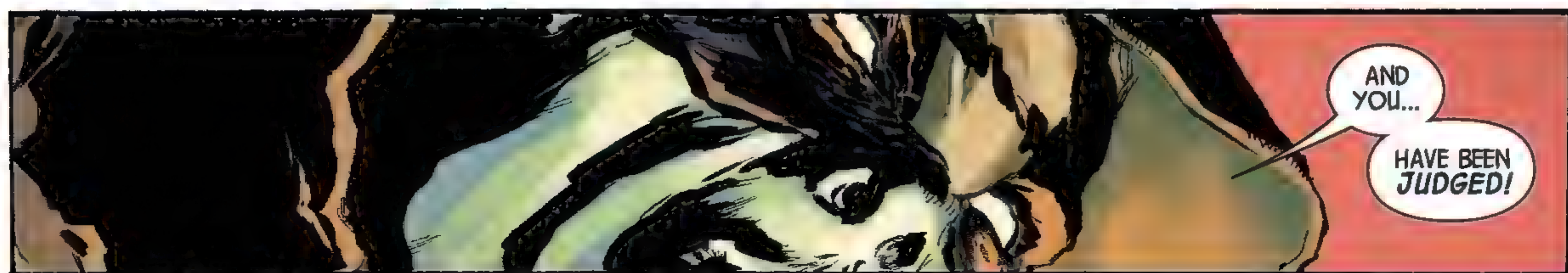
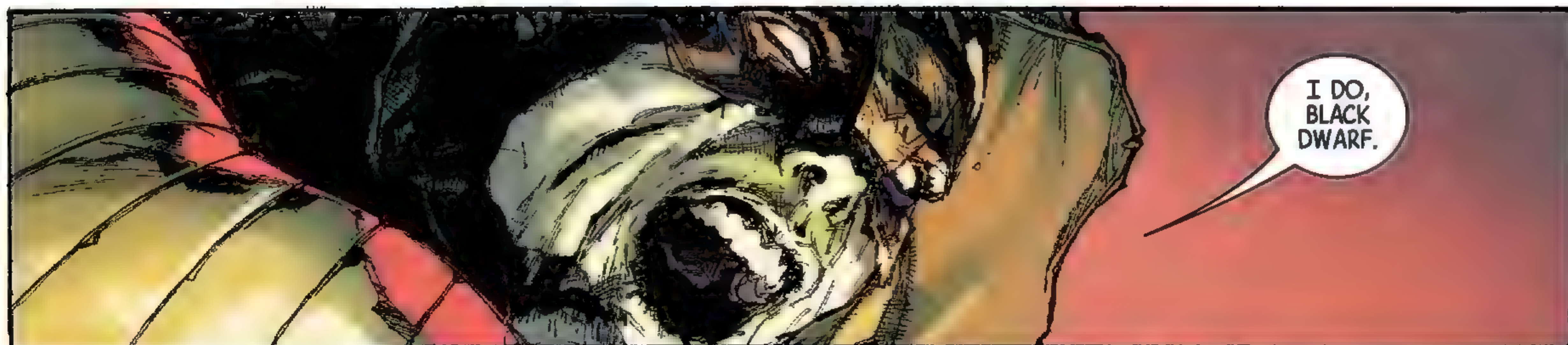


VILLAIN?
VILLAIN?



YOU ARE
IMPERIALS...
ENABLING, OR EVEN
RULING, HUNDREDS---
THOUSANDS---
OF WORLDS...

AND
YOU SPEAK
AS ARBITERS
OF...WHAT?



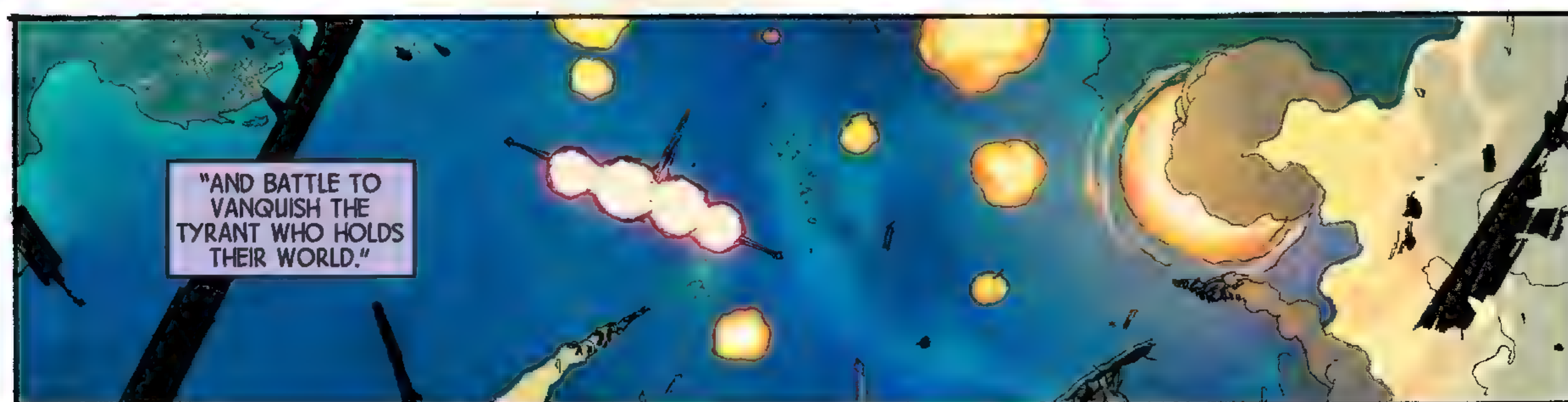
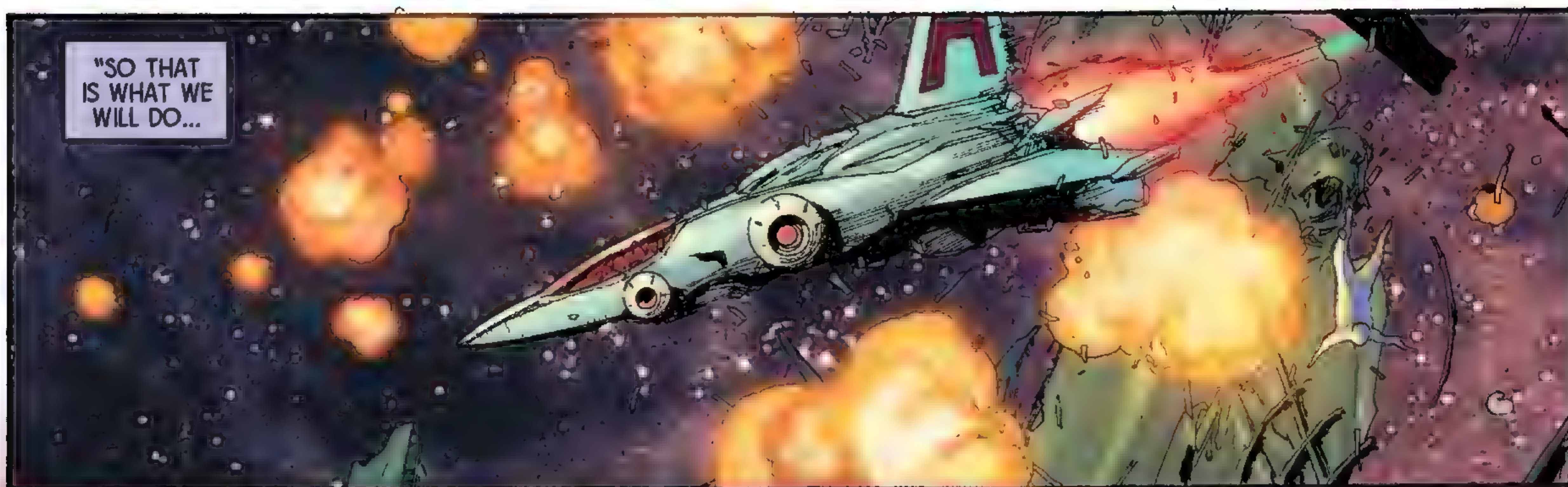


WELL...



THAT
WAS MORE
ENJOYABLE THAN
ANTICIPATED...

WHAT
NOW?



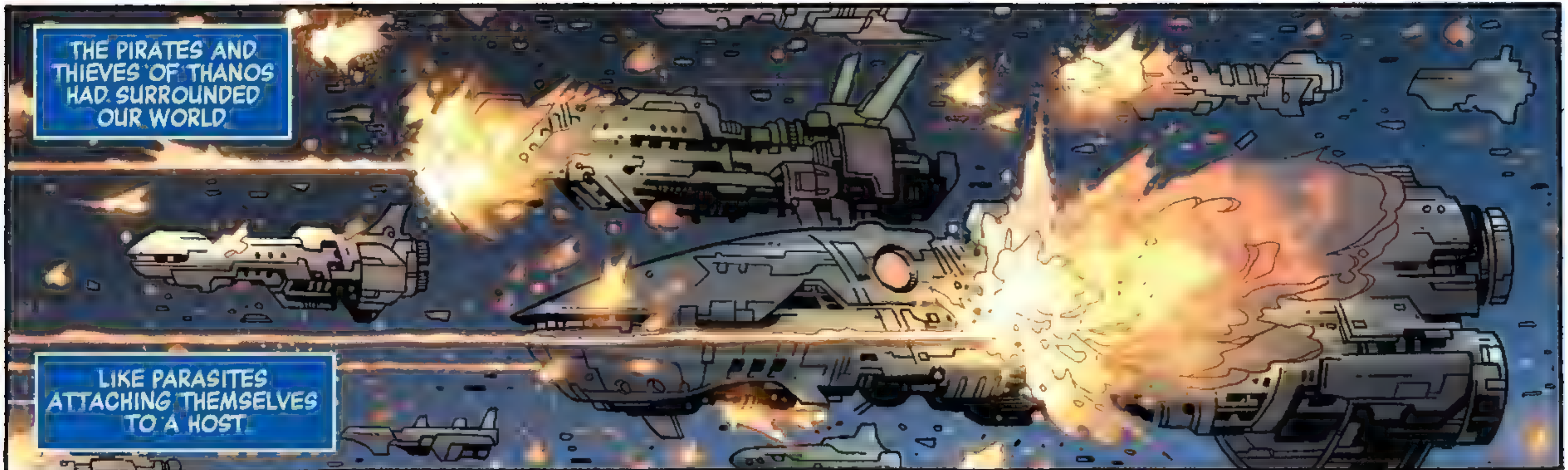


TYRANT





WE HAD SAVED THE
UNIVERSE BUT LOST
THE EARTH.



THE PIRATES AND
THIEVES OF THANOS
HAD SURROUNDED
OUR WORLD.

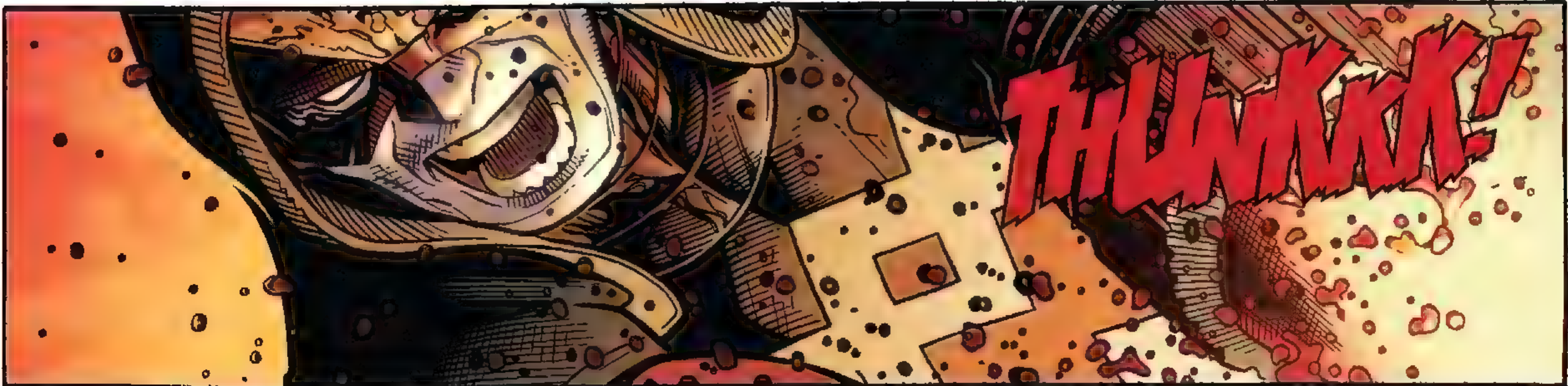
LIKE PARASITES
ATTACHING THEMSELVES
TO A HOST.

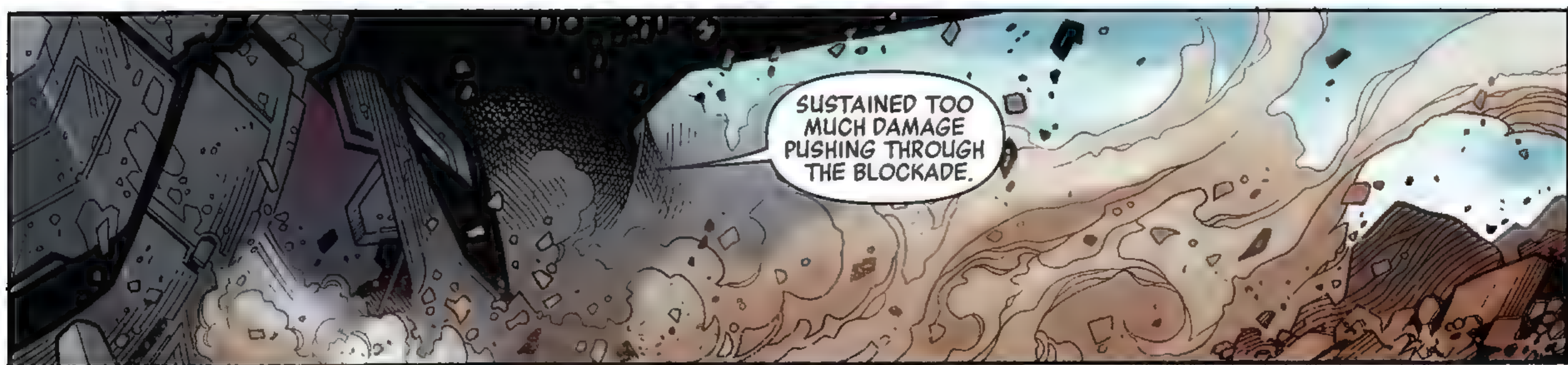
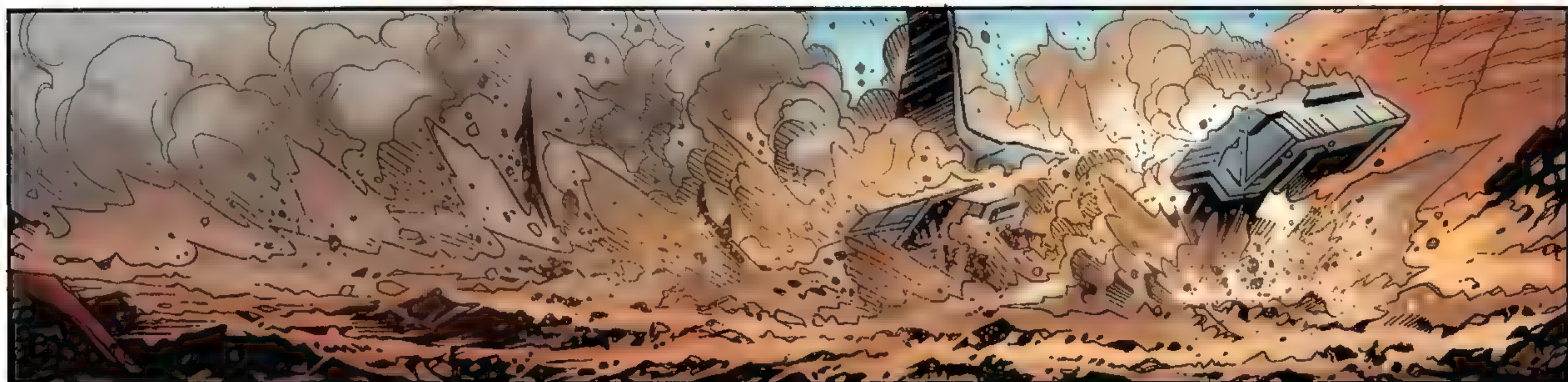
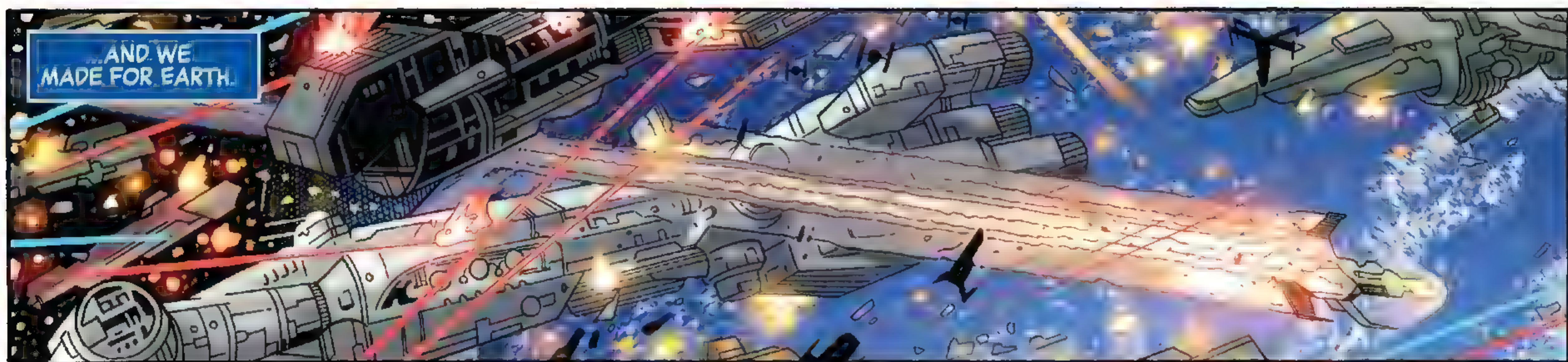


IT WAS A
BARRICADE
KEEPING US
FROM HOME.



A WALL THAT
HAD TO COME
DOWN.

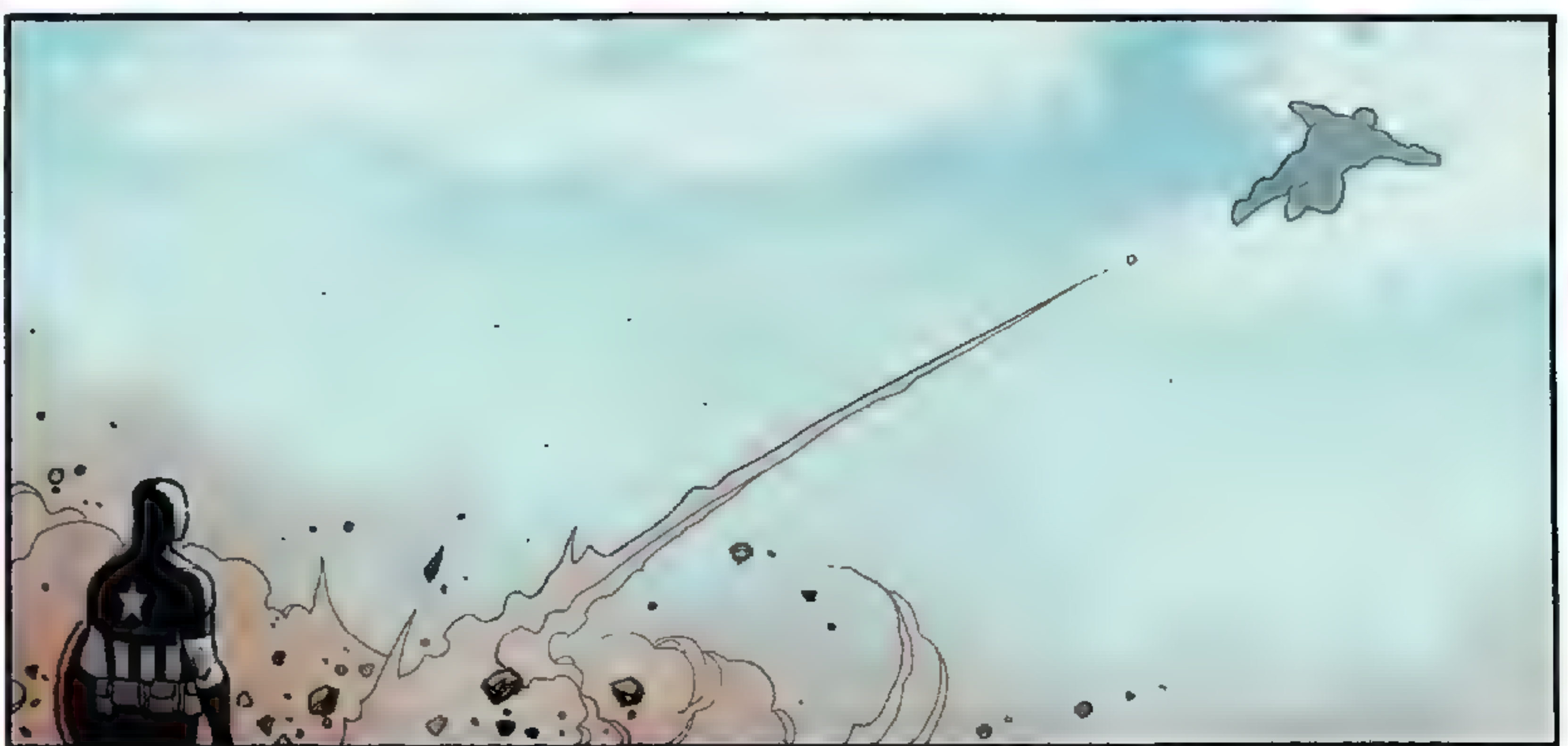
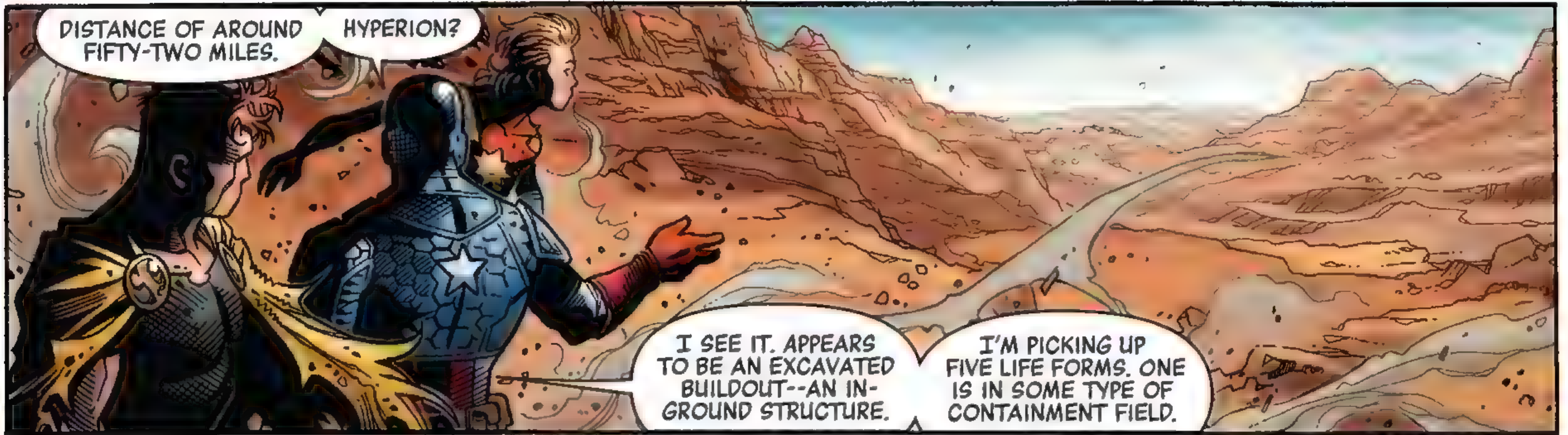
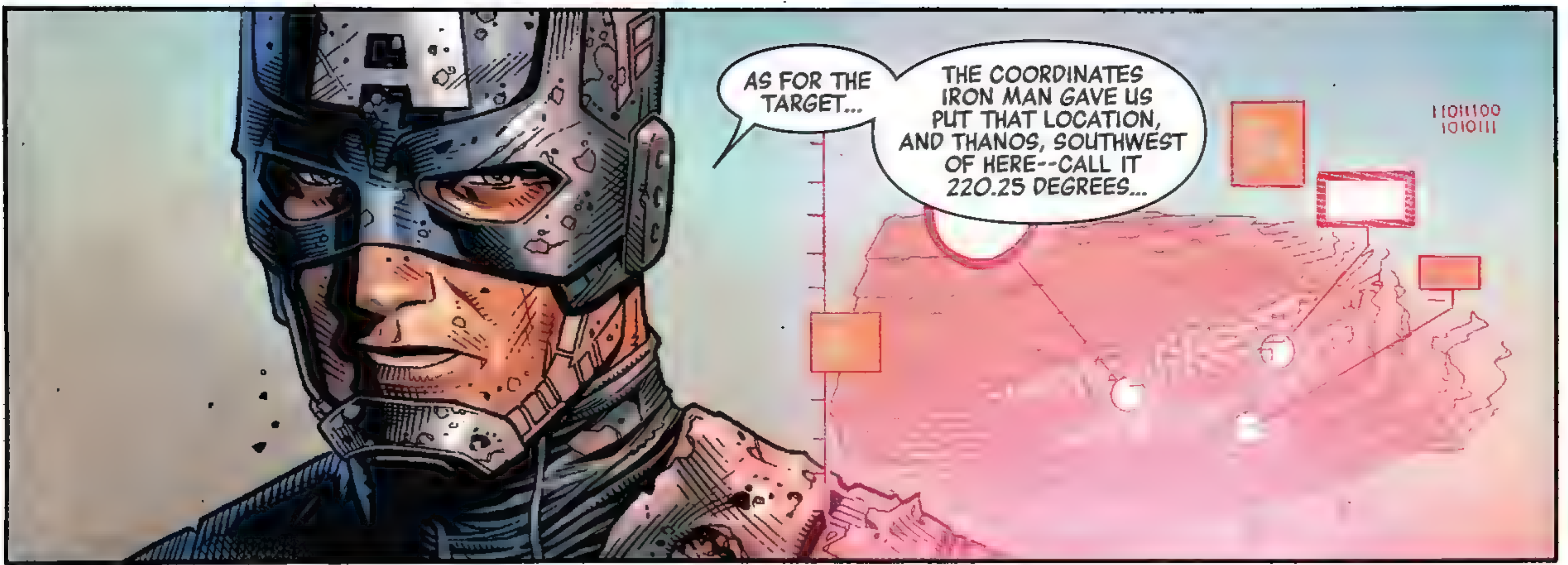


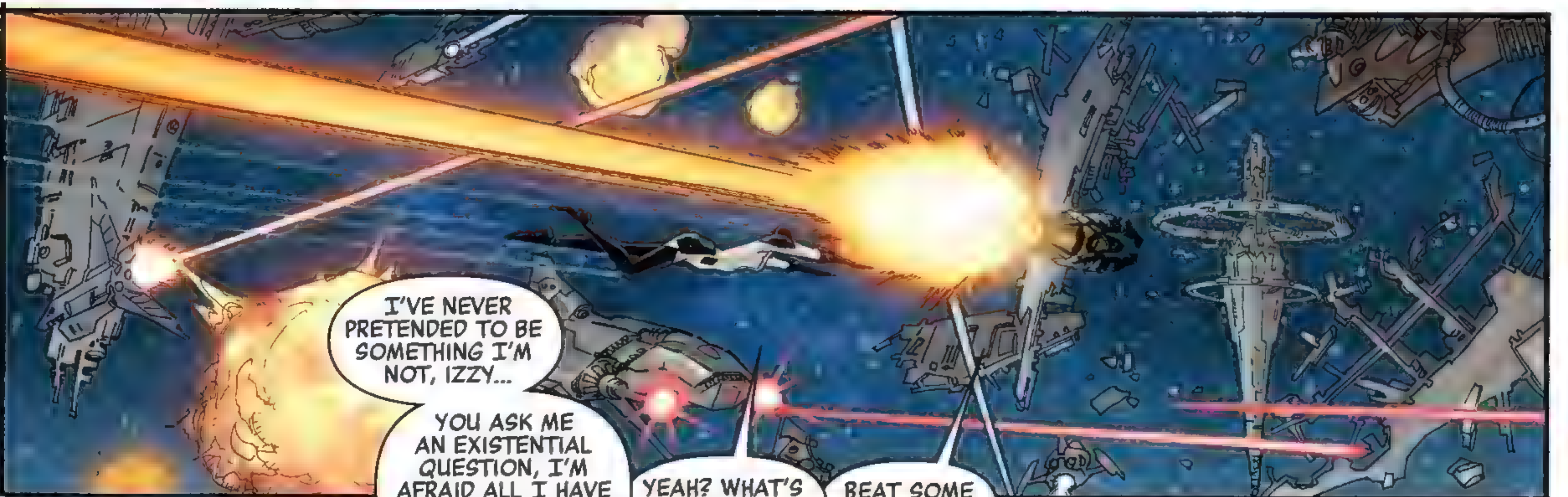
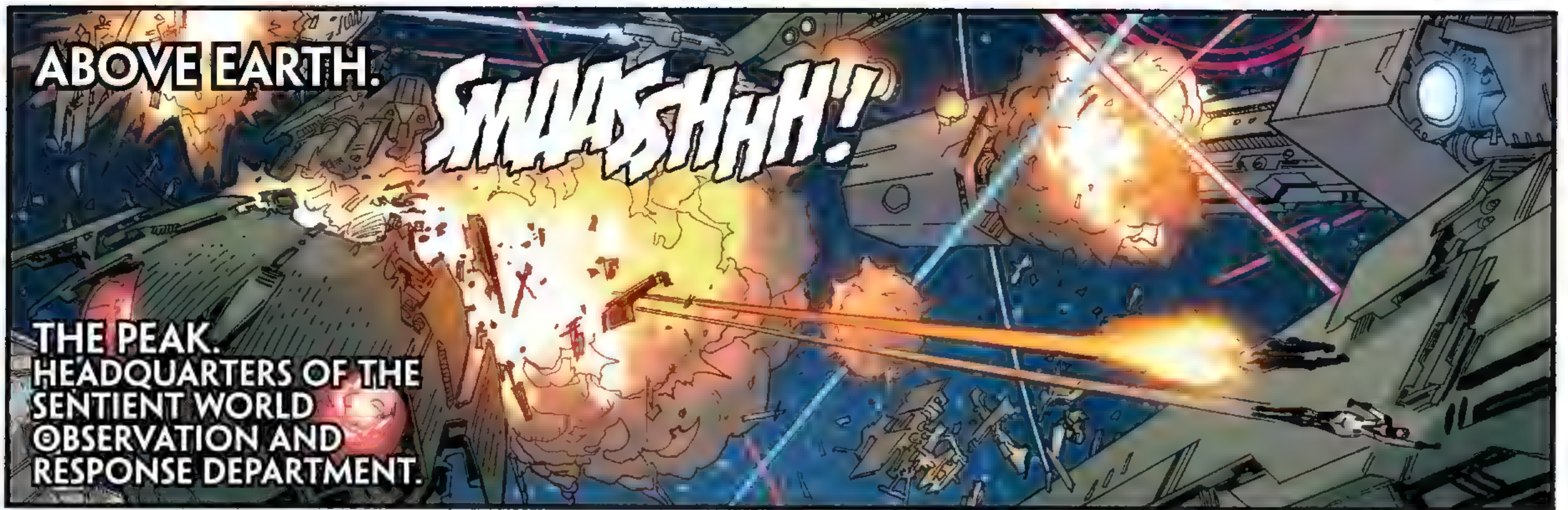


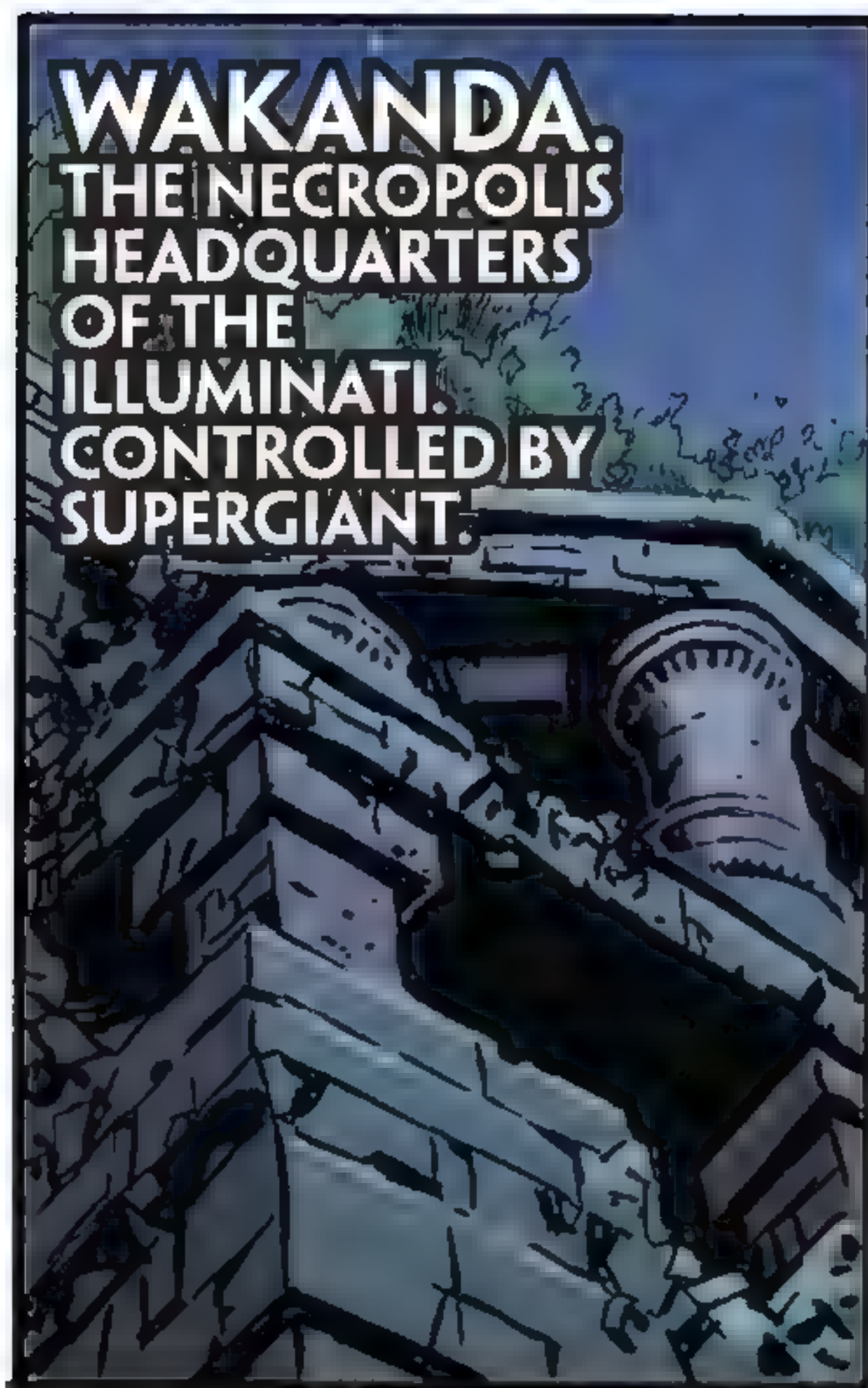


LOOK
AROUND, CAROL...
IT'S EARTH--
HOME.

IT'LL
DO JUST
FINE.







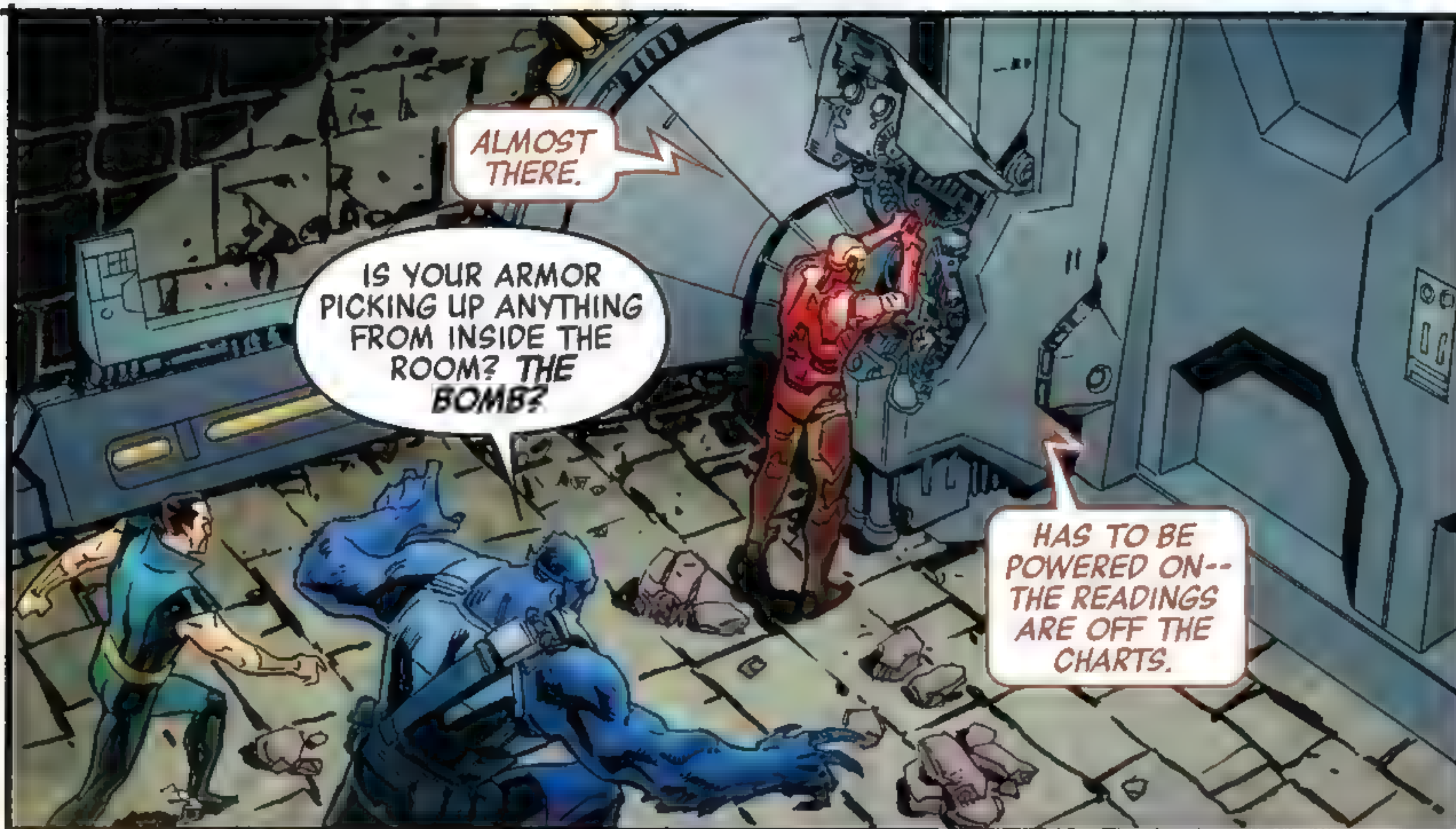
WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS
HEADQUARTERS
OF THE
ILLUMINATI.
CONTROLLED BY
SUPERGIANT.



THAT SEEMS TO
BE THE LAST OF
THE FOOT
SOLDIERS...

STRANGE, THEY FOUGHT LIKE
THEY WERE COORDINATED...
CONTROLLED...

YES. ATTACKING IN
WAVES...AUTOMATONS.
BUT THAT'S A SOLVED
PROBLEM. HOW'S OUR
OTHER ONE COMING,
ANTHONY?



ALMOST
THERE.

IS YOUR ARMOR
PICKING UP ANYTHING
FROM INSIDE THE
ROOM? THE
BOMB?

HAS TO BE
POWERED ON--
THE READINGS
ARE OFF THE
CHARTS.



I'M IN.
HOPEFULLY
WE'RE NOT...

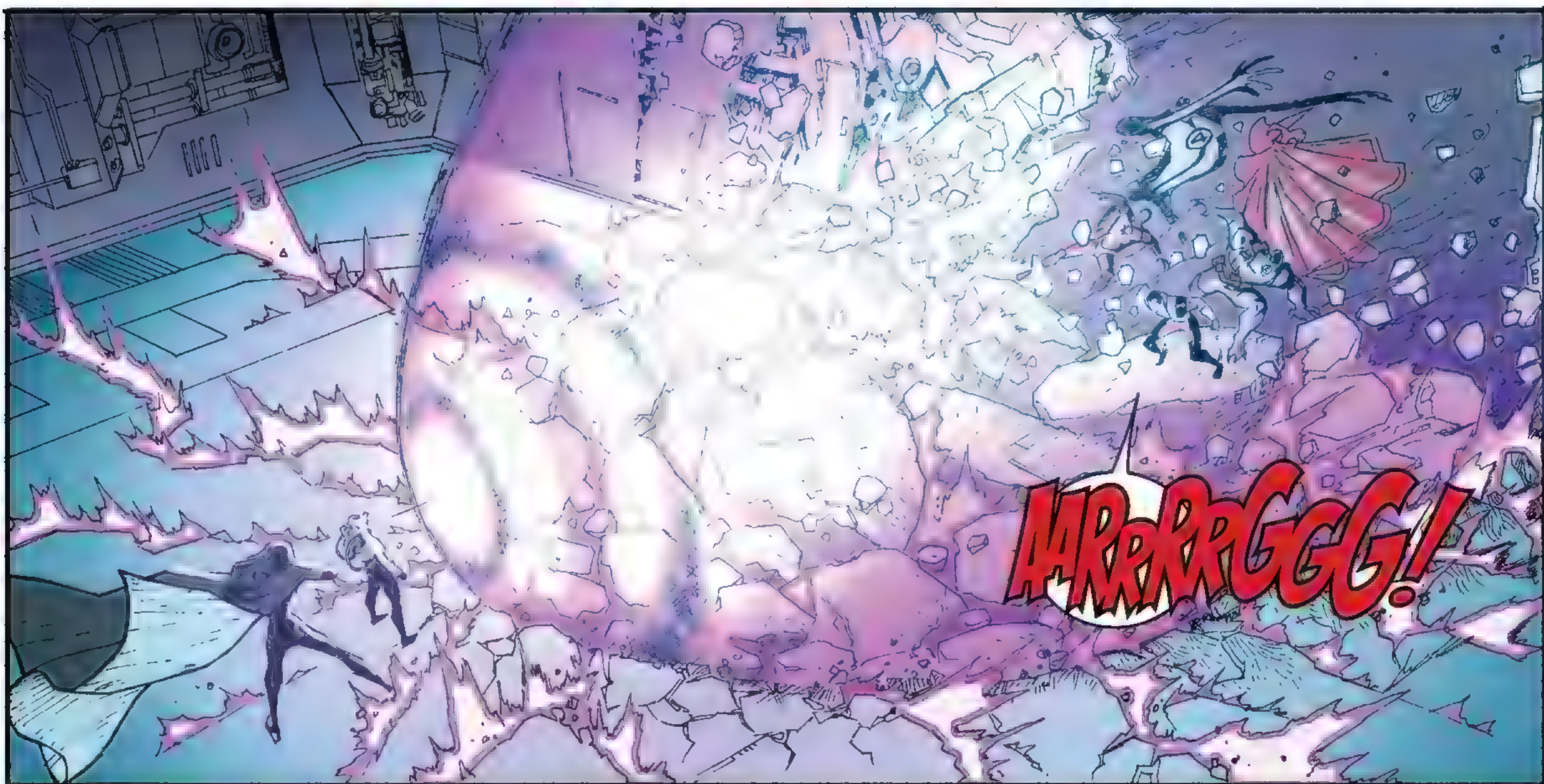
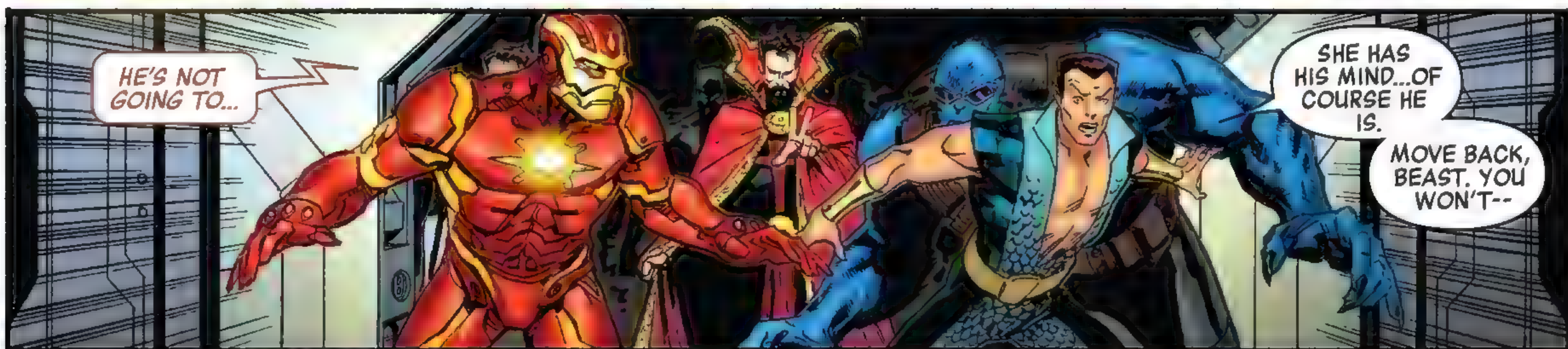


"...TOO
LATE."

TOO
LATE FOR
WHAT?

TO SAVE ME
FROM WHISPERING
IN THE KING'S EAR?
TO STOP ME FROM
FINDING YOUR
BOMB?

TO
SAVE YOUR
WORLD?



THE HIDDEN INHUMAN CITY OF OROLLAN.

WE HAVE LOST
CONTACT WITH BLACK
DWARF AND OUR AGENTS
ON THE *PEAK*,
MASTER.

IT SEEMS THE
HUMAN HEROES HAVE
RETURNED HERE WITH
SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT
FROM OTHER WORLDS...
OUR TIME RUNS
SHORT.

DON'T YOU
LOVE CHAOS,
CORVUS?

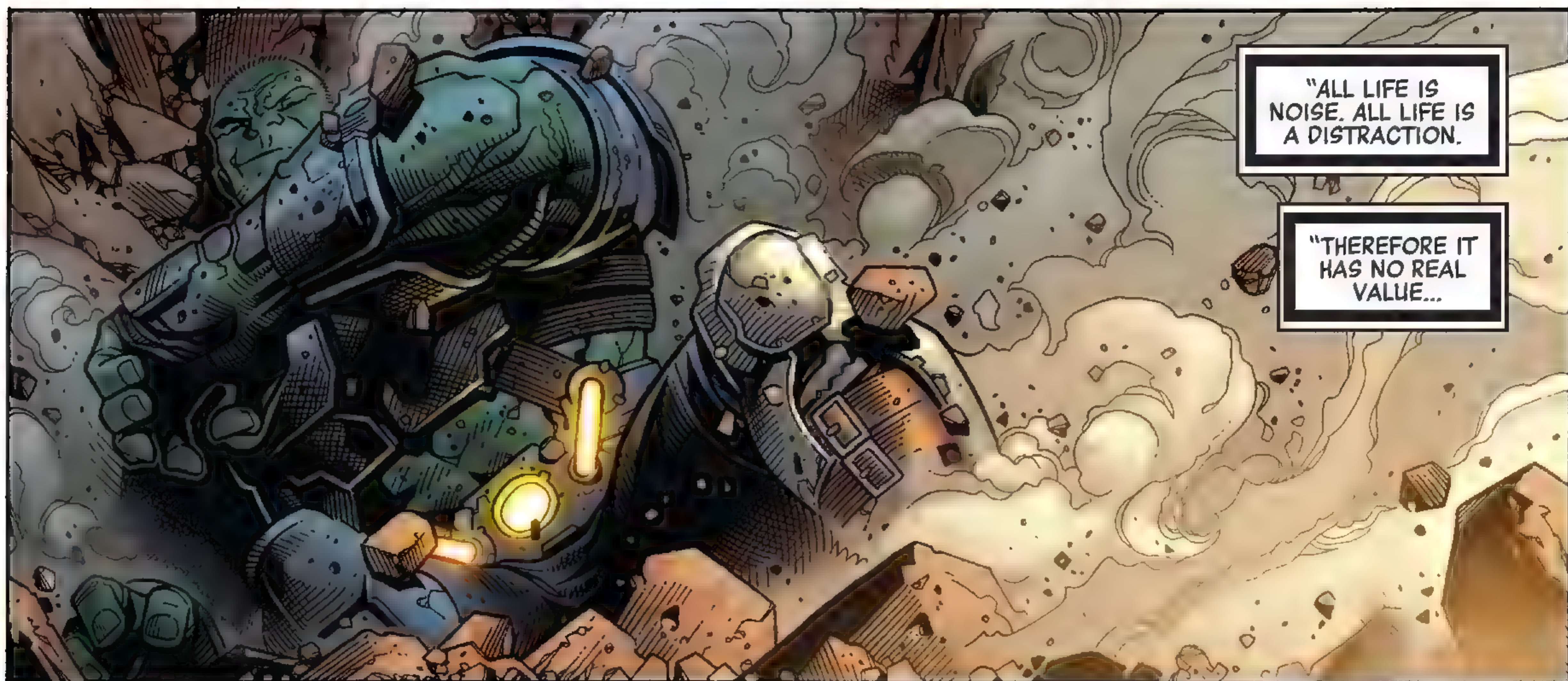
IT'S THEN THAT
LESSER CREATURES
LOSE THEIR METTLE,
SUBMIT TO INSTINCT...
PANIC--BUT IT'S WHEN
THOSE LIKE YOU
AND I THRIVE.

I WILL
KILL MY SON
NOW.

NOT AS SOME
REACTION TO *THE
NOISE*...BUT BECAUSE
IT PLEASES ME TO
DO SO.

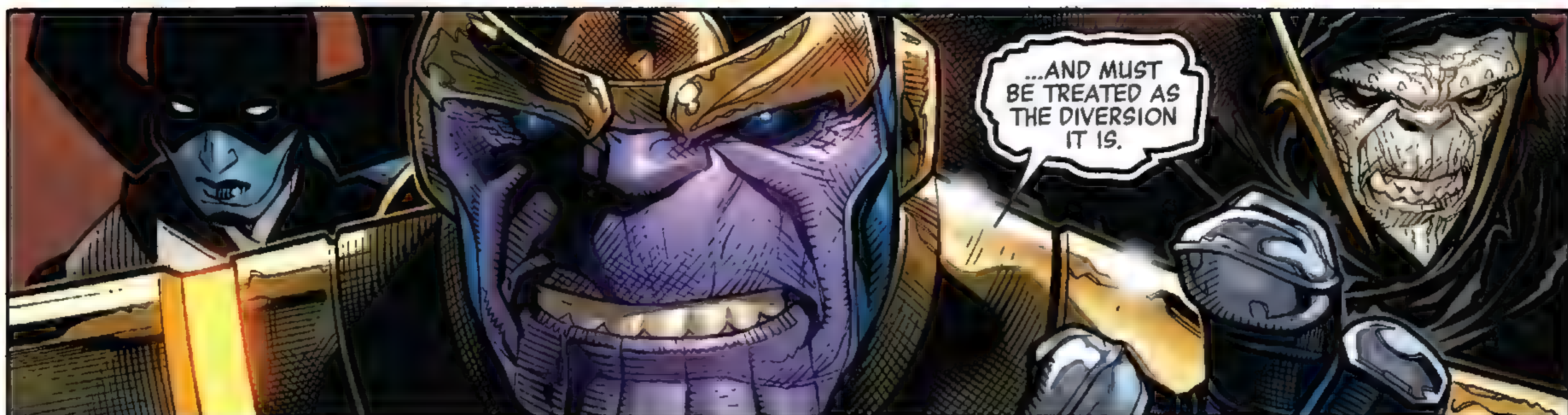
MAW,
RELEASE
THE BOY.
LET HIM--

WHAT IS
THIS...?



"ALL LIFE IS
NOISE. ALL LIFE IS
A DISTRACTION.

"THEREFORE IT
HAS NO REAL
VALUE...



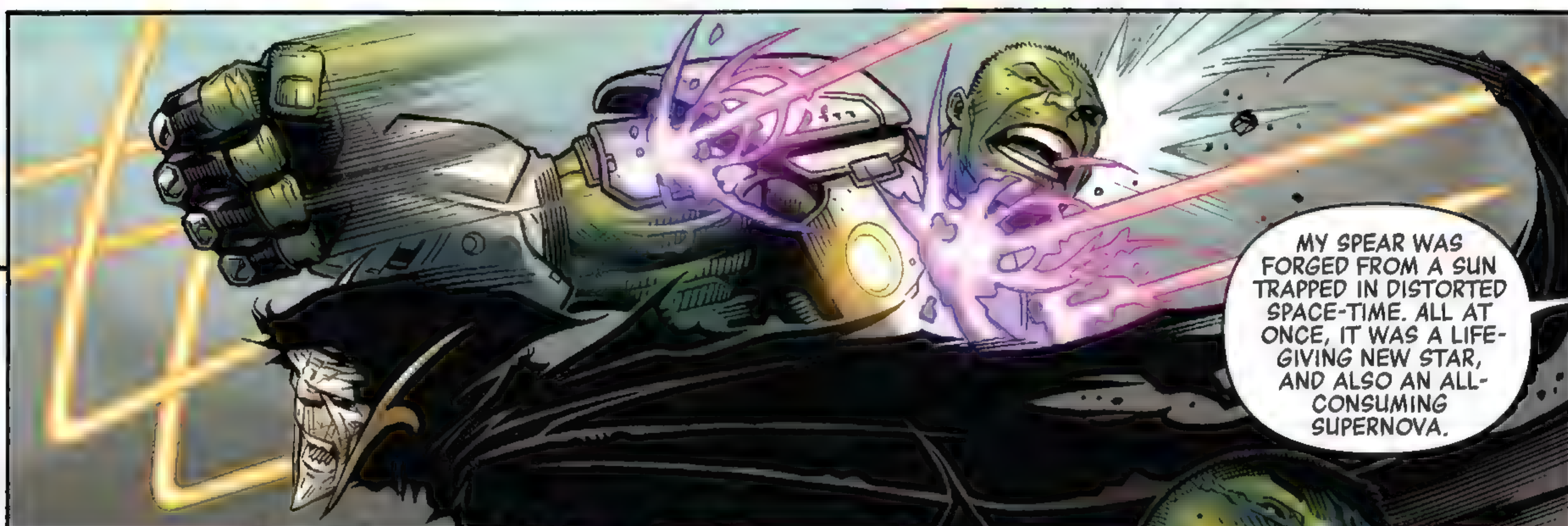
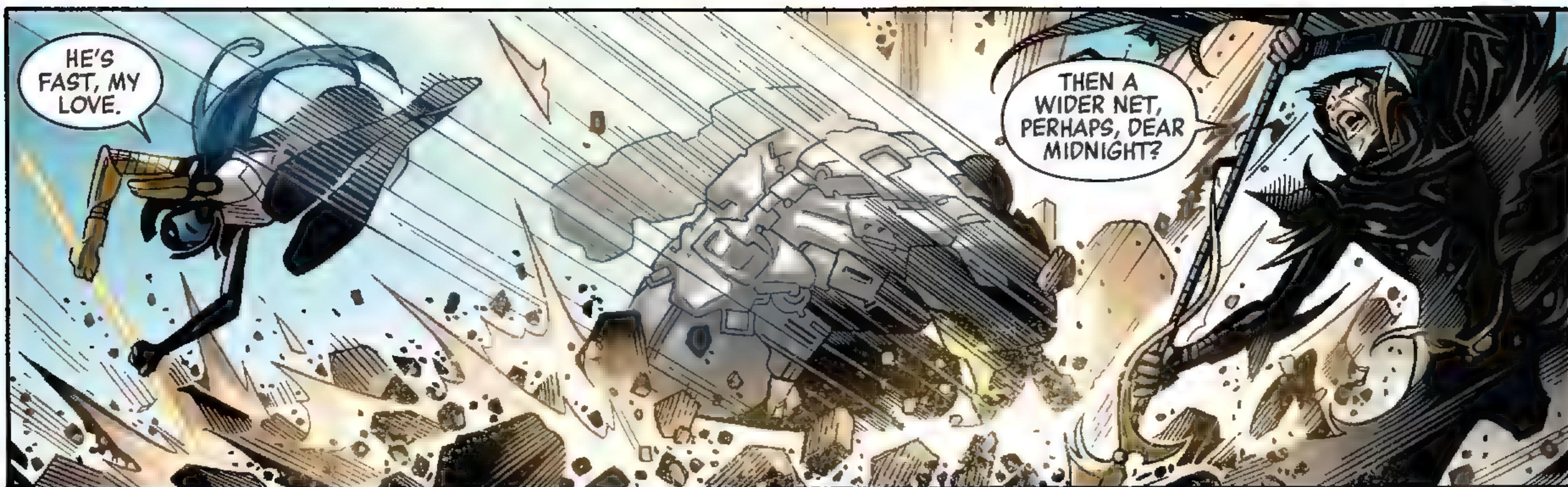
...AND MUST
BE TREATED AS
THE DIVERSION
IT IS.

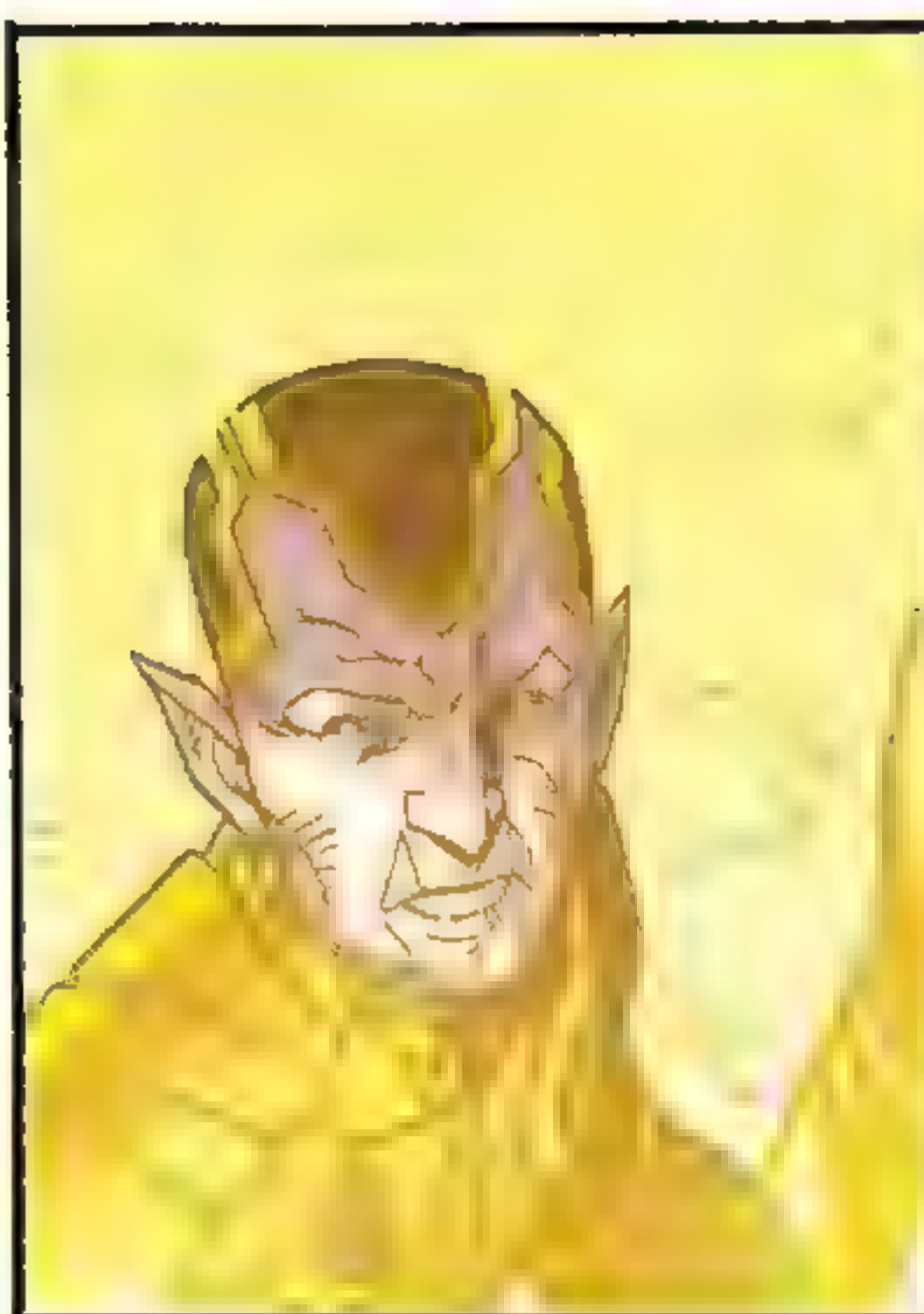
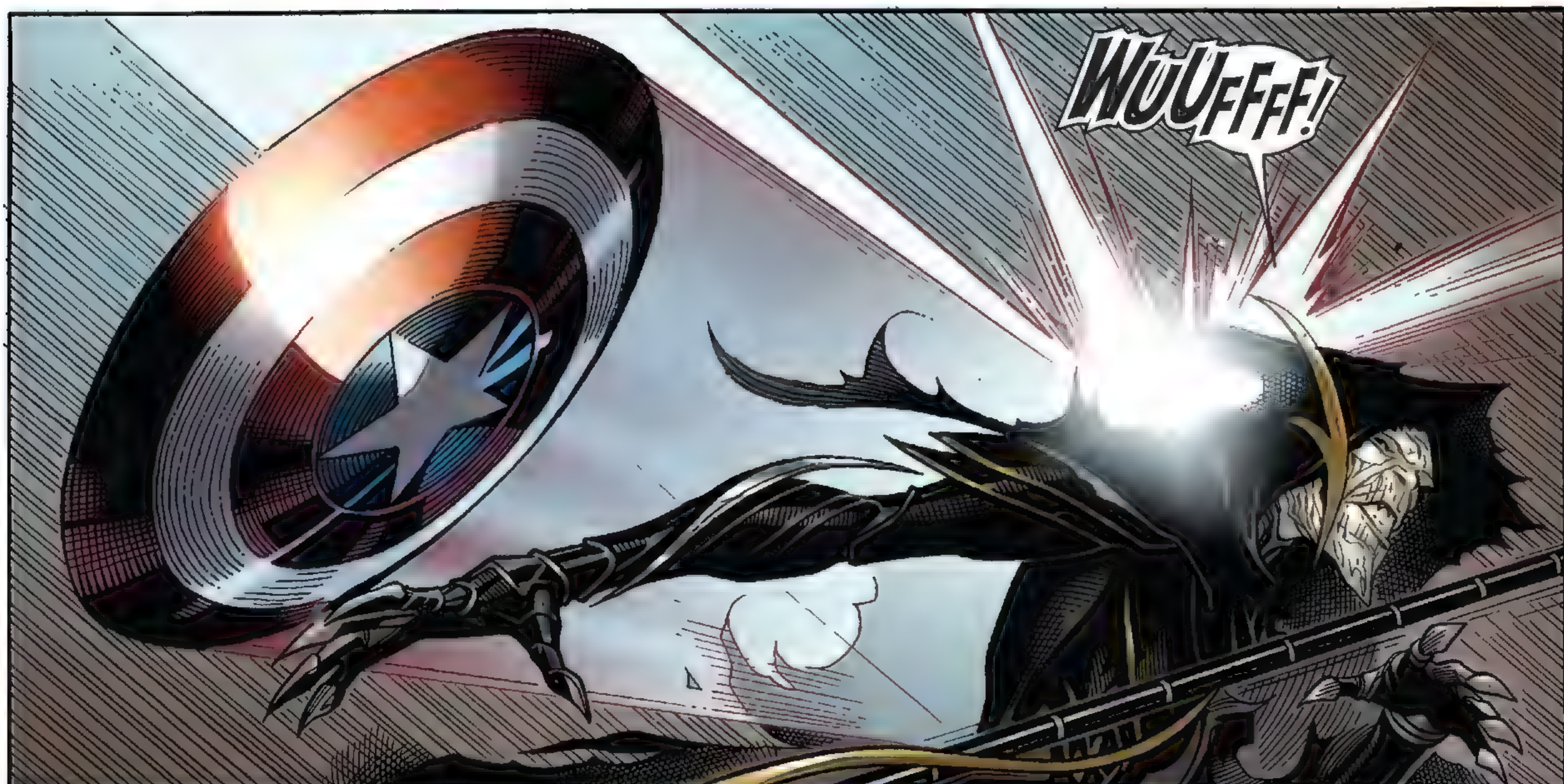


"KILL THIS
BEAST FOR ME...



"MAKE IT
SUFFER."





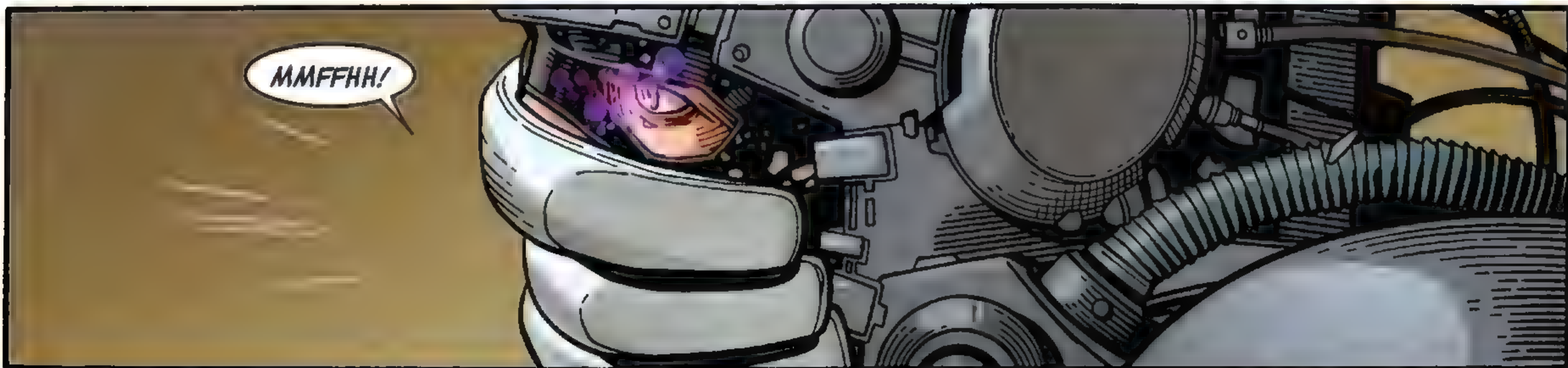
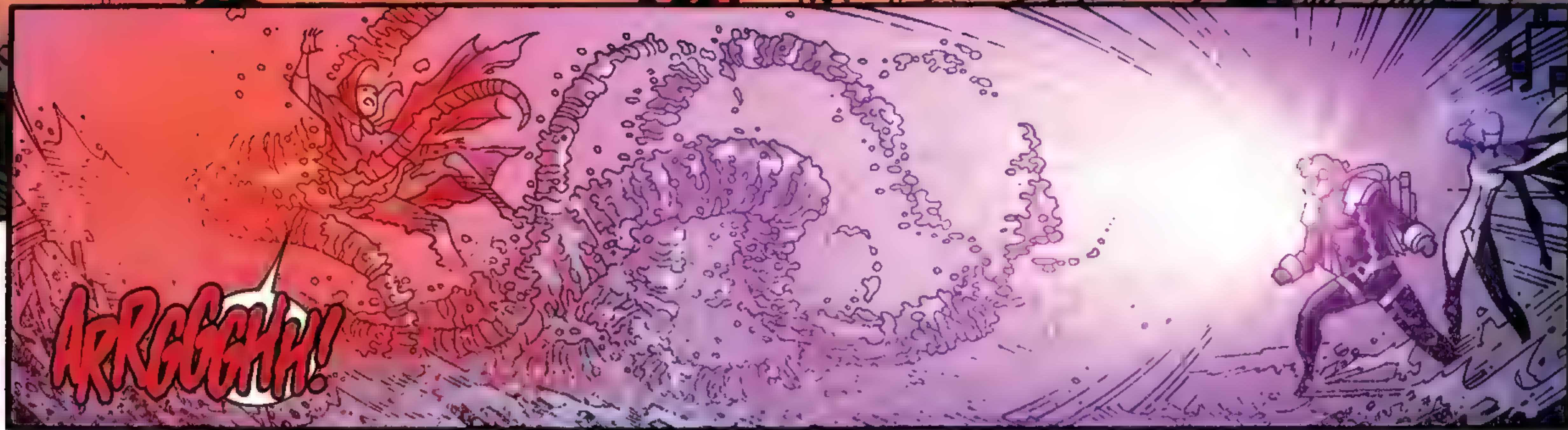
"...NOW THIS
IS MORE
LIKE IT."

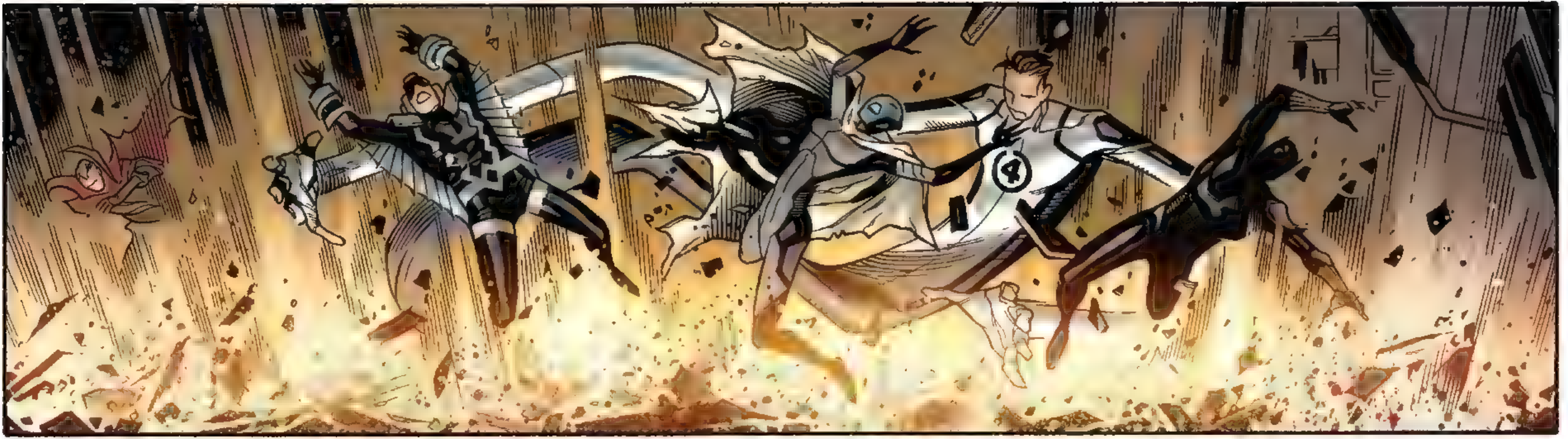


NECROPOLIS.

AGAIN,
INHUMAN!

AGAIN!





OROLLAN.

ARE YOU
WATCHING,
THANE?

THEY ARE
HERE...YOUR
LAST CHANCE
FOR SALVATION--
THE HUMAN
HEROES OF
EARTH.

YOUR ONLY
HOPE.

"DO YOU THINK
THEY CAN SAVE
YOU FROM
THANOS?"

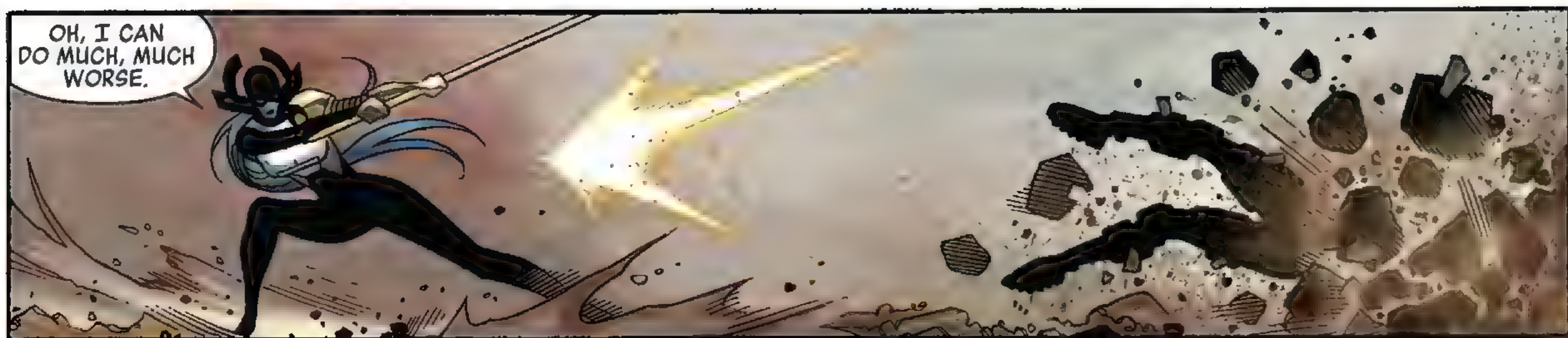


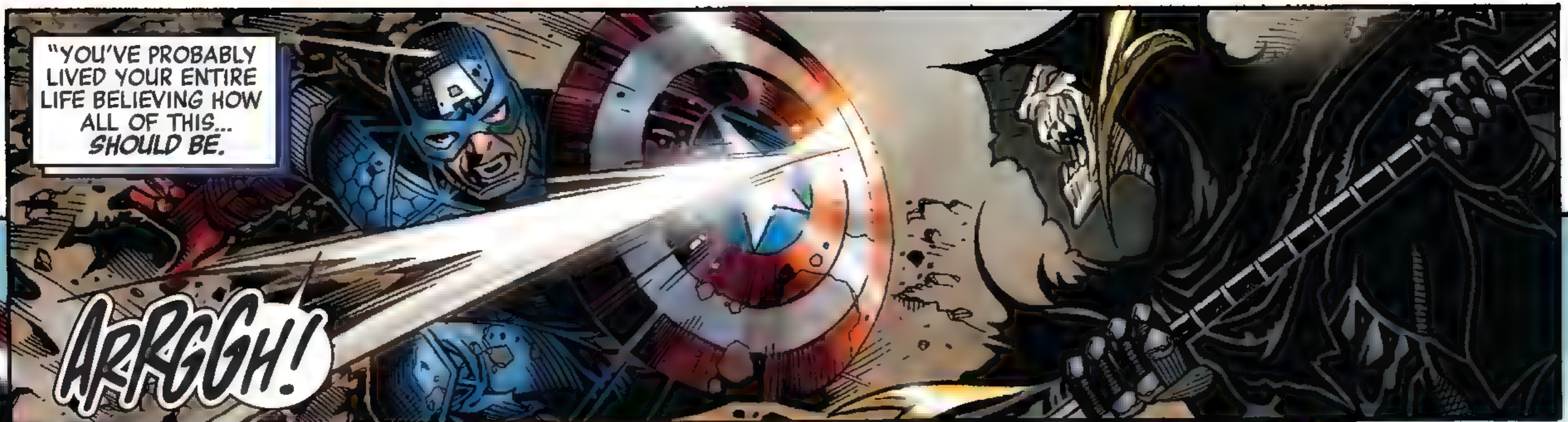
"I DON'T...AND
NEITHER SHOULD YOU."

DAMN.

HOW DID
YOU DO
THAT?

OH, I CAN
DO MUCH, MUCH
WORSE.



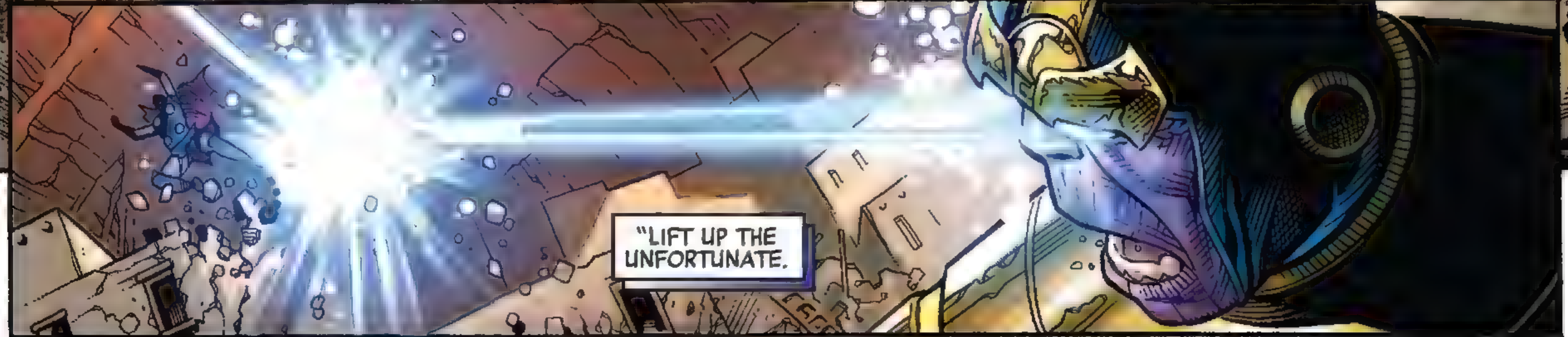


"YOU'VE PROBABLY
LIVED YOUR ENTIRE
LIFE BELIEVING HOW
ALL OF THIS...
SHOULD BE."

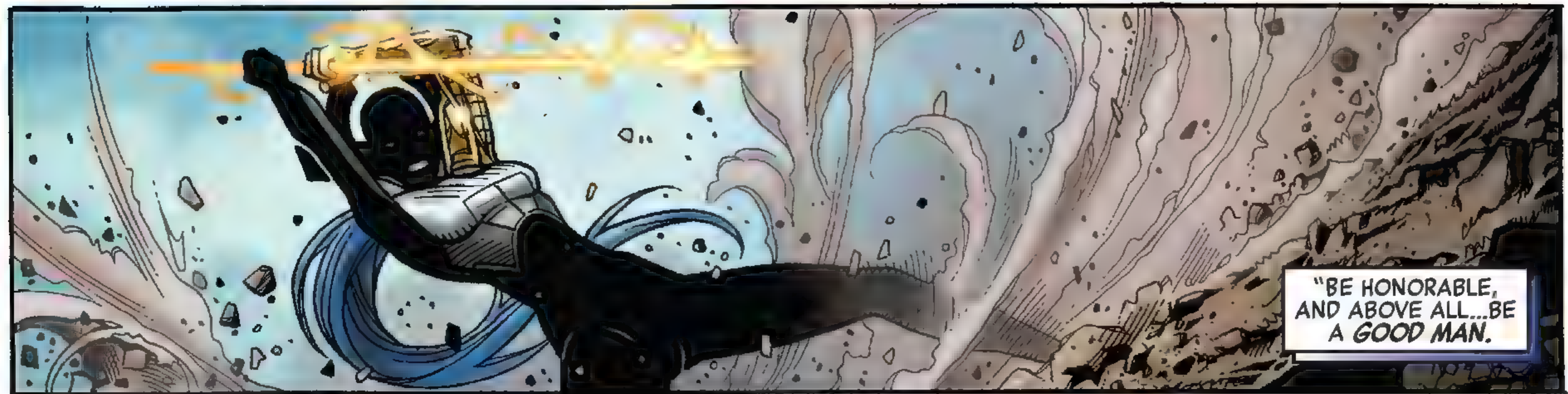
ARRGGH!



"CHERISH
LIFE."



"LIFT UP THE
UNFORTUNATE."



"BE HONORABLE,
AND ABOVE ALL...BE
A GOOD MAN."

"DO THESE THINGS
AND THE UNIVERSE
WILL REWARD YOU
IN SOME WAY.



"IT'S AN ETHOS...
AND A NOBLE ONE
AT THAT.

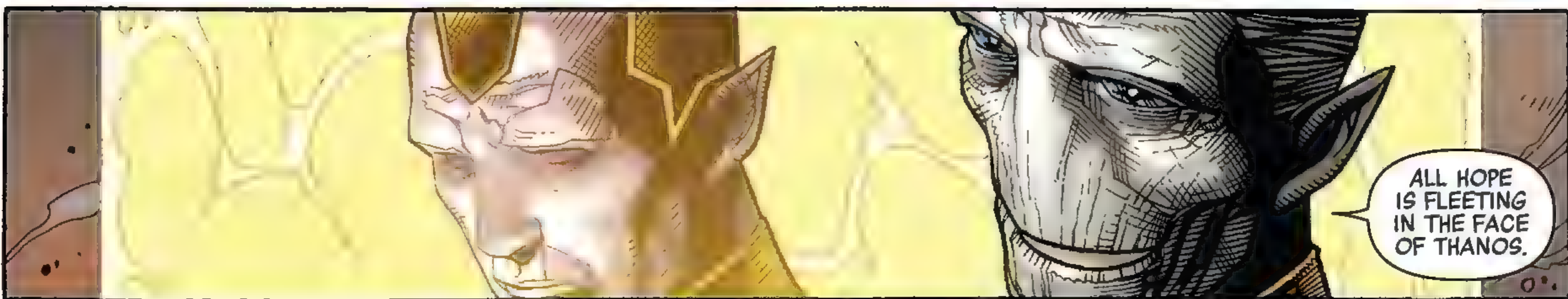
"BELIEVING
IN HOPE.



"LISTEN TO
ME, BOY..."



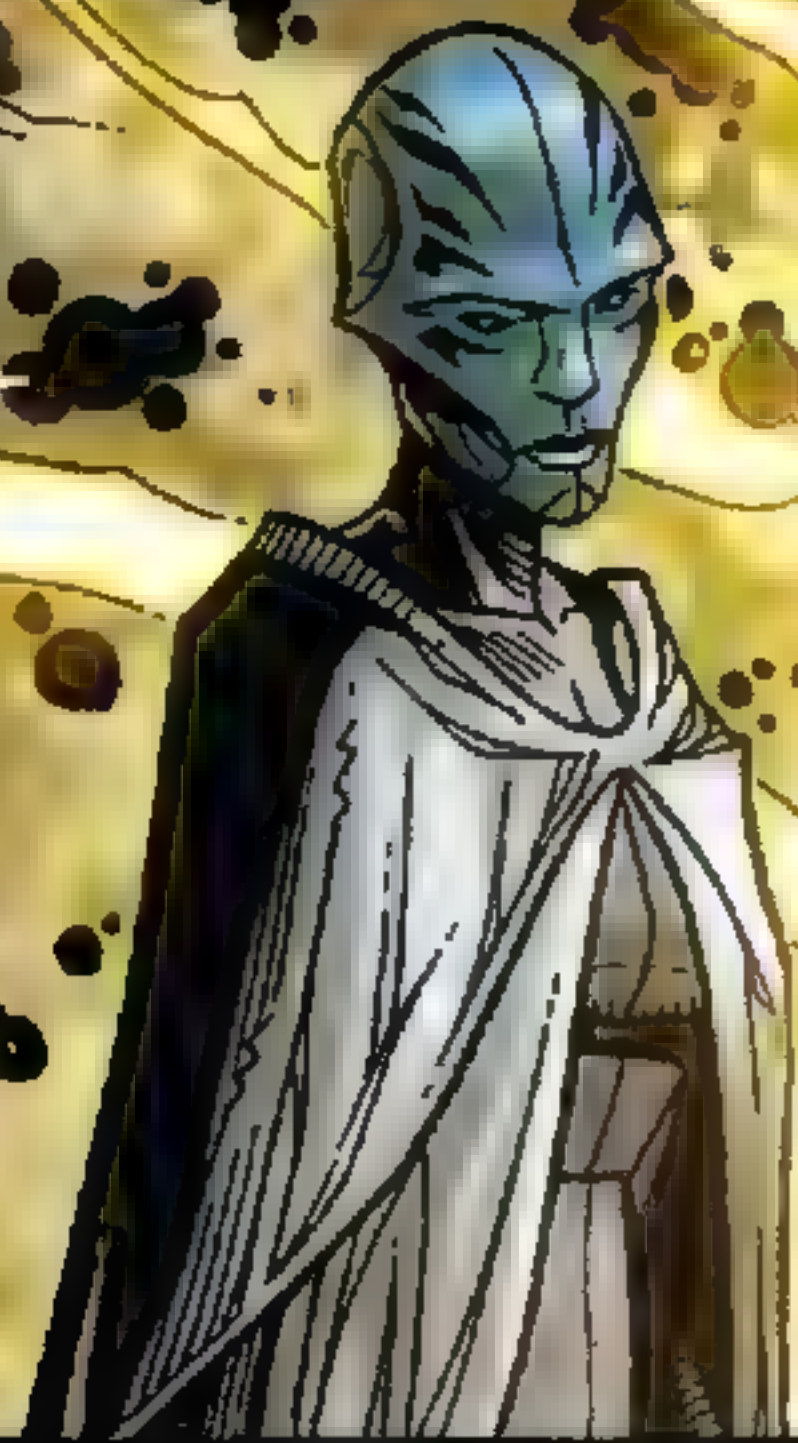
ALL HOPE
IS FLEETING
IN THE FACE
OF THANOS.



NECROPOLIS.

THE BOMB IS FULLY CHARGED, WHICH FOLLOWS UNLOCKING AND CHARGING THE MACHINE...

AND ACCORDING TO THE KNOWLEDGE I TOOK FROM THE INHUMAN KING, ALL THAT REMAINS TO DETONATE THE BOMB IS ACTIVATING THE TRIGGE--



AHEM!

NOW NORMALLY, YOU'RE JUST MY KIND OF CRAZY...BUT THERE ARE PLANS UNDERWAY THAT I AM INVESTED IN.

SO...I'M TORN.



GIVE IT TO ME.

HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT...IF I GET WHAT I WANT?

WHICH IS?

SAME THING I ALWAYS WANT. ME LOOKING LIKE THE SMARTEST GUY IN THE ROOM.

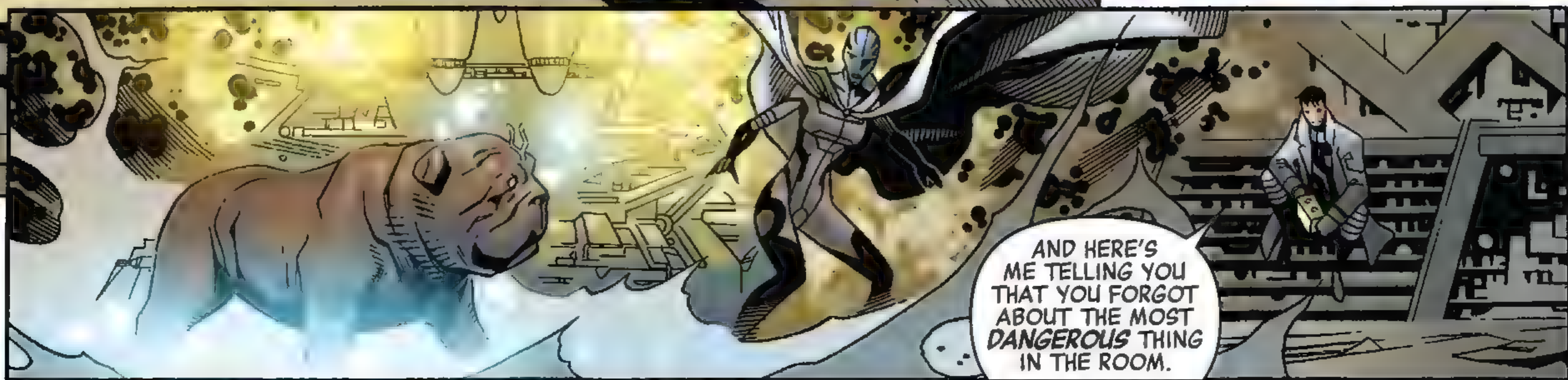
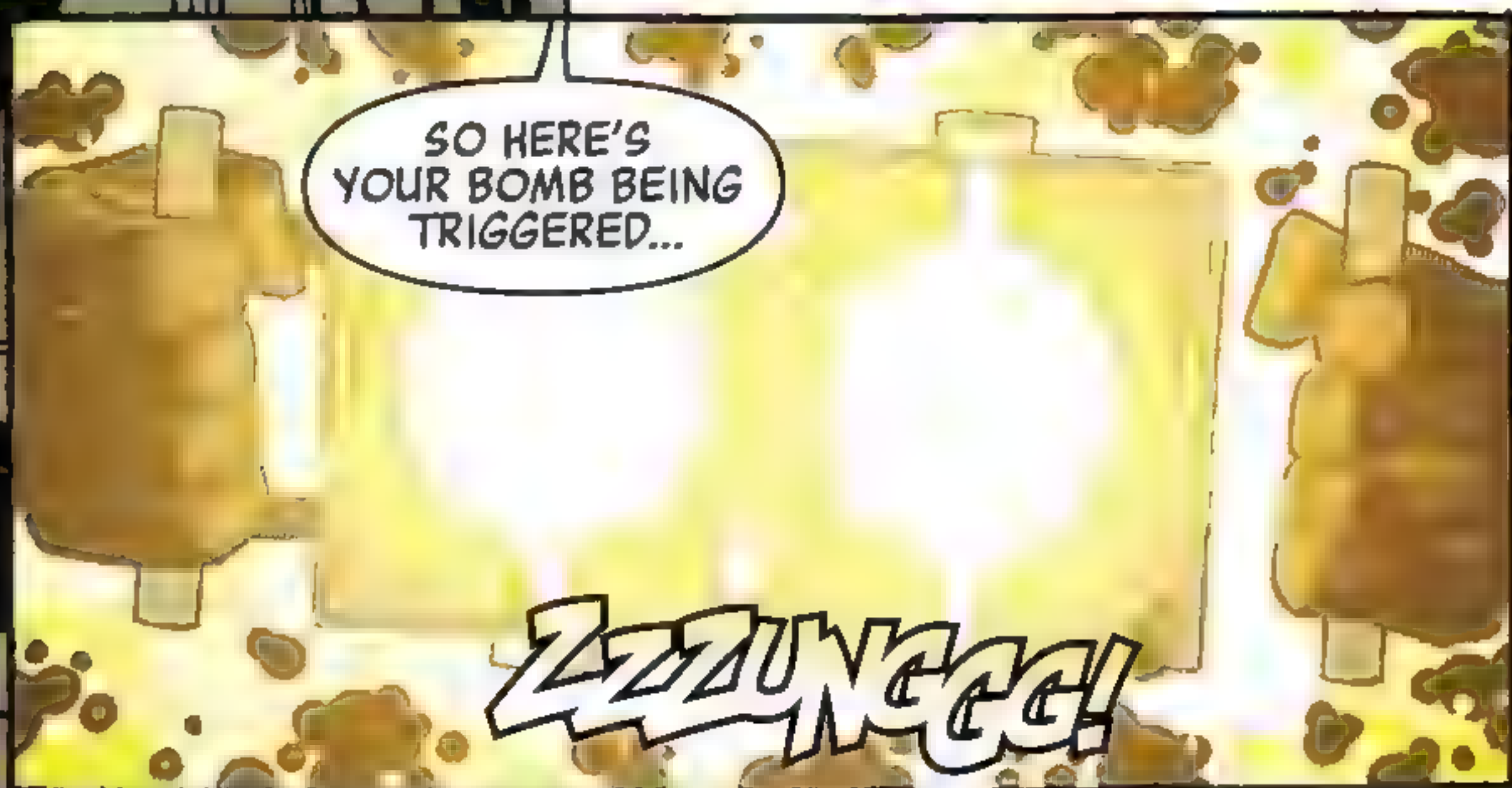


DEAL?

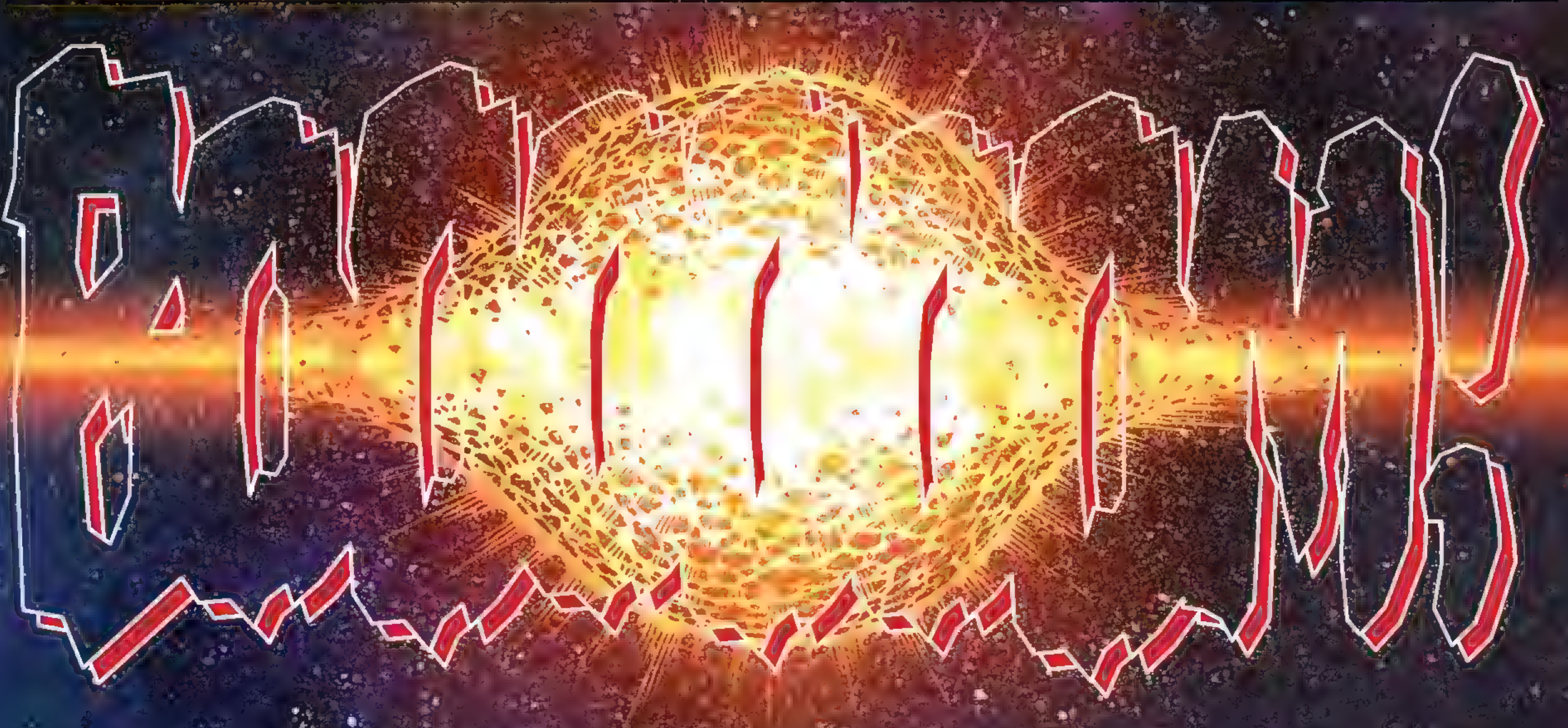
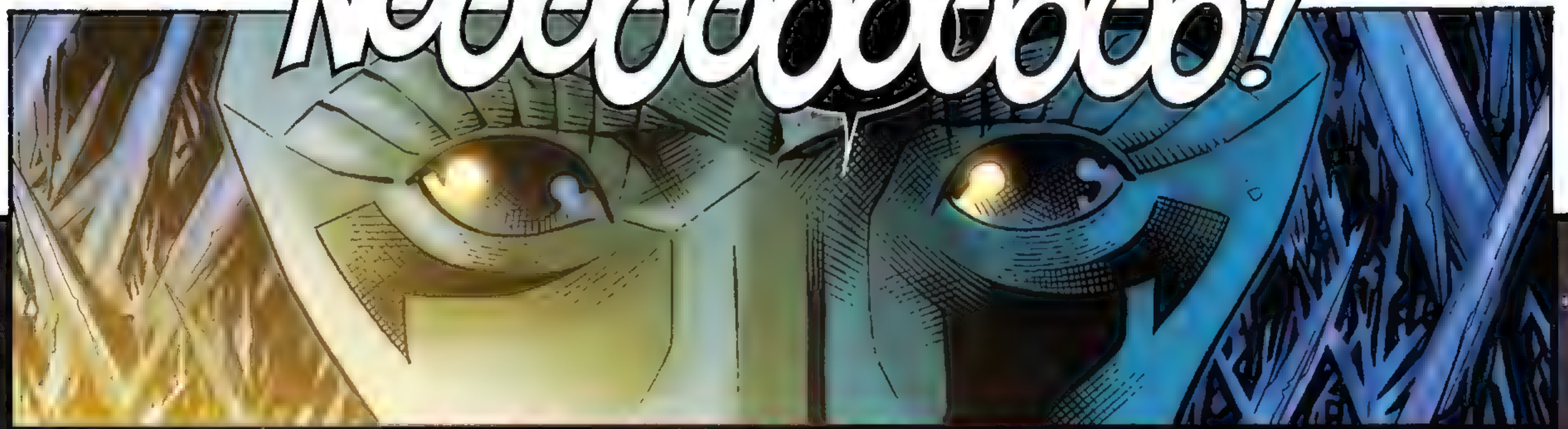
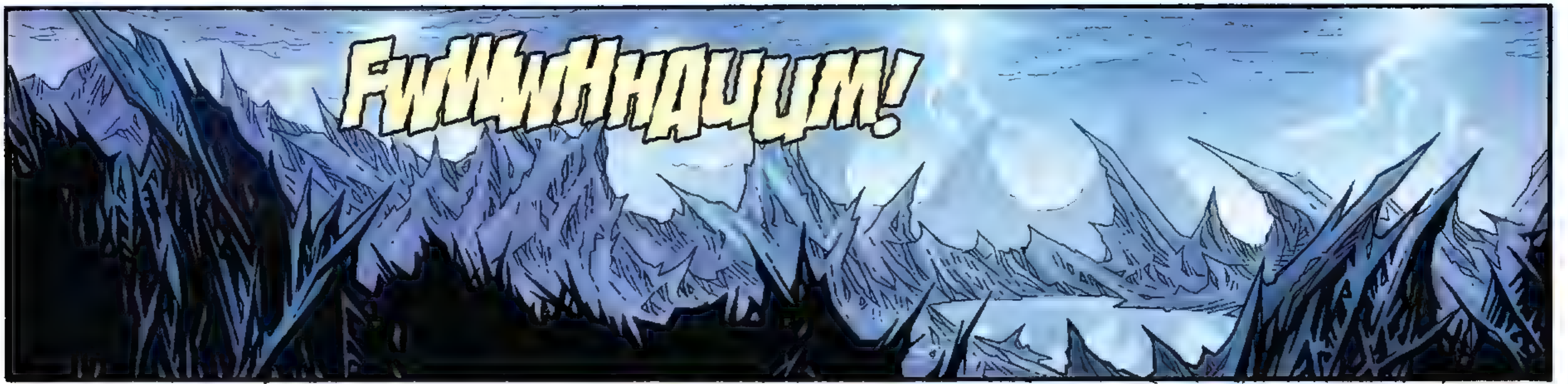
DEAL!

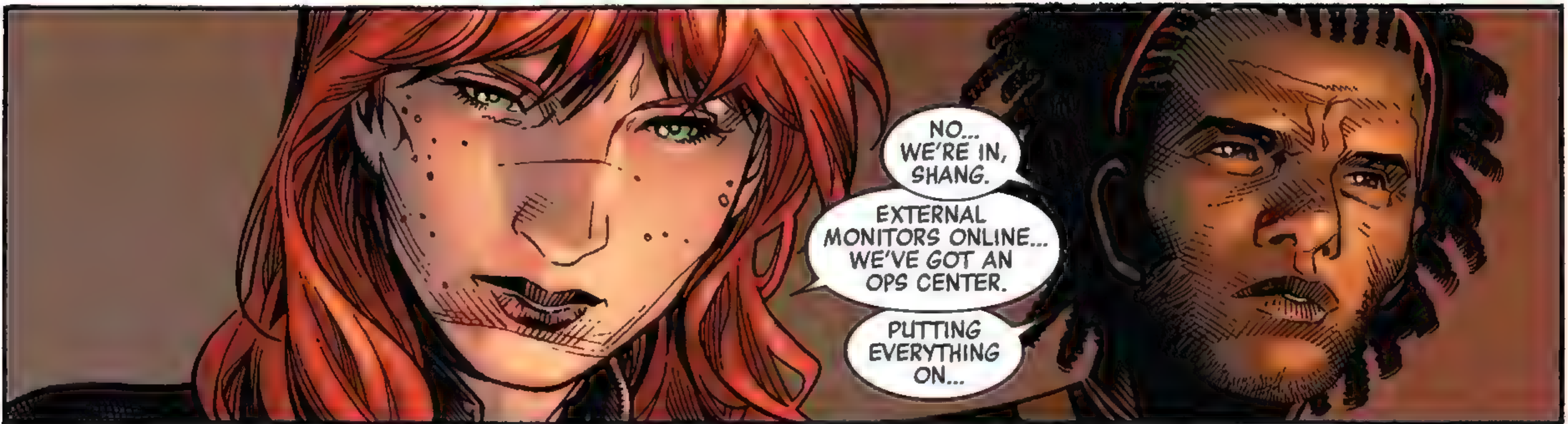
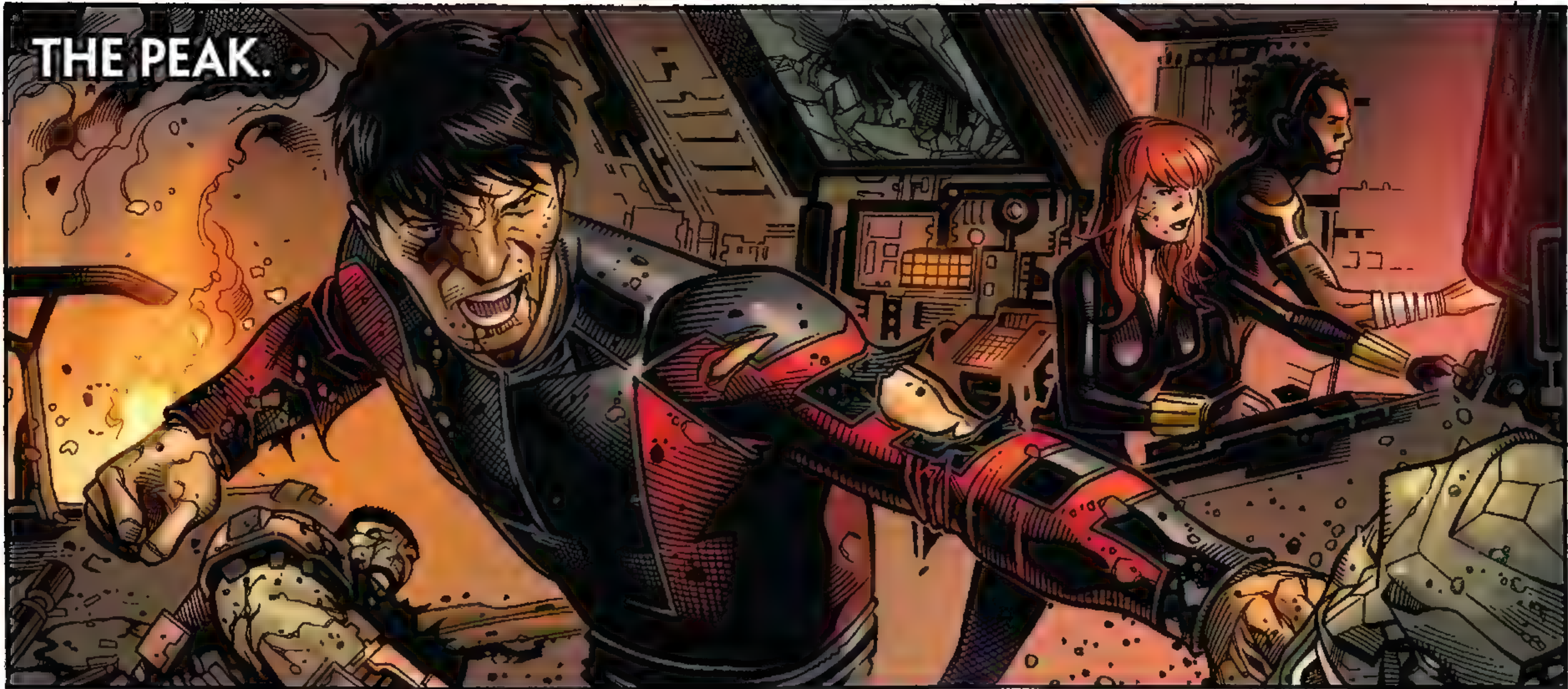
SO HERE'S YOUR BOMB BEING TRIGGERED...

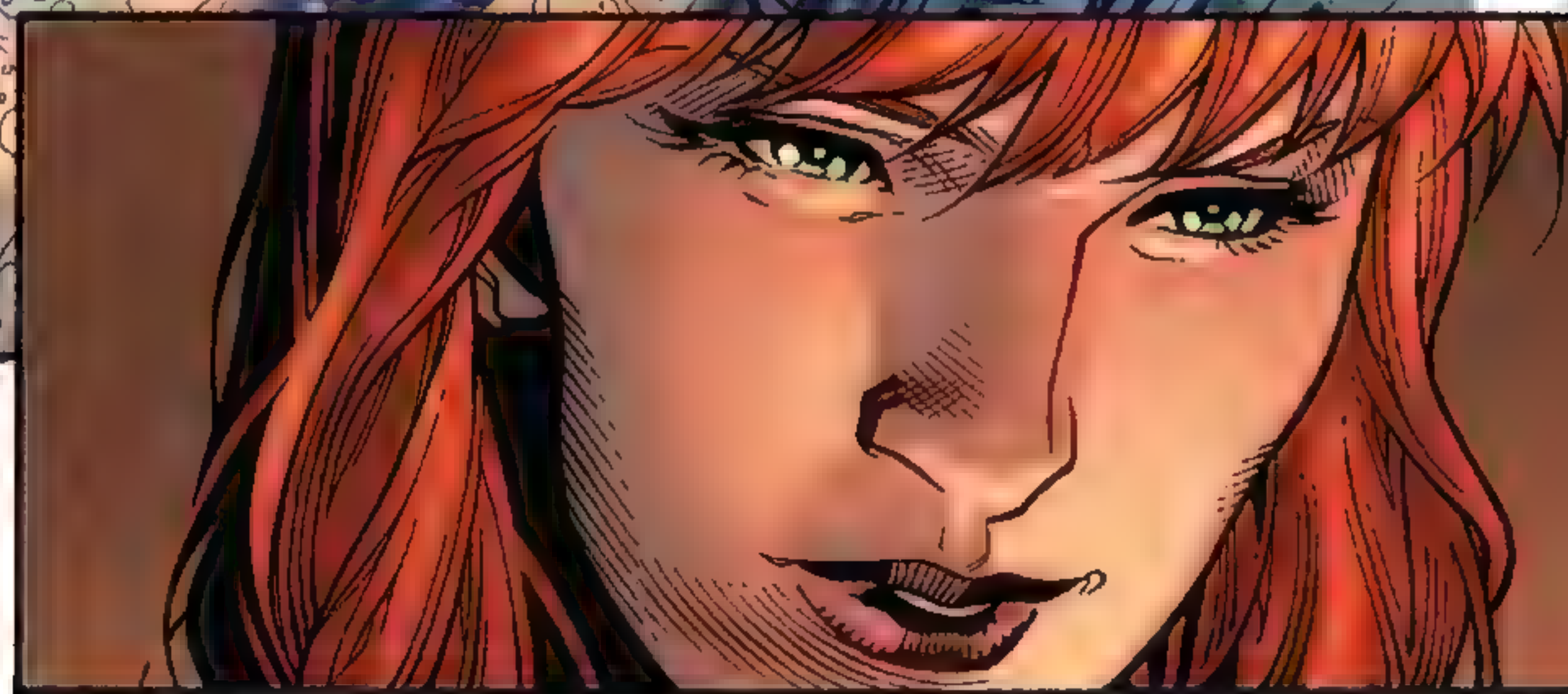
ZZZUNGGG!



AND HERE'S ME TELLING YOU THAT YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN THE ROOM.

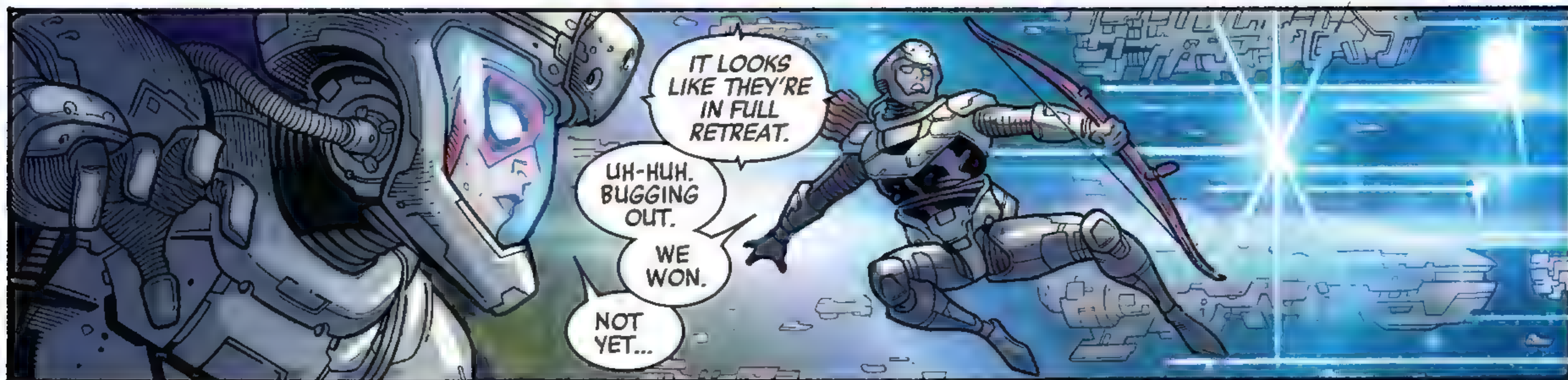






WELL...
THAT WAS
SOMETHING.

AM I
READING
THIS RIGHT,
HAWKEYE?



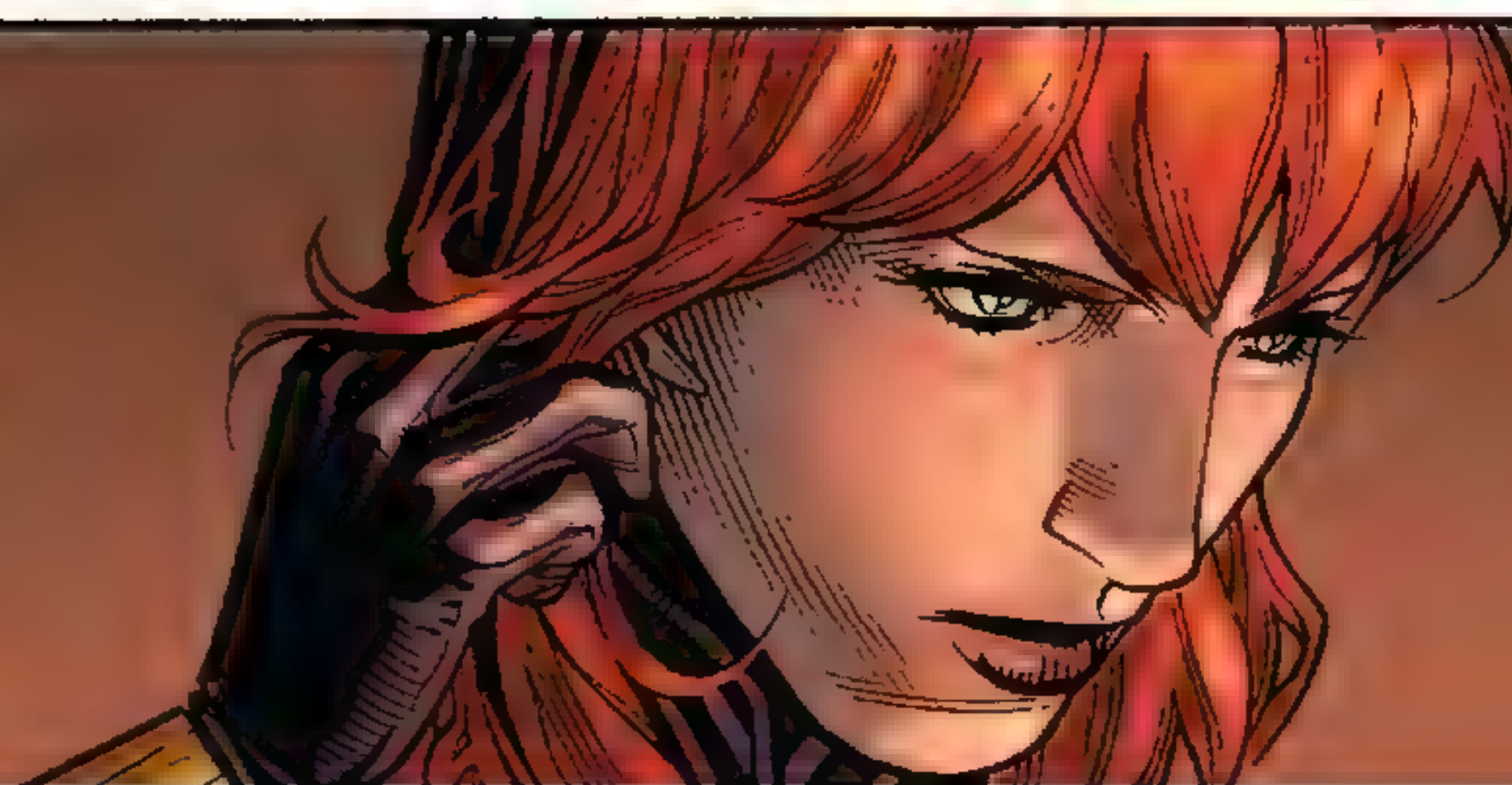
IT LOOKS
LIKE THEY'RE
IN FULL
RETREAT.

UH-HUH.
BUGGING
OUT.

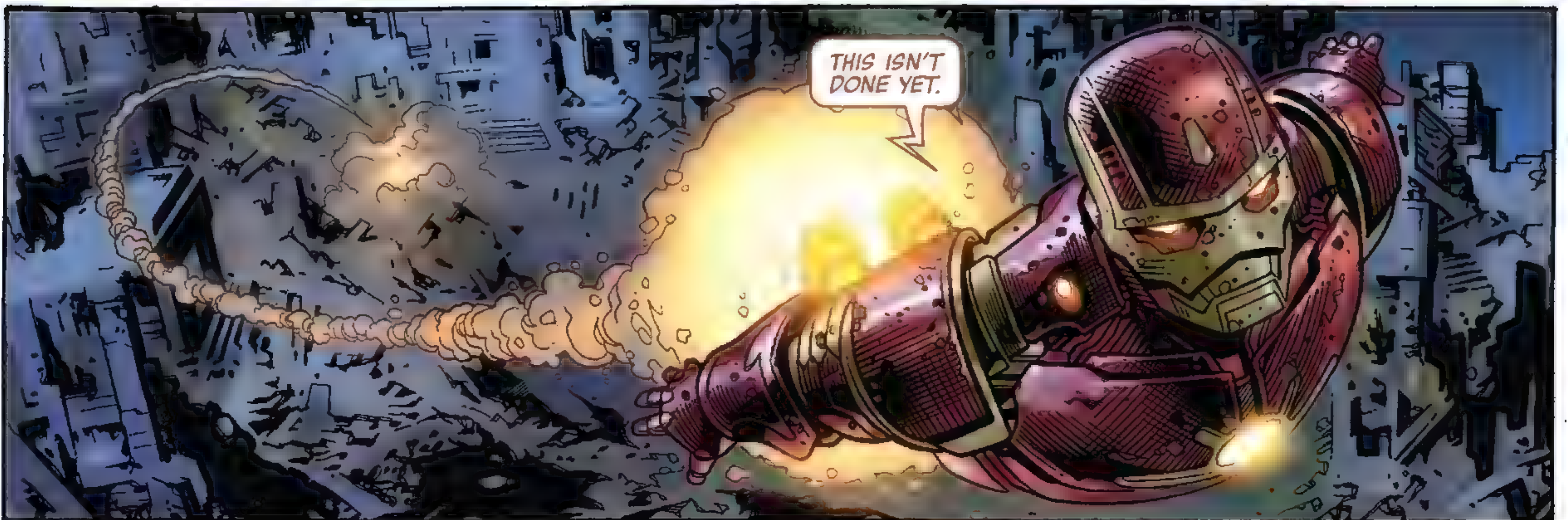
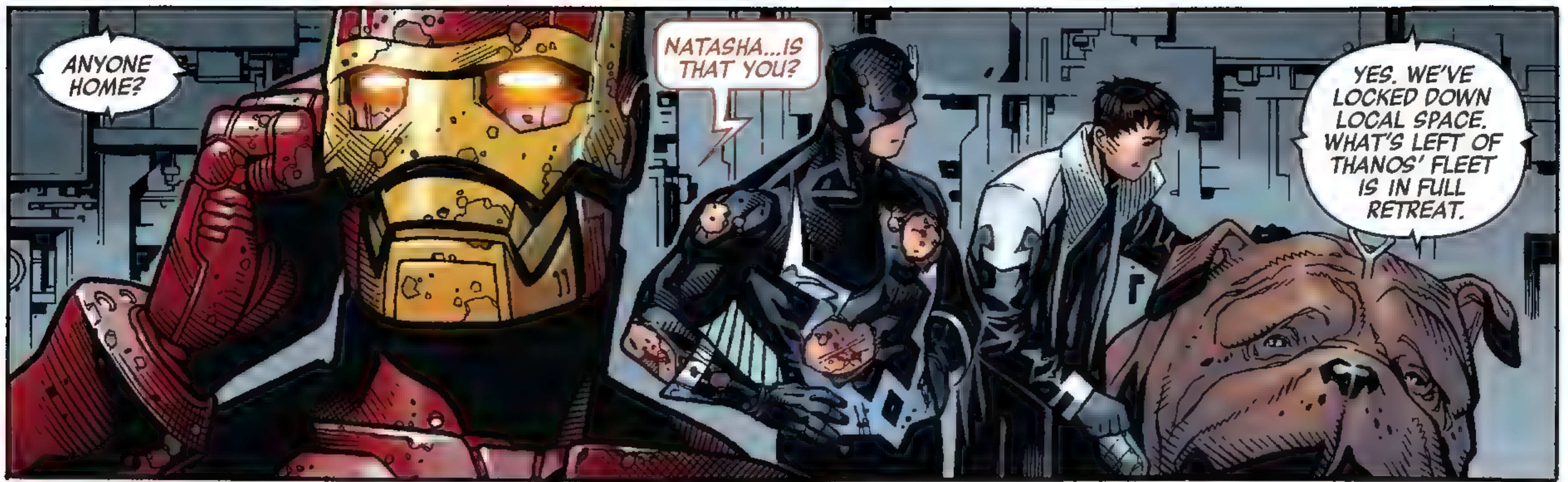
WE
WON.

NOT
YET...

ANY WORD
FROM THE
EARTH,
WIDOW?



PATCHING IN
TO AVENGERS
TOWER...BEING
REROUTED...





OROLLAN.

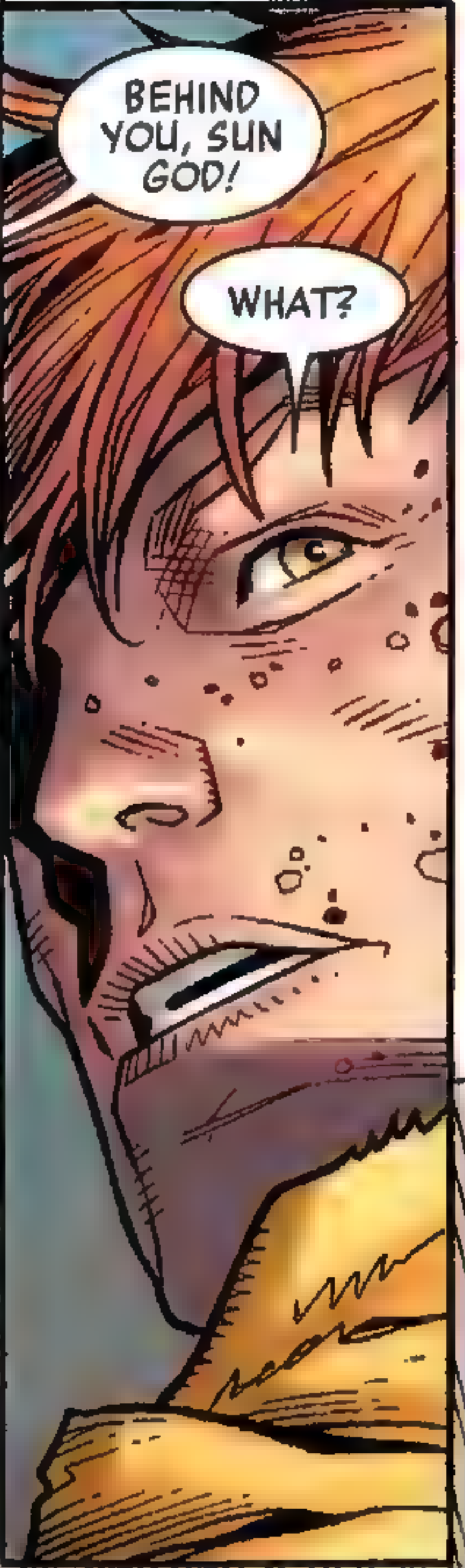
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT I SHOULD GIVE UP...THAT THERE ISN'T A CHANCE? WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE.

NOT THE WAY YOU MEAN.



"NOT IN ANY WAY YOU WOULD IMAGINE."



BEHIND YOU, SUN GOD!

WHAT?

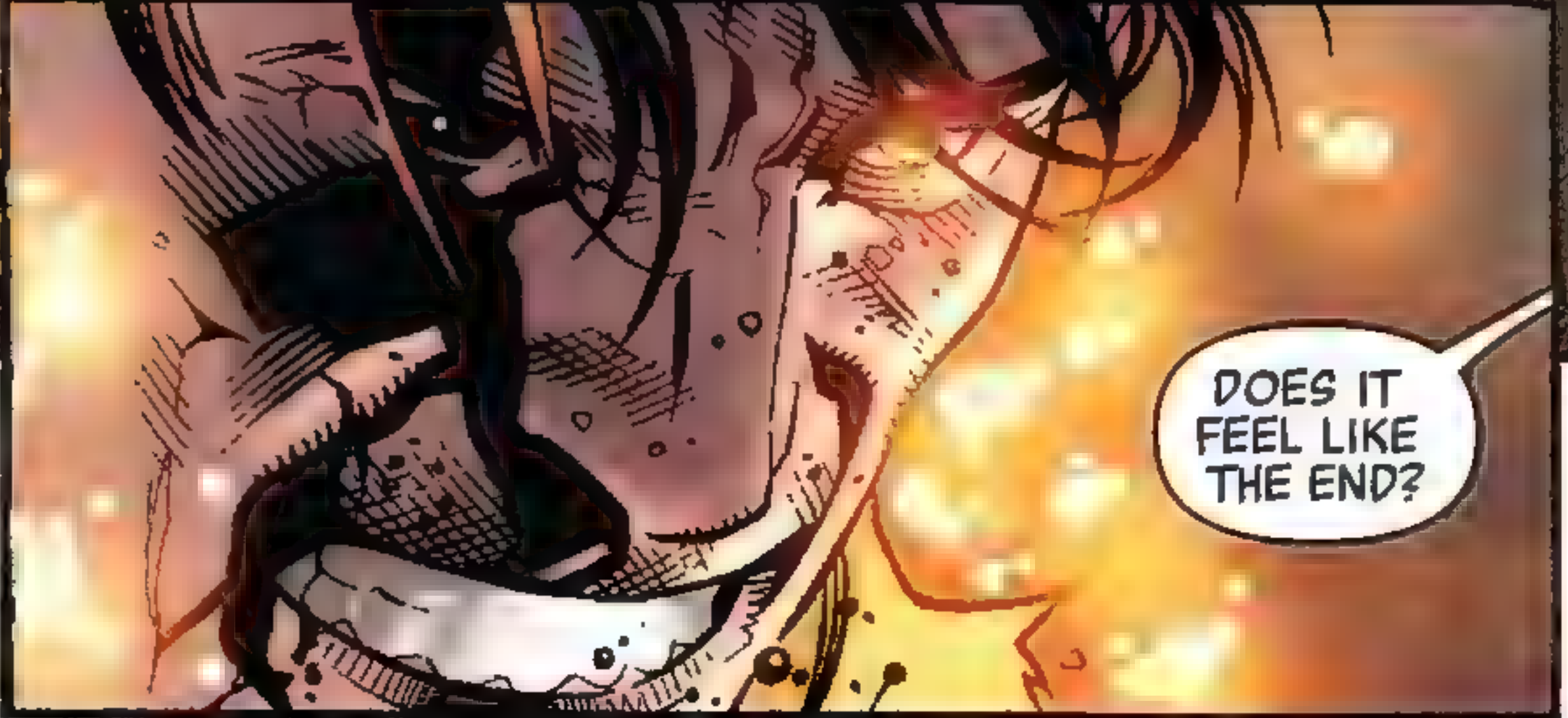


AARRGGGHHHHH!

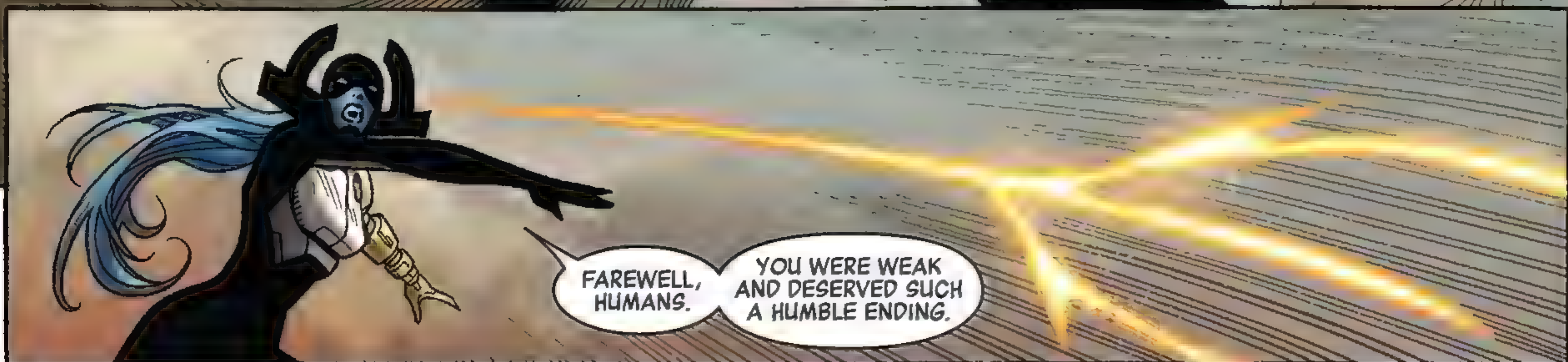


DOES IT STING?

DOES IT BURN?



DOES IT FEEL LIKE THE END?







CALL
IT A GIFT
THEN.



UHHHHH...

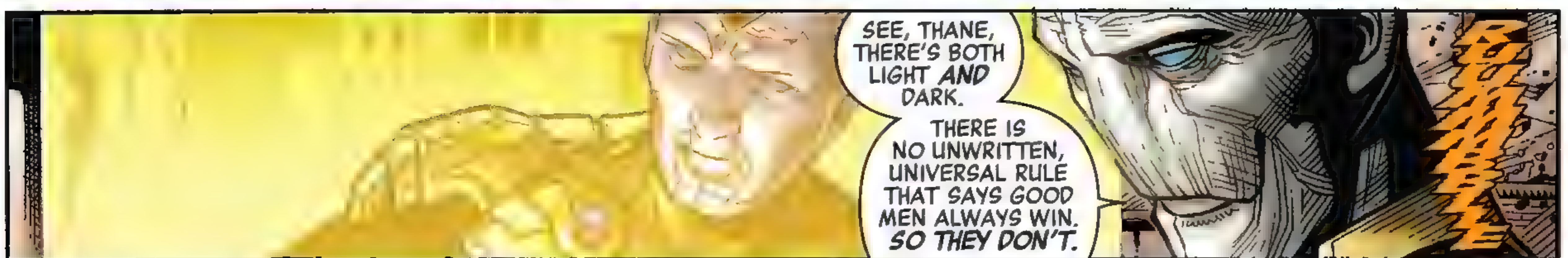
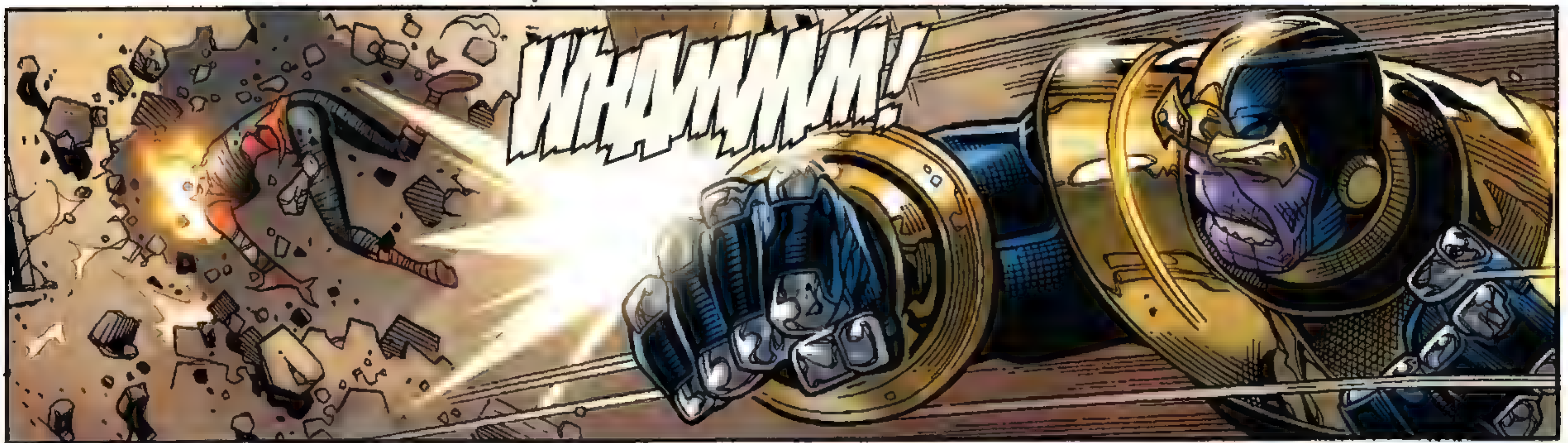
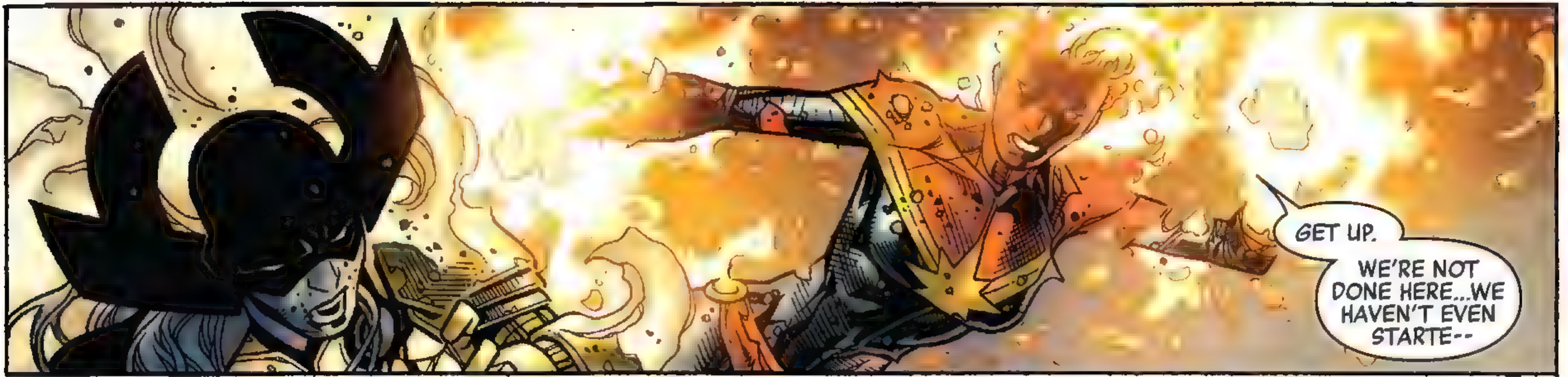


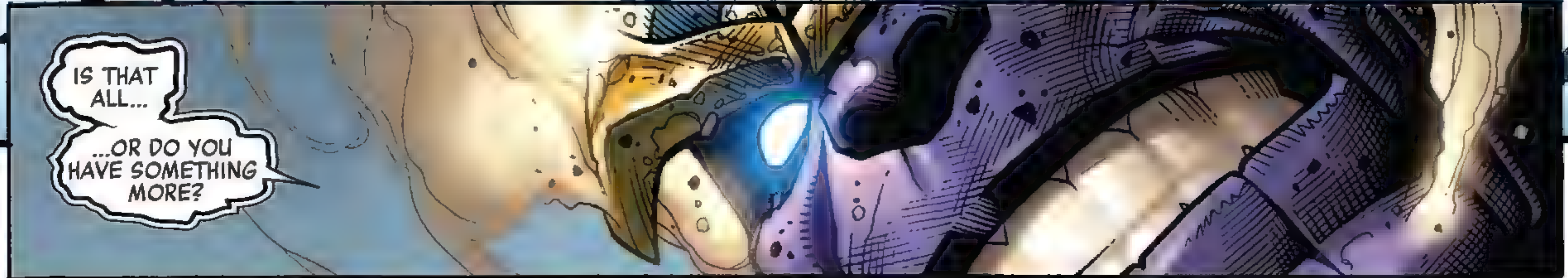
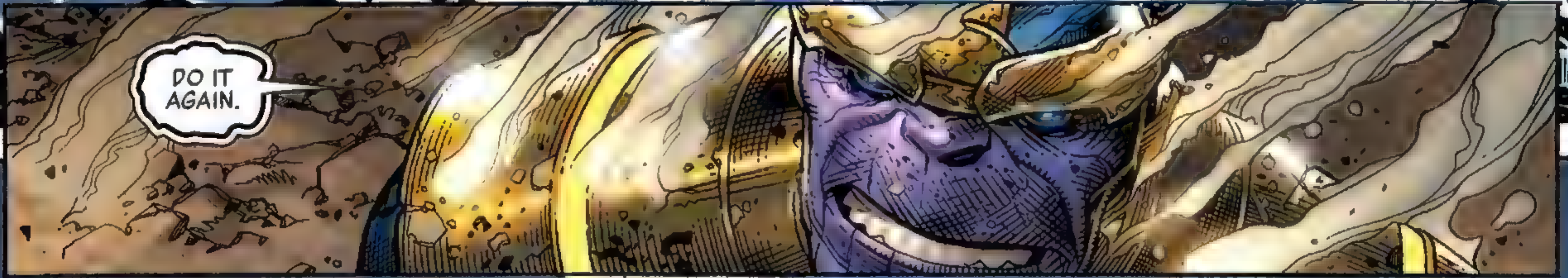
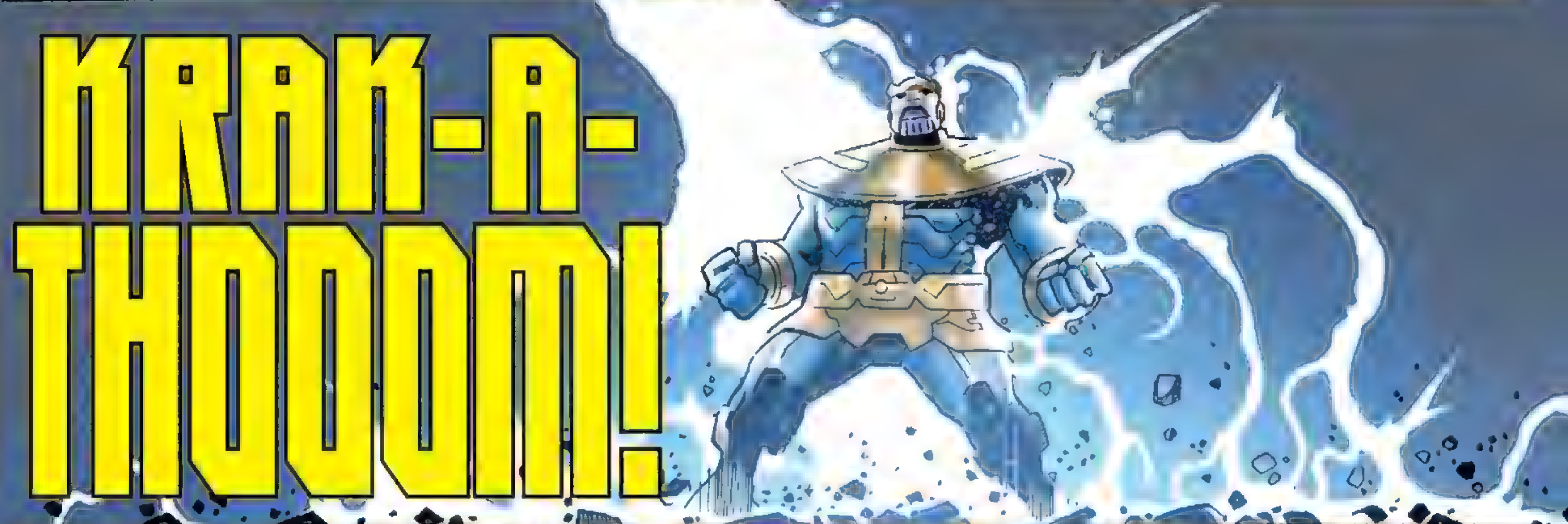
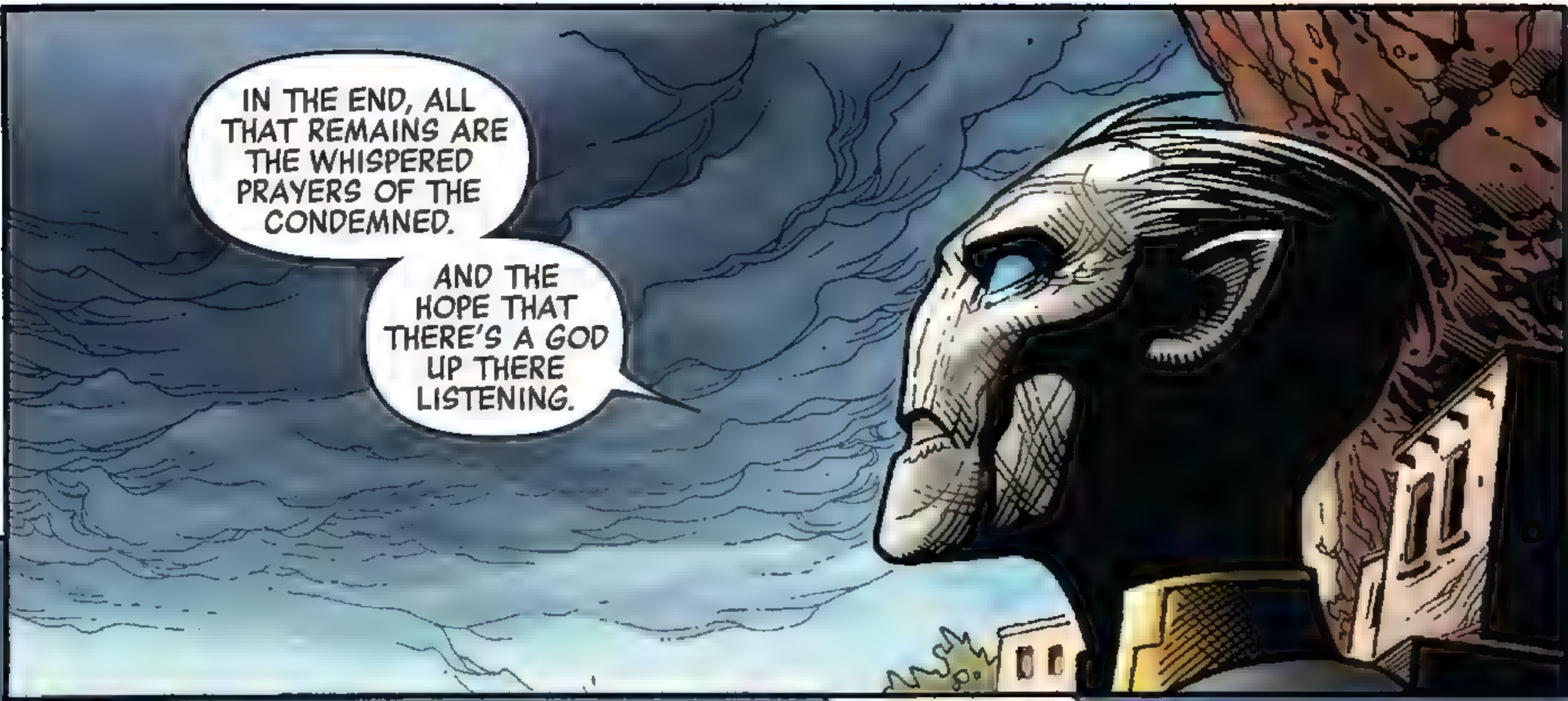
CORYUS!
CORVUS!



I HAVE
IT.

I HAVE
YOU.







WHAM!



ONE OF US
WILL PERISH
HERE TODAY,
TITAN!

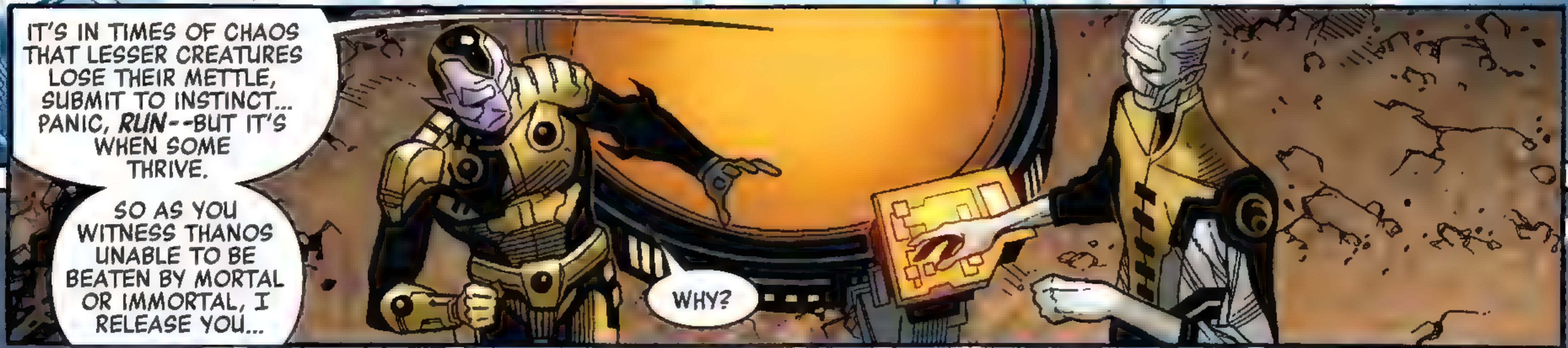
ONE
OF US DIES
NOW!



WHAM!



"DON'T YOU LOVE
CHAOS, THANE?"

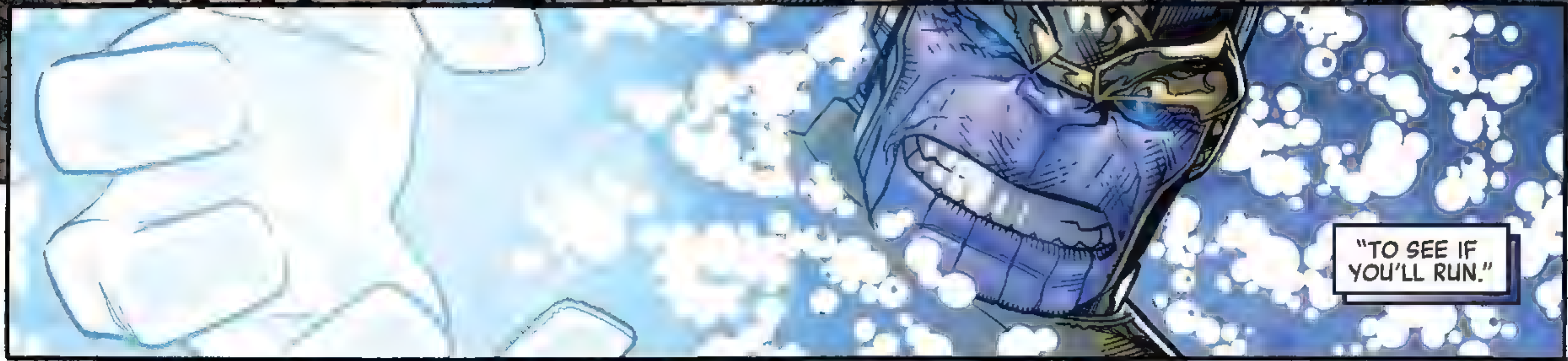


IT'S IN TIMES OF CHAOS
THAT LESSER CREATURES
LOSE THEIR METTLE,
SUBMIT TO INSTINCT...
PANIC, *RUN*--BUT IT'S
WHEN SOME
THRIVE.

SO AS YOU
WITNESS THANOS
UNABLE TO BE
BEATEN BY MORTAL
OR IMMORTAL, I
RELEASE YOU...

WHY?

"TO SEE IF
YOU'VE EVOLVED.

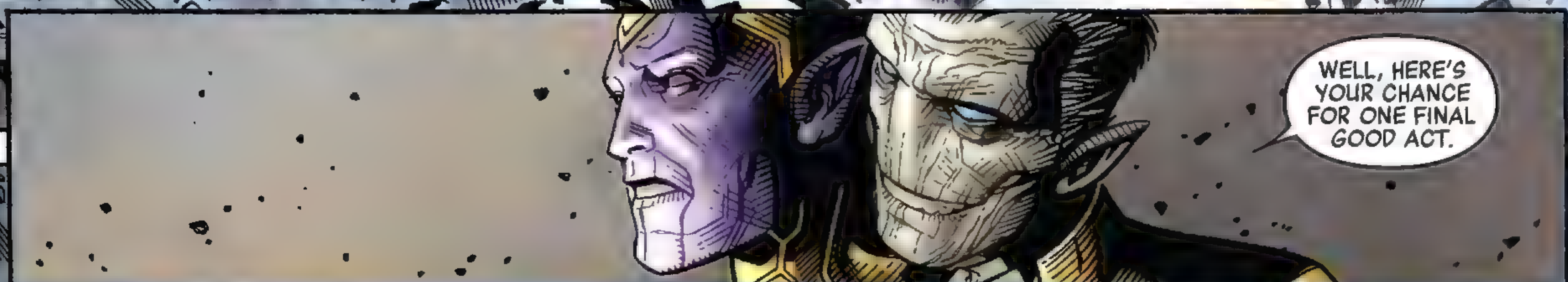


"TO SEE IF
YOU'LL RUN."



"YOU'VE SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE RUNNING FROM WHO YOU ARE."

"TRYING TO BE THAT GOOD AND NOBLE MAN..."



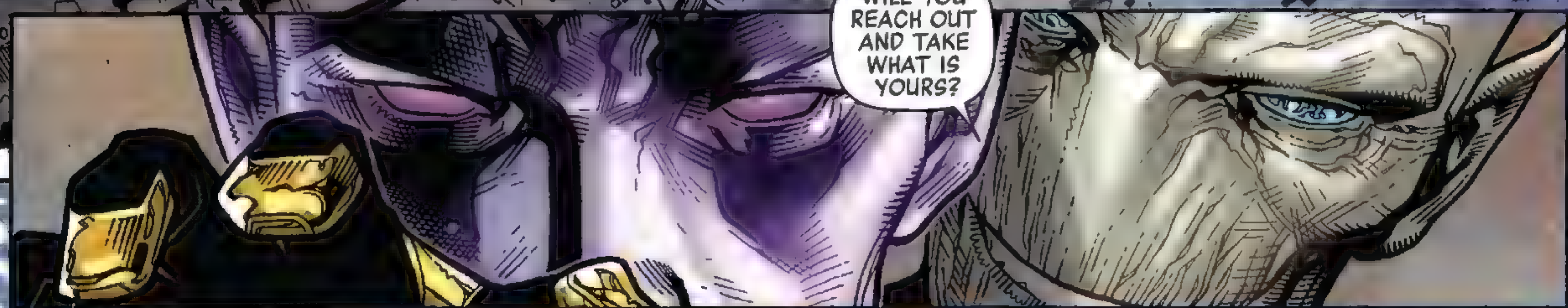
WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE FOR ONE FINAL GOOD ACT.



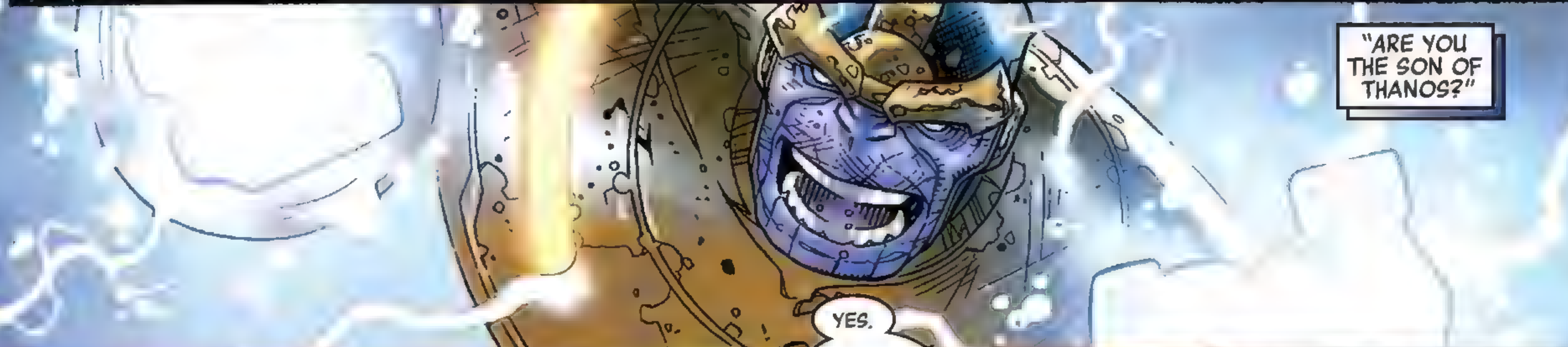
"YOU CAN SAVE EVERYONE, BUT IN DOING SO, YOU'LL BECOME WHAT YOU'VE FOUGHT FOR SO LONG."



YOU HAVE A DECISION TO MAKE, BOY.



WILL YOU REACH OUT AND TAKE WHAT IS YOURS?



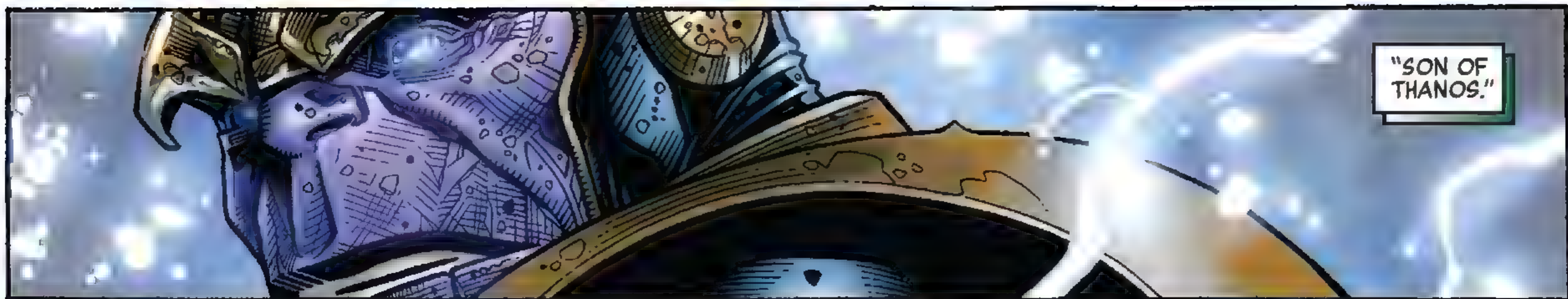
"ARE YOU THE SON OF THANOS?"

YES.

I AM THANE...

SON OF THANOS.





"SON OF
THANOS!"



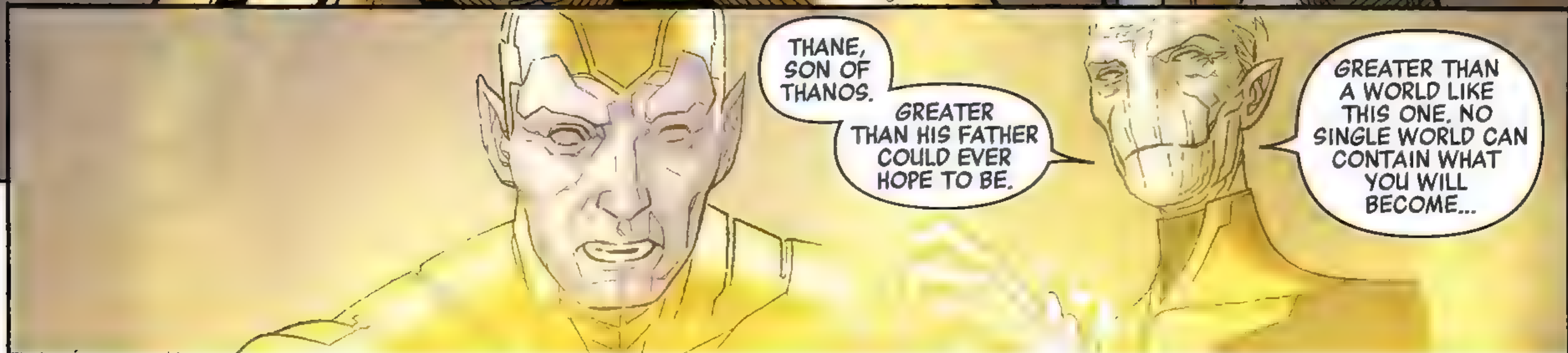
FWASH!



WHAT
HAVE I
DONE?

IF YOU'VE
WONDERED WHAT
WAS WORSE THAN
DEATH...

NOW YOU
KNOW.



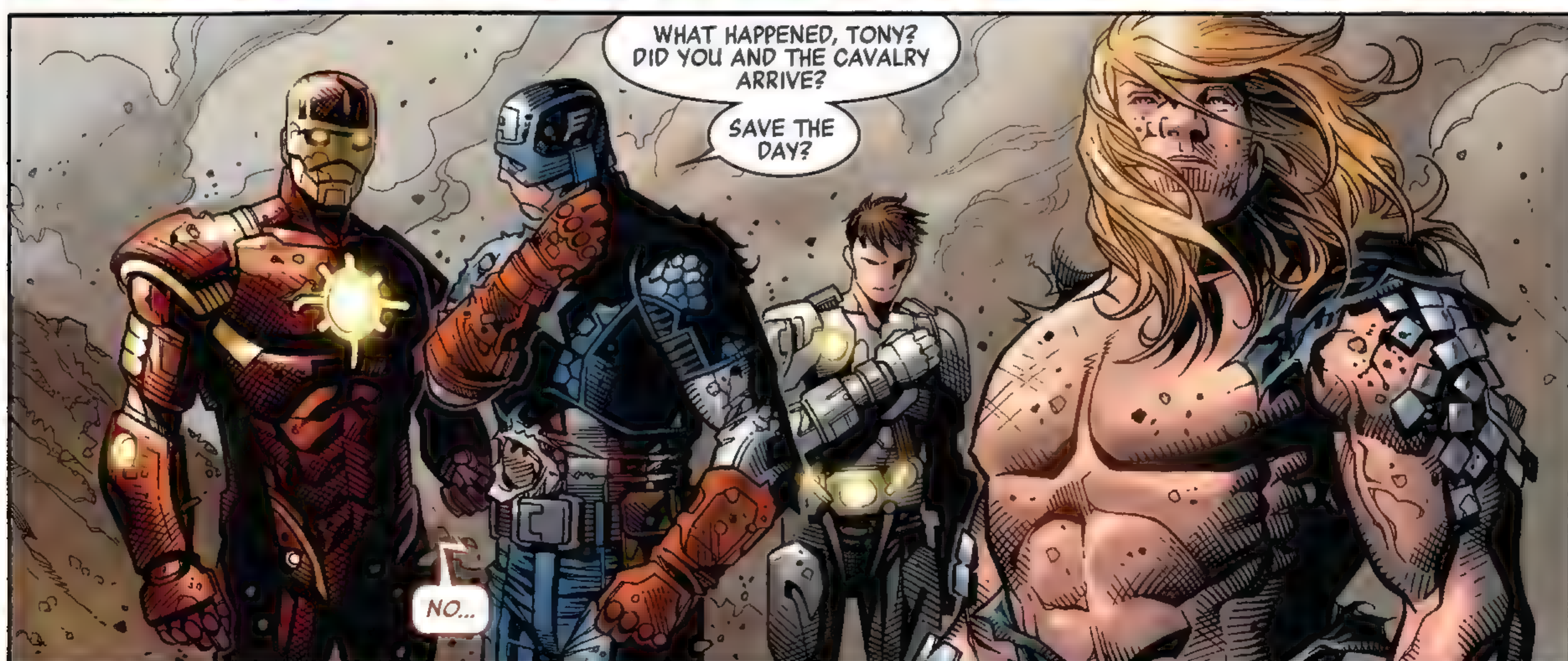
THANE,
SON OF
THANOS.

GREATER
THAN HIS FATHER
COULD EVER
HOPE TO BE.

GREATER THAN
A WORLD LIKE
THIS ONE. NO
SINGLE WORLD CAN
CONTAIN WHAT
YOU WILL
BECOME...

"AFTER ALL...WHAT
IS ONE WORLD FOR
A MAN THAT COULD
HAVE MANY?"

"WAKE UP,
STEVE."



"LIVING
DEATH."





EPILOGUE



THE HIMALAYAS.
ONCE THE LOCATION OF
NOW-FALLEN ATILAN.

THIS FEELS CEREMONIAL, BROTHER.

IS IT OUR FUNERAL?

I THINK IT SHOULD BE.

AFTER ALL, WHAT COULD THE ROYAL FAMILY-- ANY OF THE INHUMANS, REALLY-- BELIEVE EXCEPT THAT WE ARE DEAD.

THAT YOU WERE KILLED BY THANOS, AND THAT I DIED IN THE DESTRUCTION OF ATILAN.

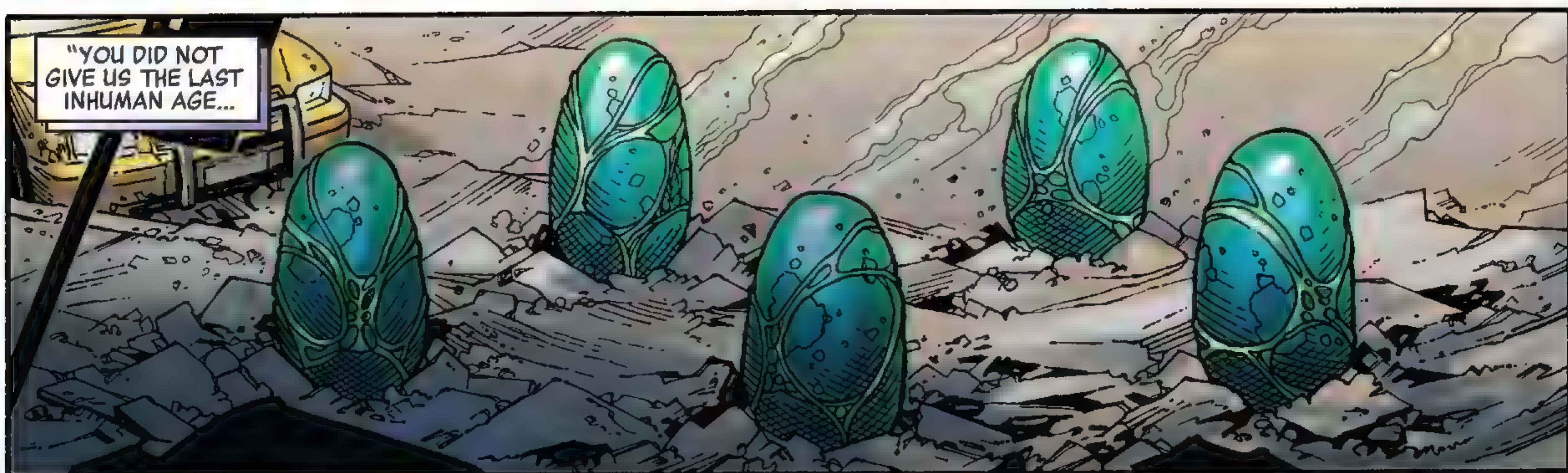
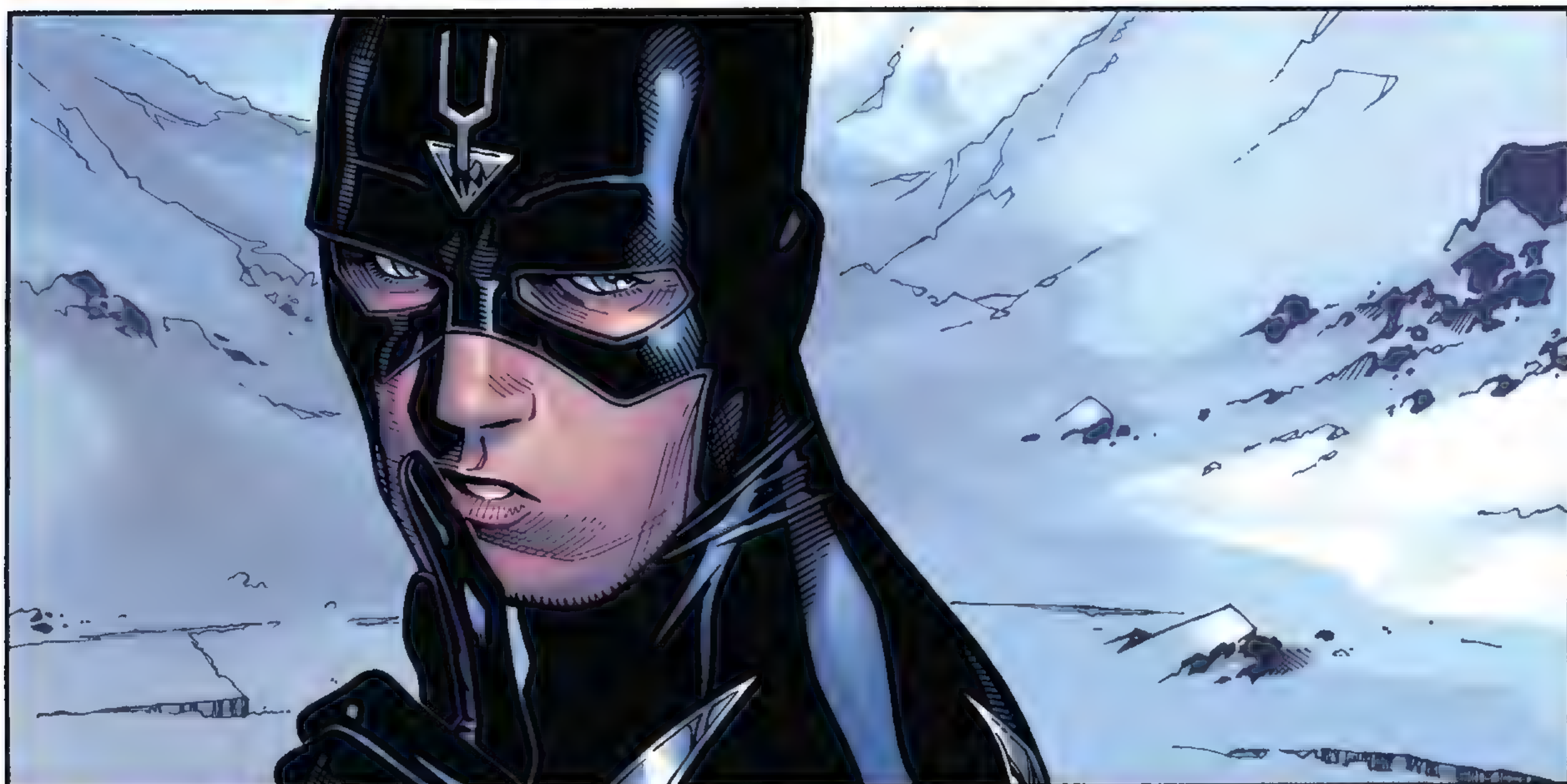
THEY WILL MOURN US...

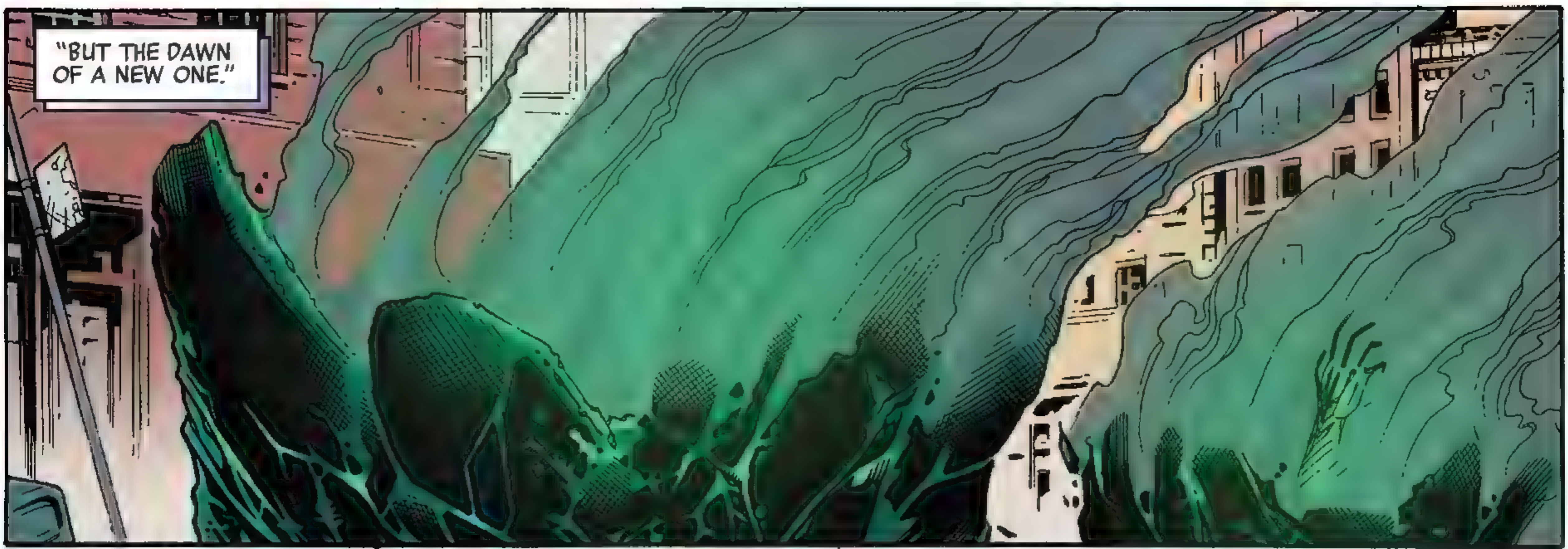
YOU MORE THAN I, PERHAPS, BUT THEY WILL MOURN US.

BECAUSE WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THEM, ARE WE?

WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE LEAVING THE CODEX HERE-- WHERE IT'S BEEN HIDDEN BEFORE-- TO BE FOUND BY WHOEVER WOULD TAKE UP YOUR MANTLE?

BUT I CAN'T STOP THE SPIDERS FROM CRAWLING THROUGH MY MIND... WEAVING THE SAME QUESTION IN ALL THEIR WEBS... "WHY?"





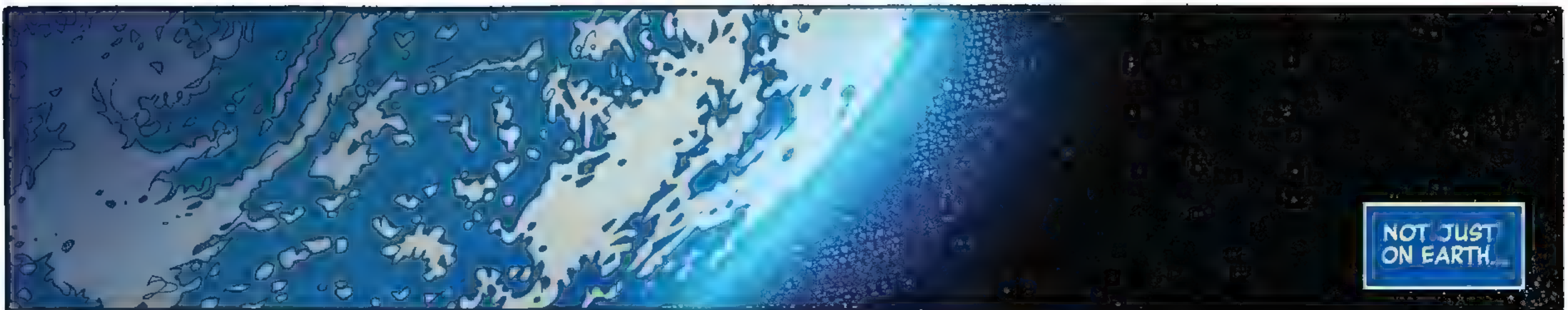
"BUT THE DAWN
OF A NEW ONE."



WHAT FOLLOWED
WAS THE NATURAL
ORDER OF THINGS



THE REBUILDING
OF WHAT WAS
BROKEN



NOT JUST
ON EARTH

BUT IN THE
HEAVENS AS WELL.

ON WHAAN PRIME, THE
EX NIHILI MOURNED THEIR
FALLEN BROTHER, AND
CELEBRATED THEIR
RE-FORMED FAMILY.

REDEDICATING THEMSELVES
TO BEING WHAT THEY WERE
CREATED TO BE.

A FORCE FOR CREATING
LIFE THROUGHOUT THE
UNIVERSE, THEY STARTED
FROM HERE AND SPREAD.

REPAIRING WORLDS THAT
THE BUILDERS HAD SCARRED,
AND CREATING NEW ONES
FOR THOSE WHO NO LONGER
HAD A WORLD TO CALL
THEIR OWN.



ON CHANDILAR, THE SHI'AR
THRONEWORLD, GLADIATOR
VOWED TO EXPAND THE
IMPERIAL GUARD.

TO RISE UP, AND FILL
THE VACUUM LEFT
BY HEROES LOST AND
WARRIORS FALLEN.



BUT NOT ALL THAT RUSHED TO FILL
THAT VOID HAD HONORABLE INTENTIONS.

THE SUPREME INTELLIGENCE
ACCEPTED THE RETURN OF THE
ACCUSERS INTO THE FOLD OF
THE KREE EMPIRE.

ON HALA, THE DRUMS
OF WAR CONTINUED
TO BEAT.



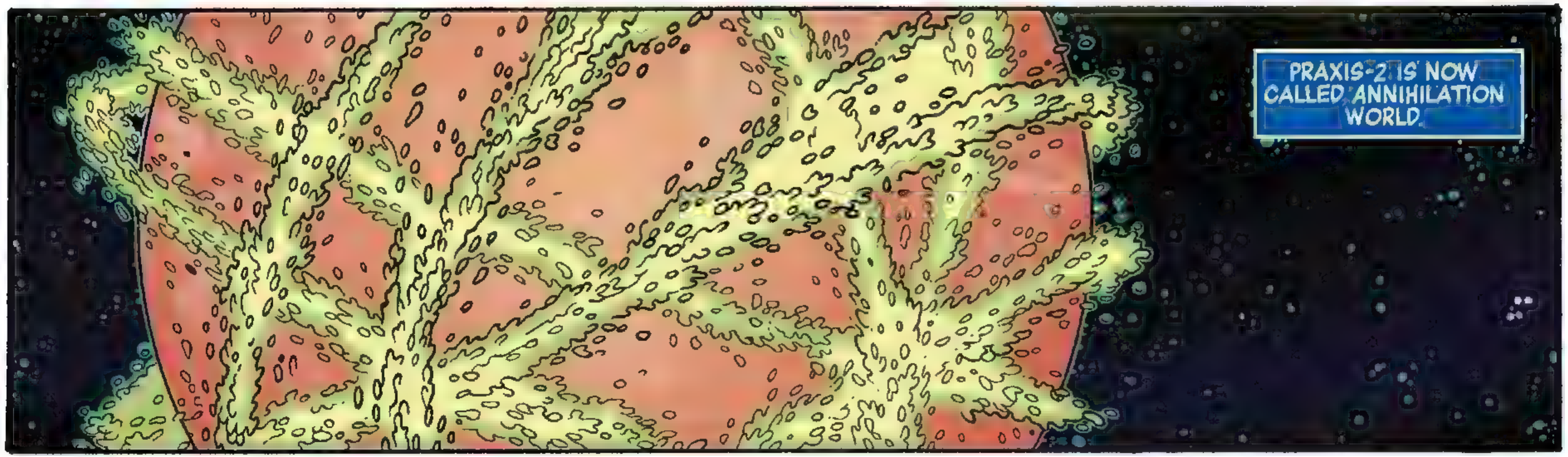


ON TARNAX II, THE SKRULL EMPIRE WAS OFFICIALLY REBORN WITH THE CROWNING OF EMPEROR KL'RT.

ALL SKRULLS WERE BORN WITH CONQUEST IN THEIR BLOOD, AND EXPANSION WAS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. IN MANY WAYS, THEY COULD NOT HELP WHAT WOULD FOLLOW.



AS IT WAS WHEN DRONES OF ANNIHILUS CAPTURED THE CONVERTED STARGATES ON PRAXIS-2, LEAVING OPEN A PORTAL BRIDGING THE NEGATIVE ZONE TO THIS UNIVERSE. THE HIGH HOLY DAYS OF THE END TIMES WERE OFFICIALLY UPON US.



PRAXIS-2 IS NOW CALLED ANNIHILATION WORLD.



AND UNDER THE DISCIPLESHIP OF THE EBONY MAW, THANE, SON OF THANOS, WOULD GROW TO BECOME SOMETHING WORSE THAN HIS FATHER COULD HAVE EVER DREAMED.

A FITTING MATCH FOR WHAT WE LEARNED WAS A DYING UNIVERSE.

A FITTING MATCH
FOR THE END OF
EVERYTHING.

WHAT DID
YOU TELL THE
OTHERS?

THAT I
WOULD TAKE
CARE OF IT.

AND THEY
BELIEVED
YOU?

WHY
WOULD THEY
NOT?

THEY SEE
THE WORLD AS
THEY WANT IT
TO BE...

NOT AS
IT IS.

NO NEED TO BE SO FATALISTIC, T'CHALLA.
ANTHONY BUILT THIS CURRENT AVENGERS
TEAM TO HANDLE THE IMPOSSIBLE...

AND
LOOK, THEY
DID.

THEY EXIST
TO BUILD HOPE
SO WE CAN
BUILD THE
UNTHINKABLE.

YOU KNOW THIS--
DIFFERENT MACHINES
ARE OFTEN MADE
WITH DIFFERENT TOOLS.

AND CEMETERIES
ARE LITTERED WITH
DEAD MEN WHO DIED
STILL BELIEVING
THEY WOULD
NOT.

OUR WORLD IS
DYING...WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO ABOUT
IT, GENTLEMEN?

WE
CONTINUE.

AND THOUGH
IT MAY COST US
OUR VERY SOULS...
WE GATHER THE
PROPER TOOLS
NECESSARY...



...AND WE
BUILD.

PREPARING
FOR THE
UNTHINKABLE.



ENDGAME



WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.



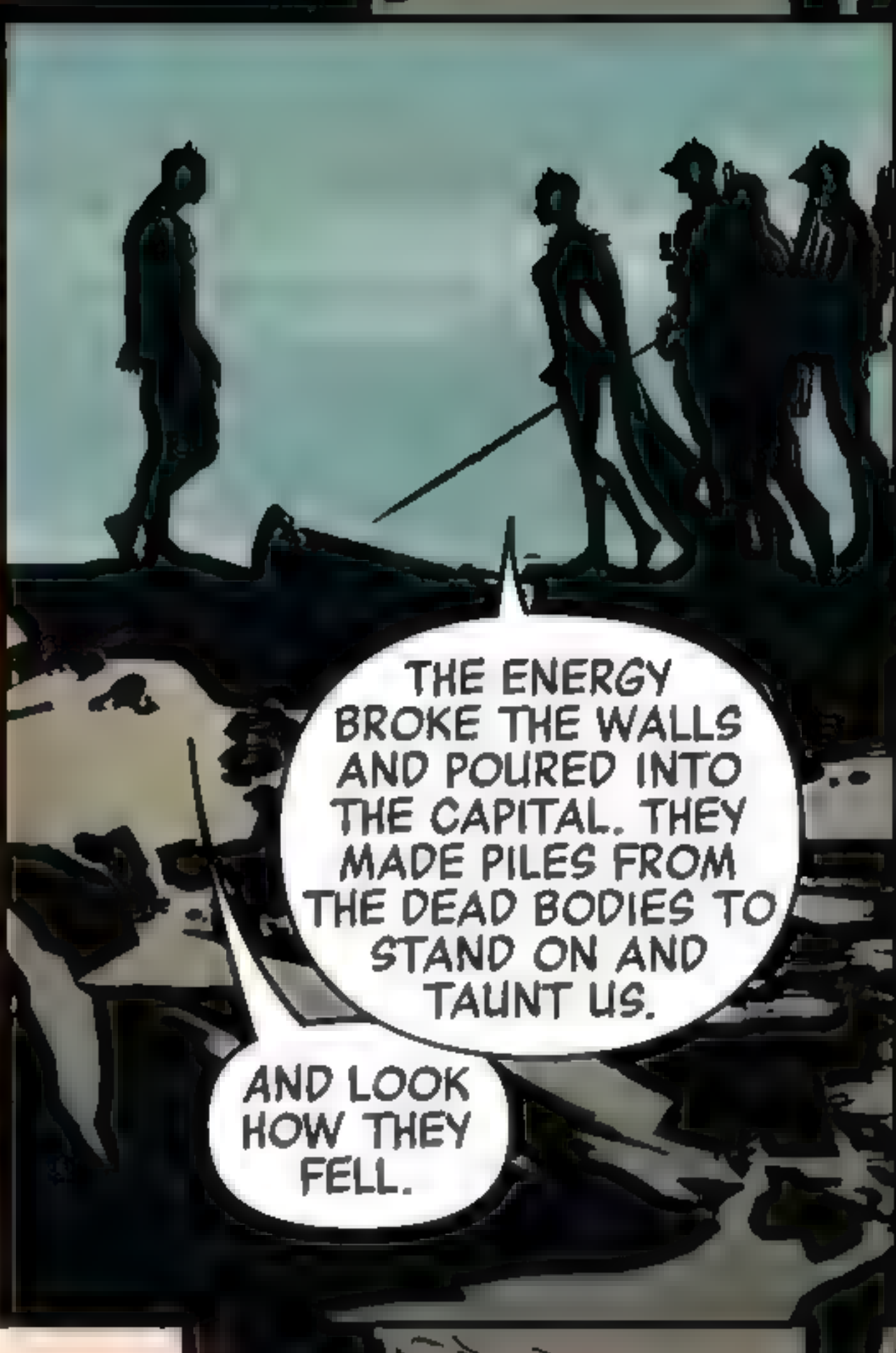


I CAN
SMELL THE
SMOKE FROM THE
STILL-BURNING
FIRES.

THE GOLDEN
CITY NEEDS HER
QUEEN...WHAT BRINGS
YOU TO THE
DEAD CITY?



DEAD
WAKANDANS.



THE ENERGY
BROKE THE WALLS
AND POURED INTO
THE CAPITAL. THEY
MADE PILES FROM
THE DEAD BODIES TO
STAND ON AND
TAUNT US.

AND LOOK
HOW THEY
FELL.



WHAT
TOOK YOU
SO LONG?

WHERE
WERE
YOU?

HERE. THIS PLACE
WAS OVERRUN
BY THE ARMIES
OF THANOS
AS WELL.

I CAME
AS SOON
AS I
COULD.



I THINK HE LIES, MY QUEEN.

I THINK WITHOUT HIS CROWN HE HAS BECOME A COWARD.

MAYBE HE ALWAYS WAS ONE.

YOUR QUEEN RULES WAKANDA, BUT **HERE I AM KING.**

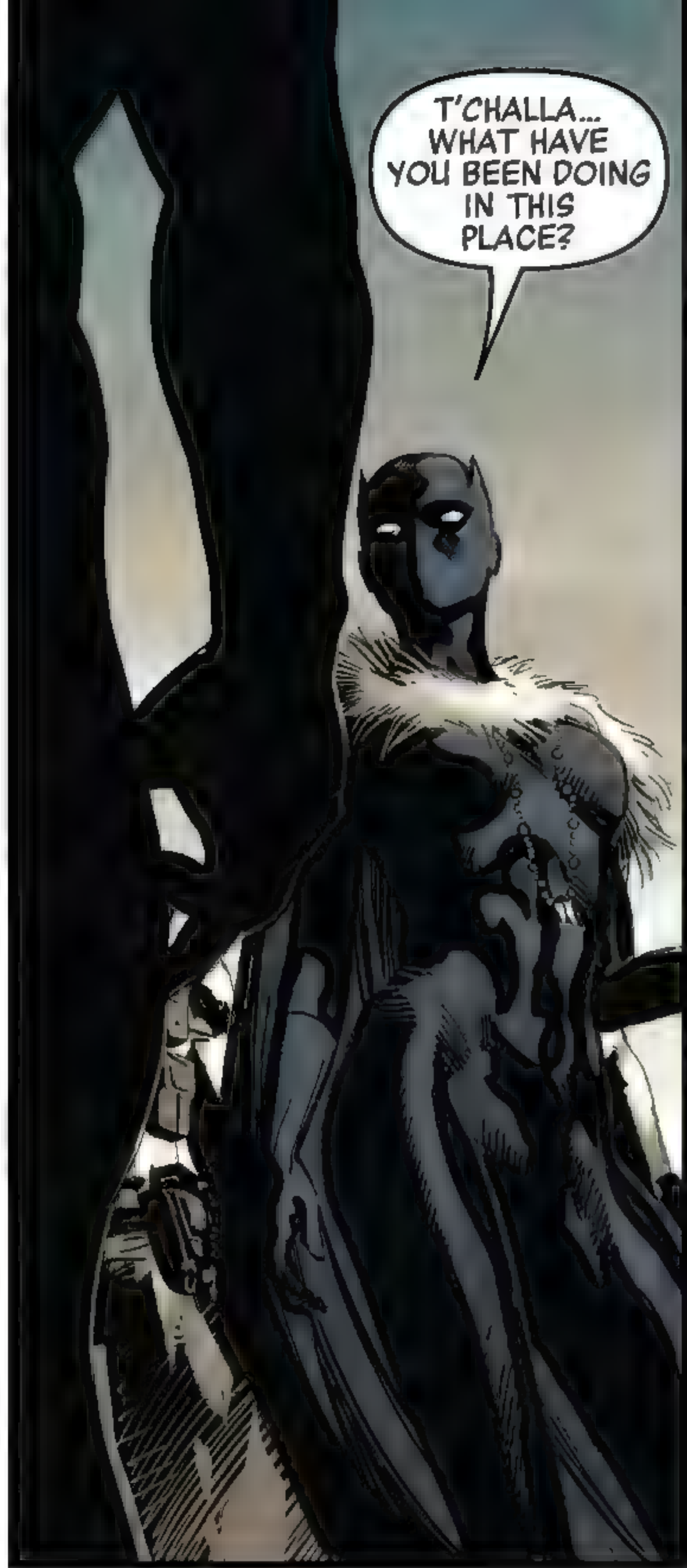
SPEAK AGAIN AT YOUR OWN PERIL.

I'M SORRY, SISTER.

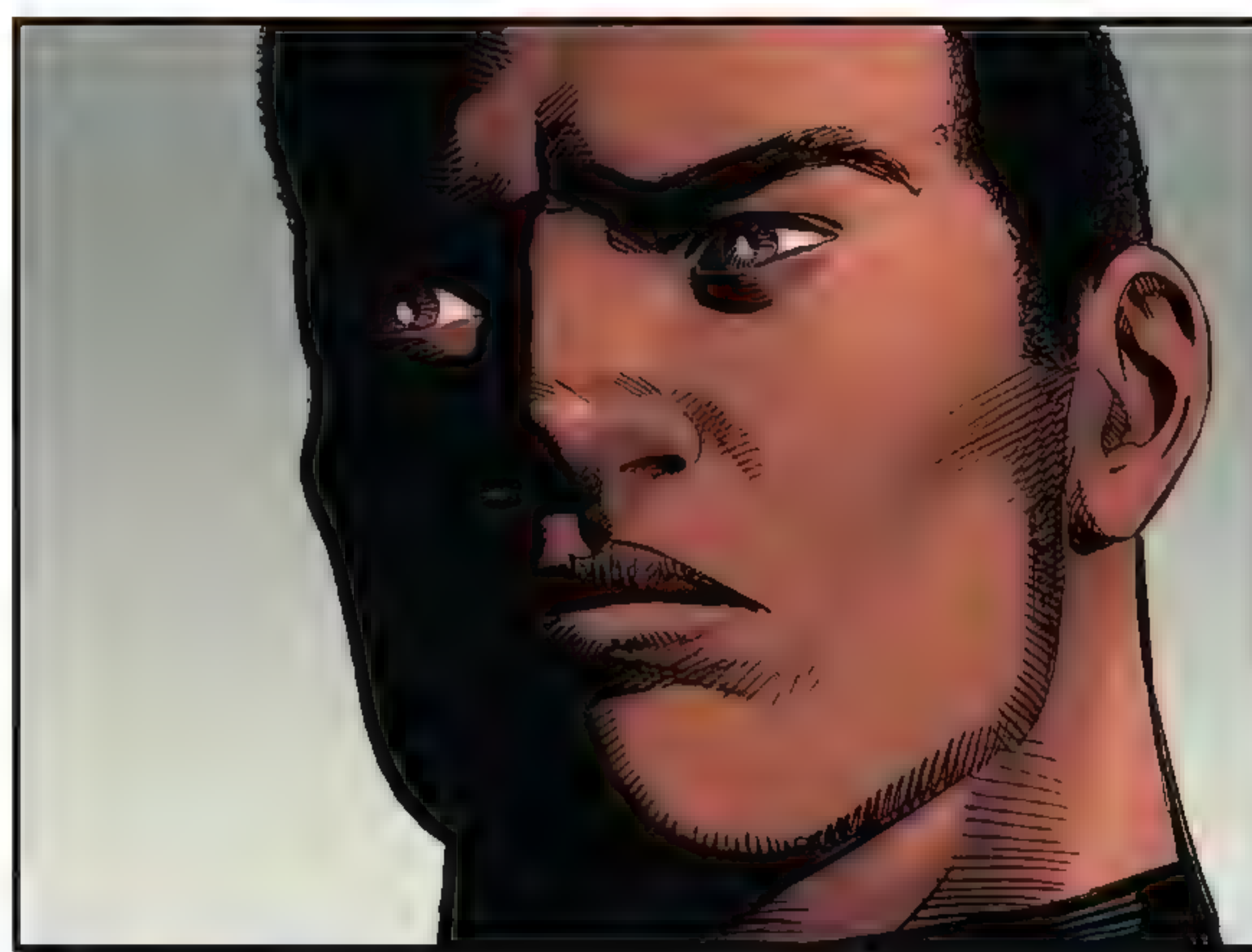
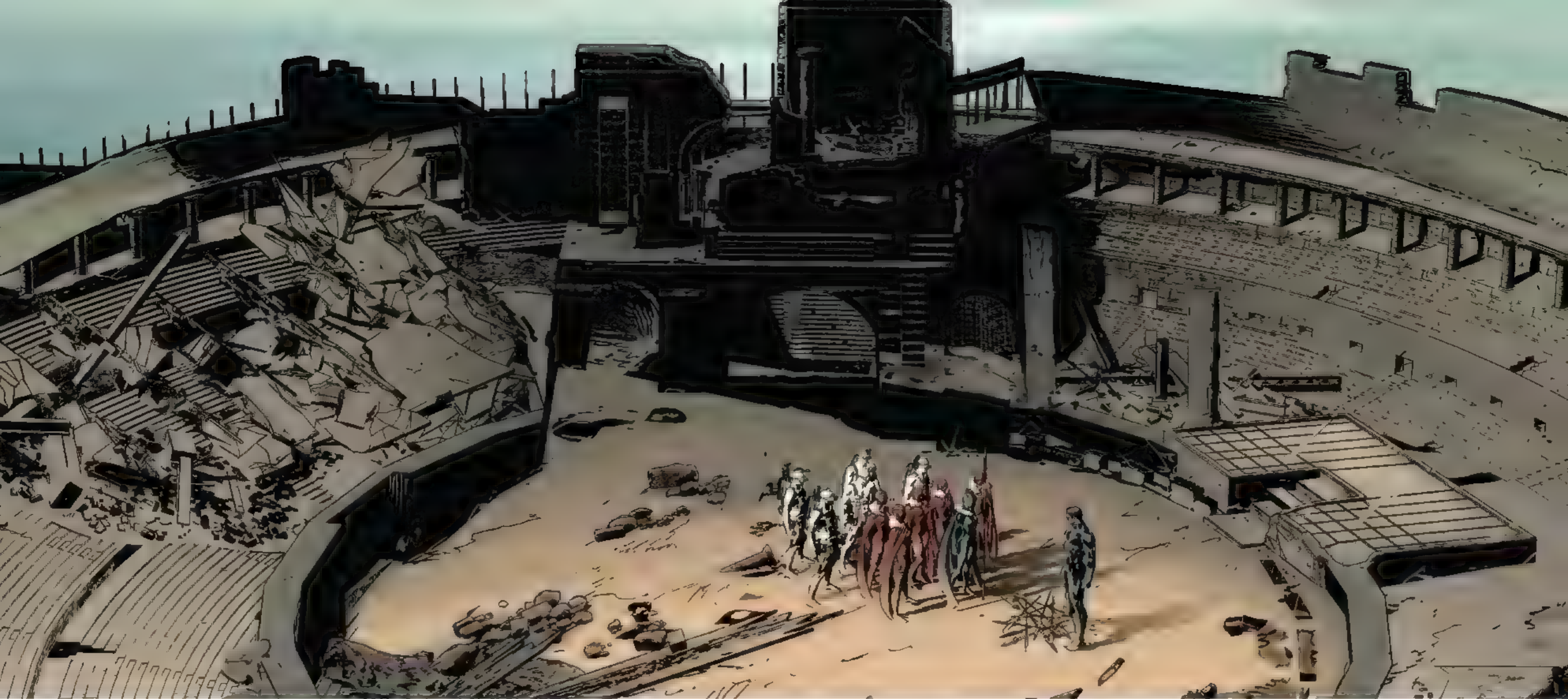
YES, THE WALLS WERE BROKEN, BUT THE CITY STANDS.

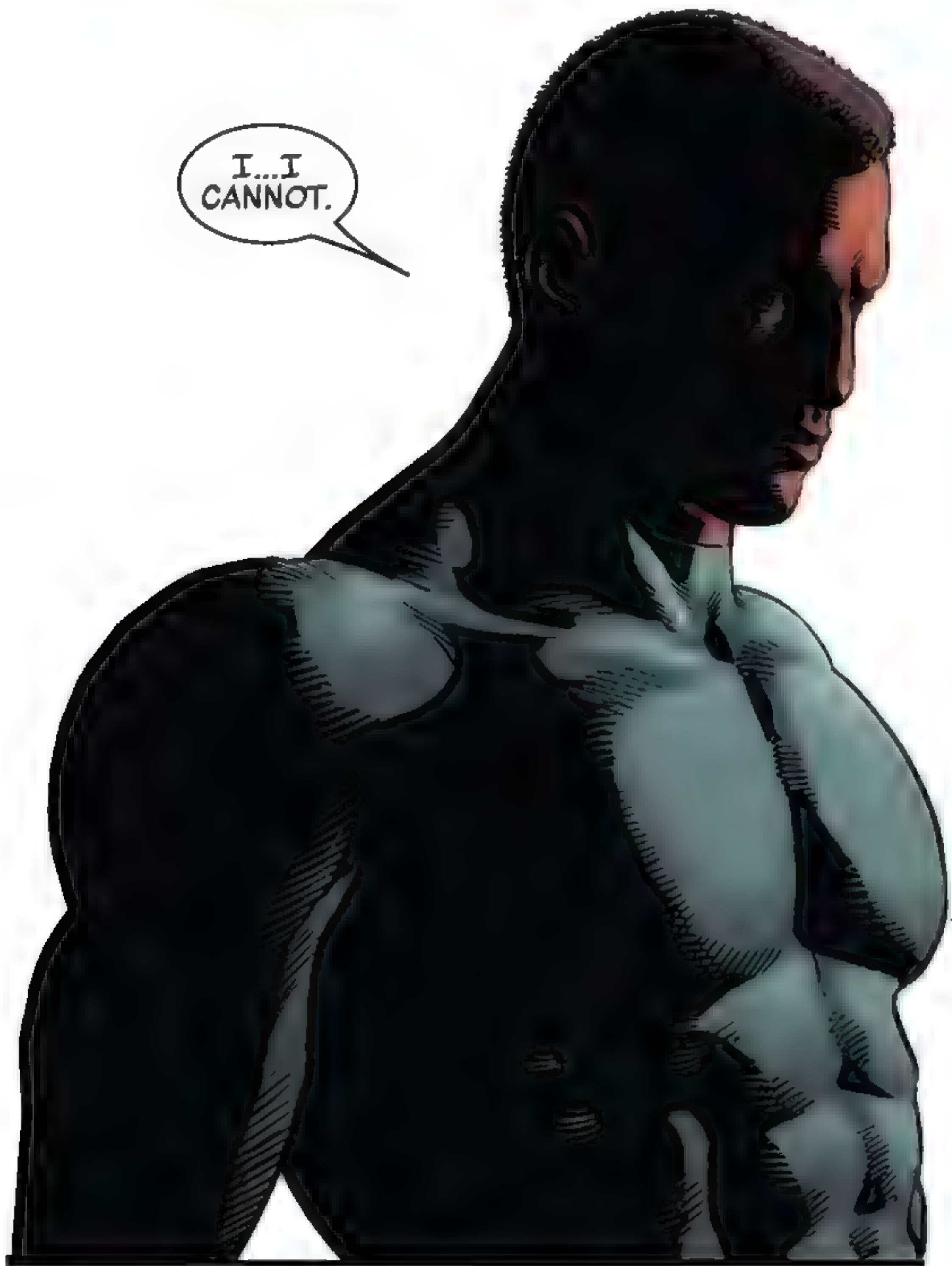
WE WILL REBUILD... AGAIN.





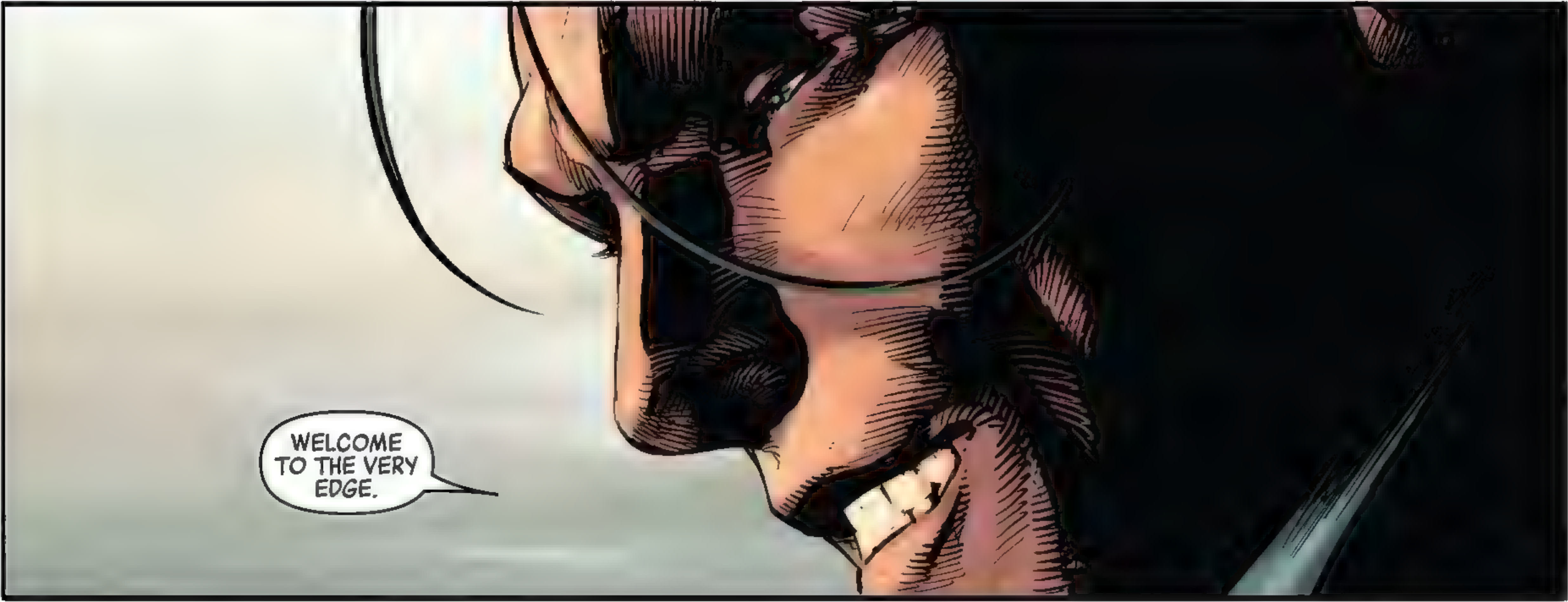












"...FOR KINGS WHO
HAVE LOST THEIR
KINGDOMS."

IT'S
WORSE THAN
EXPECTED...

WELL,
WORSE THAN
MOST EXPECTED--
I WASN'T
OPTIMISTIC
AT ALL...

WHAT GREAT
PHILOSOPHER WAS
IT THAT SAID, "PUT A
MAN ON A THRONE AND
SUDDENLY HE THINKS HE'S
A GOD, CAPABLE OF
THINGS FAR BEYOND
HIS CAPACITY"?

WHO WAS
THAT?

OH, THAT'S
RIGHT...IT WAS
ME, MAXIMUS
"THE MAD."

AS A RESULT
OF THE TERRIGEN
BOMB, YOUR POWERS ARE
GREATLY DIMINISHED. I
WOULDN'T SAY YOU WERE
HALF THE MAN YOU WERE,
BUT ANY OF YOUR
WIVES MIGHT...

SO...OF
COURSE WE'LL
HAVE TO HIDE
THIS.

SAY,
BROTHER...
LET'S MAKE
A DEAL.

YOU DON'T
SAY A WORD,
AND I'LL LIE RIGHT
THROUGH MY
TEETH...

NO ONE
WILL EVER
KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE.

**THE SANCTUM
SANCTORUM OF
DOCTOR STRANGE.**

THERE'S
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
ABOUT YOU,
DOCTOR.

HOW HARD
IS IT TO SEE
A BLOOD MOON
IN THE NIGHT
SKY?

FOR A VERY
LONG TIME, I LIKED
TO THINK OF MYSELF AS
A MAN WITH A FOUNDATION,
OF HAVING PURPOSE--NOT
SOMEONE DEFINED BY
LIVING ON THE
PERIPHERY.

SOMEONE
CATERING TO
THE IMPULSES
OF OTHERS.

I CAN
TELL.



DIFFERENT,
WONG?

YES.
VERY MUCH
SO.



I WANT YOU
TO LEAVE THIS ROOM--
BAR THE DOOR--DO NOT
ENTER. DO THIS REGARDLESS
OF WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR
OR WHAT YOU MIGHT
THINK IS HAPPENING.

IF I HAVE
NOT EMERGED IN
THREE DAYS. SUMMON REED
RICHARDS...TELL HIM THE
ROOM--AND THE SANCTUM
SANCTORUM ITSELF--
MUST BE DISPATCHED
FROM THIS PLANE.

I PLAN TO
USE THE BLOOD
BIBLE.

MASTER,
THE COST
IS--

DO IT
NOW, WONG.
TIME GROWS
SHORT...



"AND I AM TIRED OF
WATCHING OTHERS
MAKE CHOICES OF
CONSEQUENCE WHILE
I DO NOTHING."



IF I AM
TO BE DAMNED
BY THESE
DECISIONS...

...THEN LET
IT BE USING **ALL
THE RESOURCES**
AT THE DISPOSAL
OF A SORCERER
SUPREME.



FOR I
AM NOT A
PAWN...
I
AM THE
DOCTOR.



NECROPOLIS.

THE TYRANT
AND HIS HENCHMEN
WERE MORE...
PRECOCIOUS THAN
WE INITIALLY
THOUGHT.



SEVERAL OF
THE ANTI-MATTER
DEVICES HAD BEEN
TAMPERED WITH. SET
TO EXPLODE IF
ACTIVATED.

OTHERS WERE
RIGGED TO DUMP
THE CORE IF THE
PROTECTIVE SHELL
WAS OPENED...



WE
HAD TO GO
THROUGH AND
CHECK EACH ONE
THOROUGHLY.

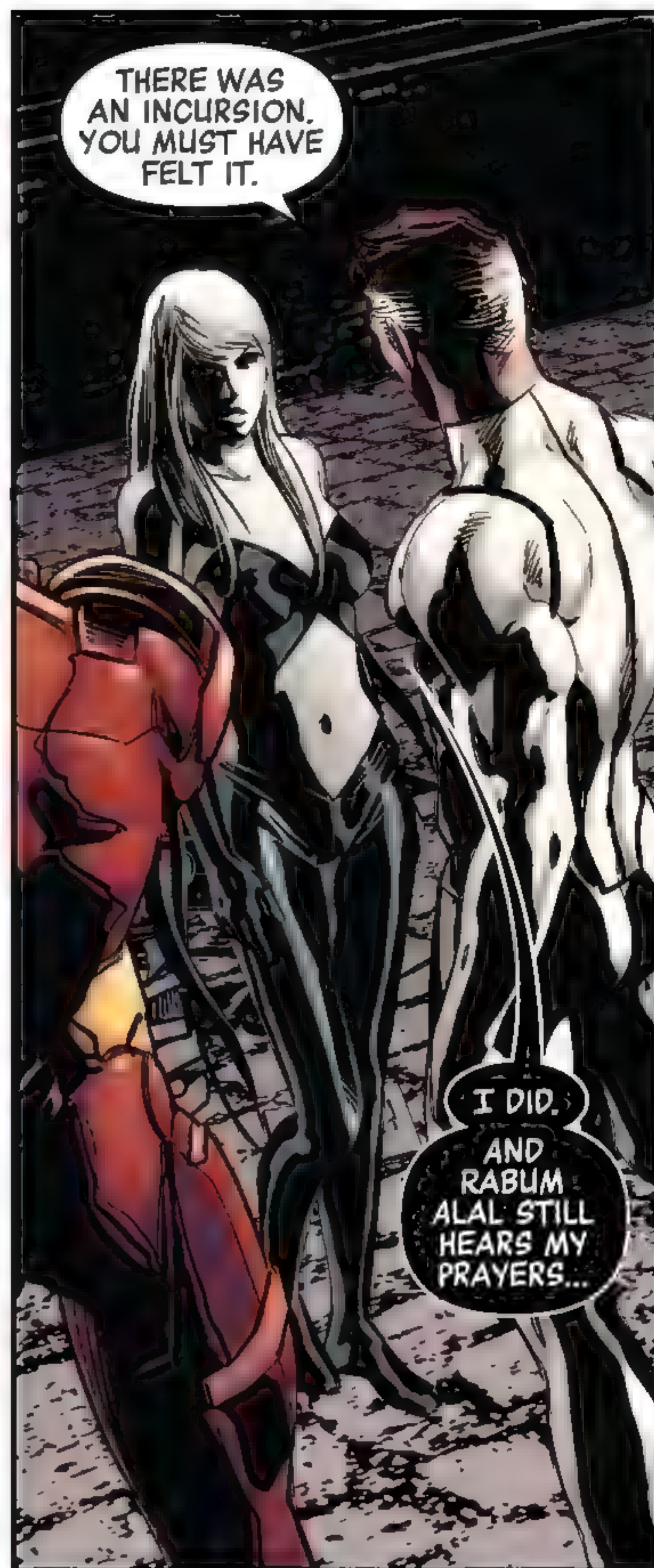


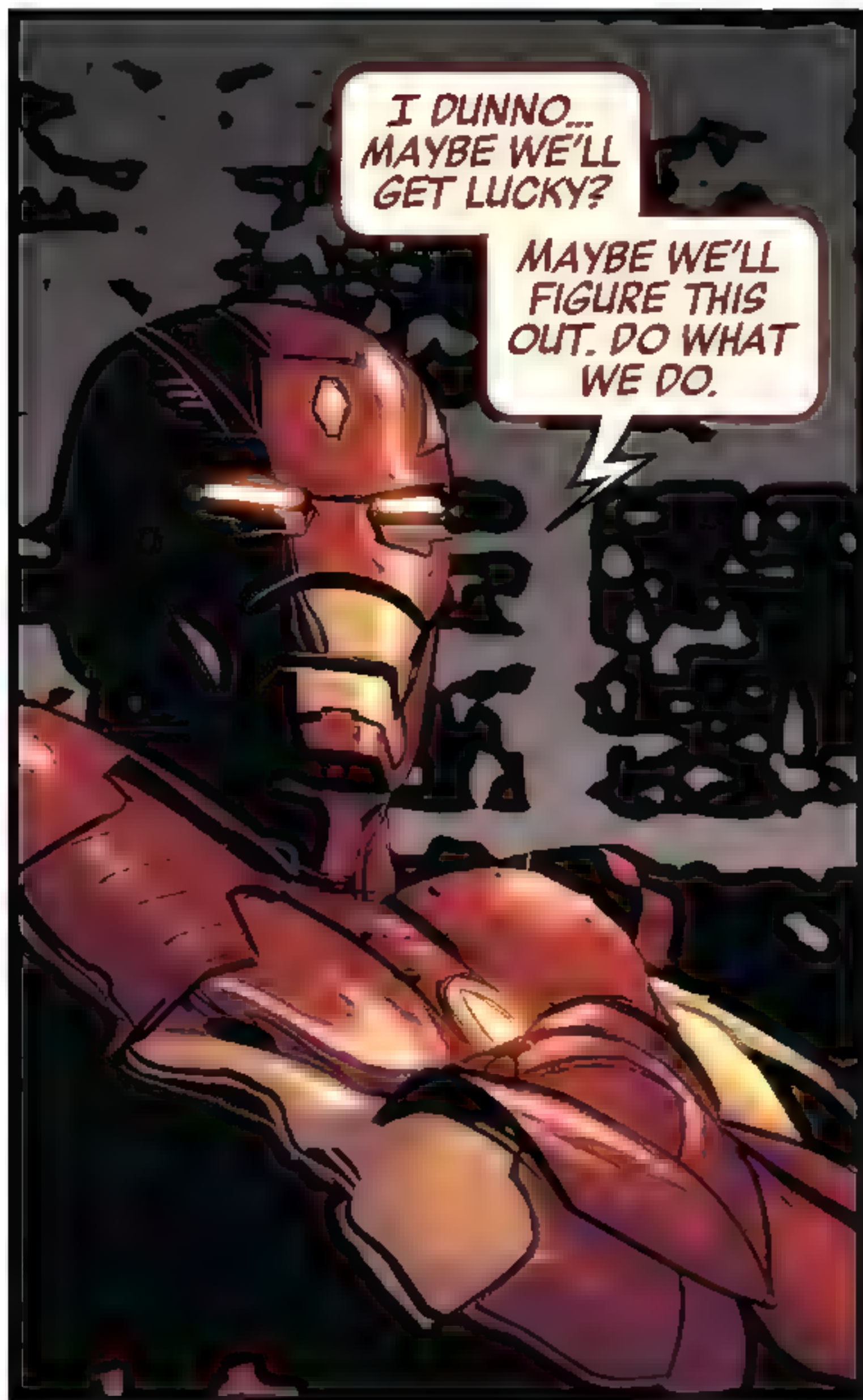
WHICH IS
WHY IT TOOK
THIS LONG
TO GET TO
YOU.

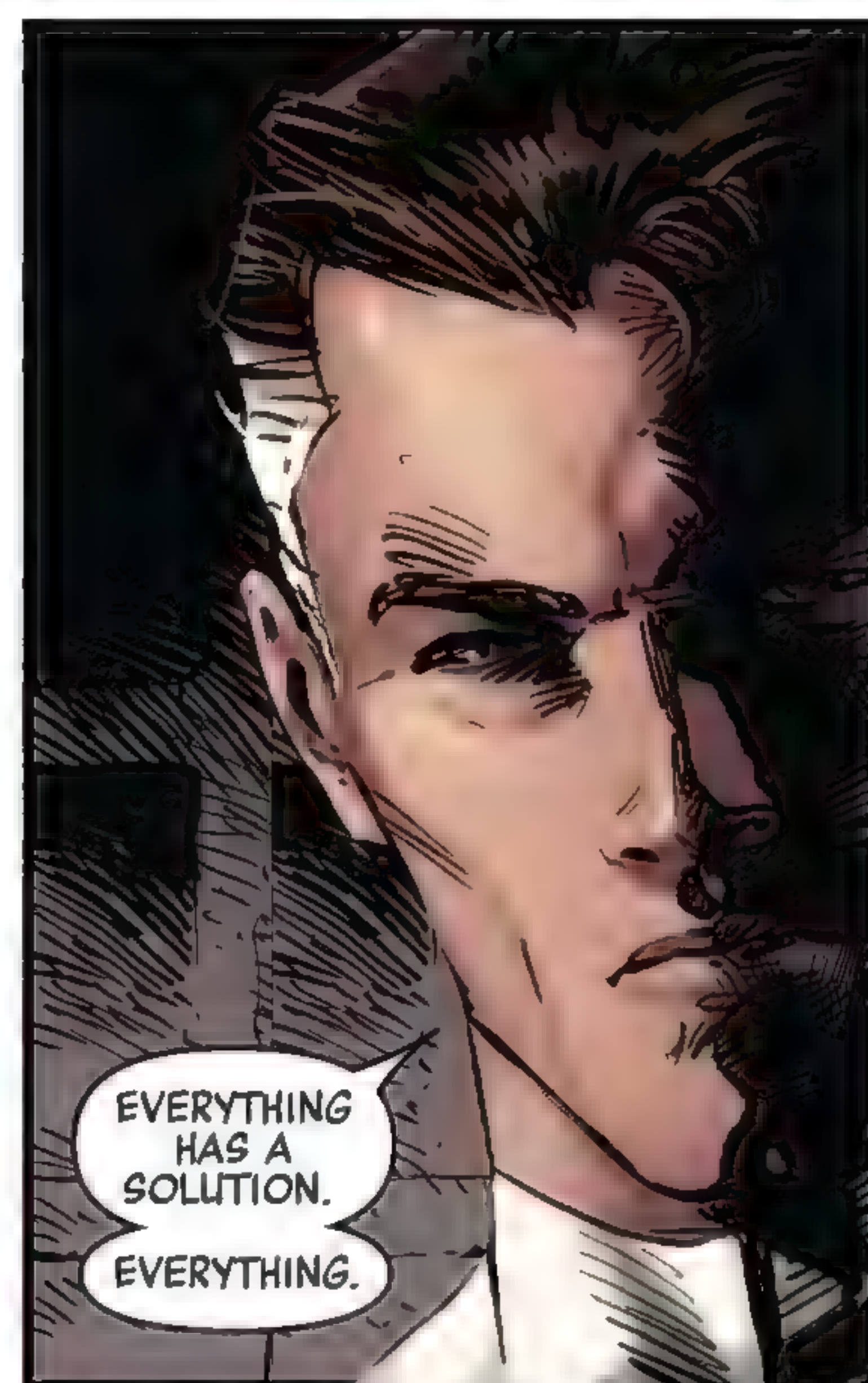
I HOPE YOU
UNDERSTAND.



DON'T,
HOWEVER, EXPECT
AN APOLOGY.







I DON'T THINK
YOU UNDERSTAND
WHAT WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT.

PERHAPS YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT ALL WE--
AND OUR FRIENDS--
HAVE JUST BEEN
THROUGH.

SYSTEM-
CREATING, UNIVERSAL
MIGRANTS, CREATORS
AND ENGINEERS...MORE
THAN CAPABLE OF
DESTROYING
WORLDS.

DID YOU NOT FIND
IT STRANGE THAT THEY
WERE LIMITED IN HOW THEY MOVED
THROUGHOUT YOUR UNIVERSE? THAT
A RACE SO ADVANCED WAS LIMITED
TO TRAVELING IN WHAT WAS
ESSENTIALLY A
STRAIGHT LINE?

IT'S BECAUSE
THEIR VESSELS WERE
NOT BUILT FOR TRAVELING
GREAT DISTANCES
OUTSIDE OF THEIR
SUPERFLOW.

SEE...THEY
INVESTED HEAVILY IN
THEIR CONDUIT, AND NOW
WITHOUT IT, THEY ARE
TRAPPED AND UNABLE TO
ELUDE RABUM ALAL--
JUST LIKE YOU, JUST
LIKE ME.

TELL ME,
STARK...DO I
SOUND LIKE I
KNOW WHAT I
AM TALKING
ABOUT?

IF YOU KNOW,
THEN WHAT'S SO
DAMN FUNNY?

ARE YOU
AWARE THAT
THESE BUILDERS
ARE CONFINED
TO UNDER FIVE
THOUSAND
REALITIES?

WHO
WORRIES ABOUT
A KALBI WHEN
FACING AN
IDIMMU?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT--

"WHO WORRIES
ABOUT A DOG
WHEN FACING
A DEMON?"

YOU'RE
DOING WELL,
HENRY.

I'M
A QUICK
STUDY.

AREN'T YOU
ALL...SO WHY
IS THIS SO HARD
FOR YOU TO
UNDERSTAND?

I UNDERSTAND.

THERE ARE WORSE THINGS OUT THERE.

NO. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING AT ALL...

THERE ARE WORSE THINGS COMING.

"YOU FRET BUILDERS..."

...BUT WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE MAPMAKERS?
NOT JUST THEIR SIDERA MARIS...BUT THE MASTERS THEMSELVES.

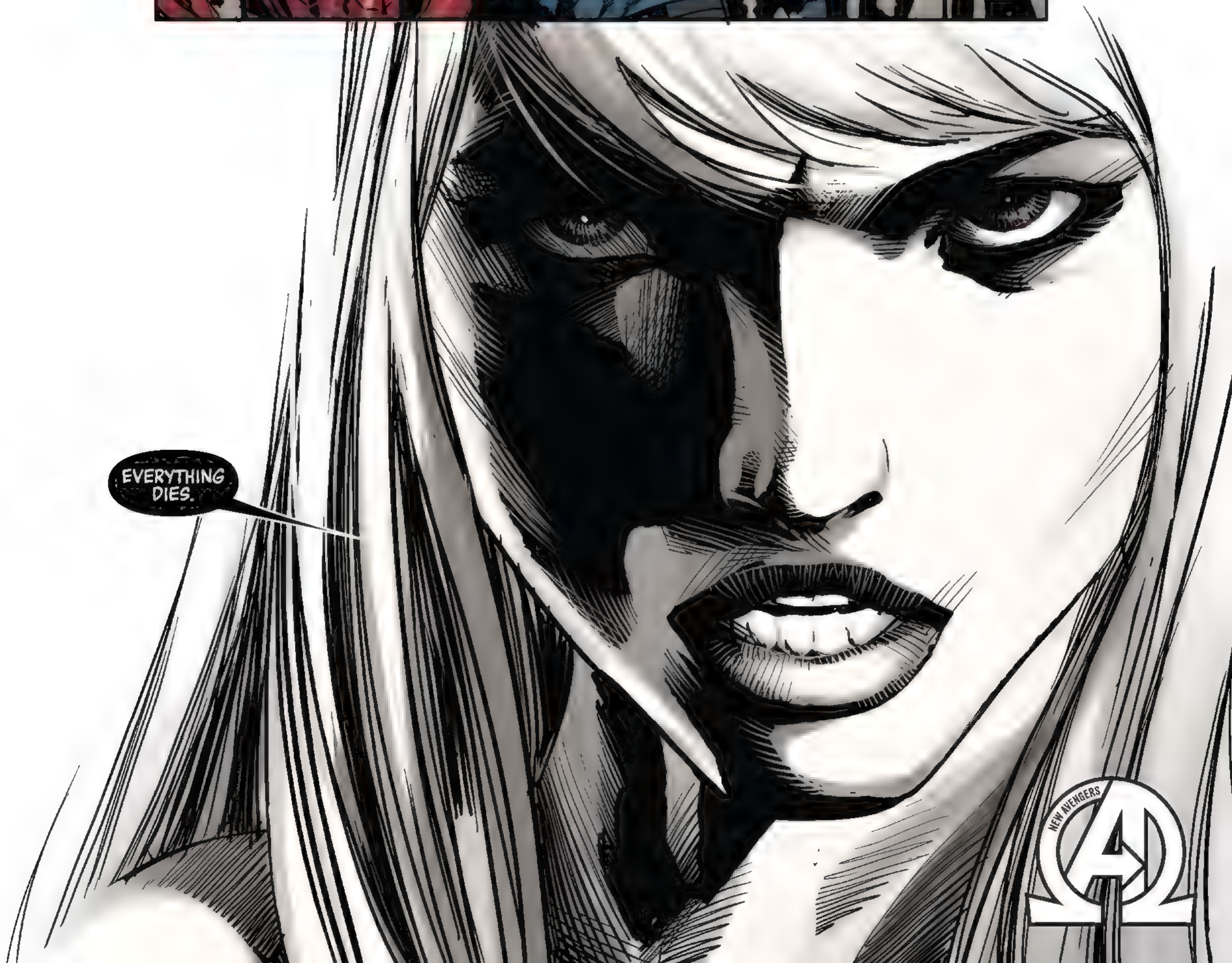
"WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE BLACK PRIESTS?"

AND WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN THE SINNU SARRUM?

THE IVORY KINGS?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?







A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

INFINITE COMICS ARE MARVEL'S NEWEST AND BOLDEST JUMP INTO THE WORLD OF DIGITAL COMICS. CRAFTED SPECIFICALLY TO BE READ ON THE MARVEL COMICS APP, INFINITE COMICS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW STORYTELLING OPPORTUNITIES THE DIGITAL REALM MAKES POSSIBLE. THE FOLLOWING STORIES HAVE BEEN RESTRUCTURED INTO TRADITIONAL PRINT COMICS, BUT THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS CAN BE READ ON THE MARVEL COMICS APP TO GET THE FULL EFFECT.



THE PLANET HY'LT MINOR.



THE UNIVERSE
IS AN OCEAN
OF CHAOS.

A ROILING SEA
FROM WHICH ORDER IS
IMPROBABLY FISHED.



WE CALL THIS
ORDER "LIFE."

THAT SYSTEM WHICH, FOR THE
BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS, FENDS
OFF THE UNYIELDING BEDLAM.

SUSTAINS ITSELF DESPITE
UNFATHOMABLE ODDS.

FLOURISHES DESPITE
THE BLEAKEST
CONDITIONS.

STILL, CHAOS
REMAINS. EVER
LURKING.

ENTROPY PERVADES.
TEARS AT LIFE'S
WALLS FROM WITHIN
AS WELL AS WITHOUT.

"WHY?", WE
ASK.

"WHY DO
I LIVE?"

OBJECTIVE:
TIME SENSITIVE

"WHY MUST
I DIE?"

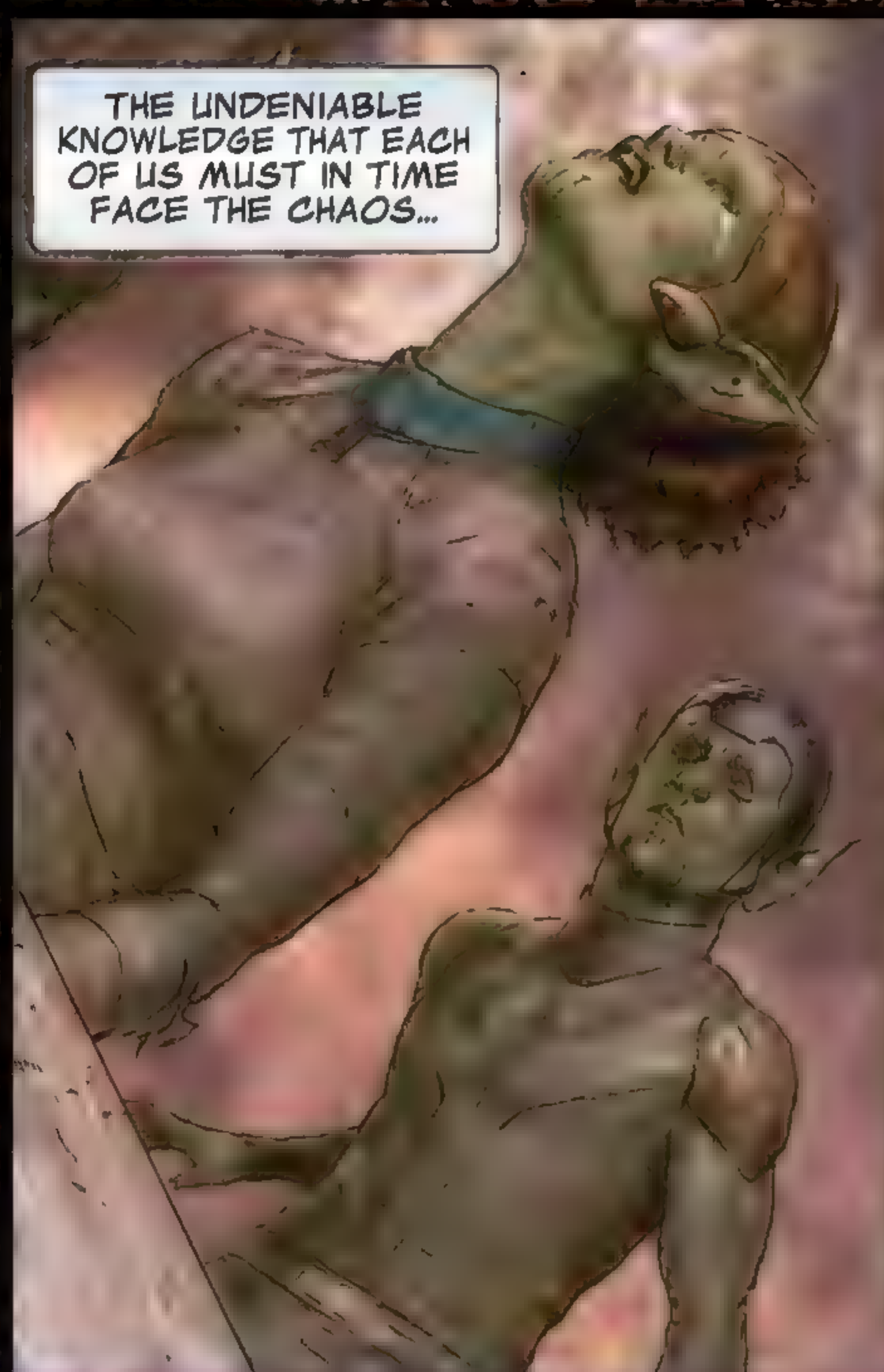
GOAL: WORLD-
RAZING.





THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS
WITH WHICH EVERY WAKING
LIFE WRESTLES.

HELP ME...
PLEASE! M-MY SON...
HE'S TRAPPED!



THE UNDENIABLE
KNOWLEDGE THAT EACH
OF US MUST IN TIME
FACE THE CHAOS...



I-I'M
SORRY



NO!

THAT ACCEPT
IT OR NOT...

AN END COMES
FOR US ALL.



I HAVE RIDDEN AT
DEATH'S SHOULDER. I
HAVE TASTED CHAOS.

I HAVE SEEN IT
WASH AWAY THE
STRONGEST WILL.

WATCHED IT DROWN
THE FIRMEST BELIEF.



AND I HAVE
OFTEN WONDERED--

OF WHAT POINT
IS RESISTANCE?

OF WHAT USE IS
SUCH STRUGGLE?

BLEAK THOUGHTS THAT
ARE WITH ME ALWAYS. THE
COLDEST LOGIC. THE
BLACKEST CELESTIAL MATH.



A VICE GRIP FROM
WHICH THERE IS
ONLY ONE RELIEF.



TO REMEMBER...



TO RECALL WHAT
IT WAS TO STAND
AMONG THEM.

TO KNOW THEIR FEAR.
THEIR PAIN. THE STRUGGLE
THAT IS THEIR RESISTANCE.



TO FEEL THE WARMTH
OF LIFE'S JOY. TO
STAND IN AWE OF
ITS BEAUTY.



I N F I N I T Y
THE SILVER SURFER



AND CHOOSE
THE LIGHT.

AGAINST THE TIDE



OUR CANNONS
STILL FIRE.

OUR WAR DRUMS
YET BEAT.

IT IS THE MUSIC OF
A FUNERAL MARCH.

THE REQUIEM
FOR AN EMPIRE.

I WAS BORN HERE ON
HY'LT MINOR. BORN
A SKRULL.

FOR TEN MILLION YEARS
MY PEOPLE HAVE STRETCHED
OUR ARMS WIDE ACROSS
THE COSMOS.

FEARLESS WARRIORS.
MIGHTY CONQUERORS.

MOLDING WORLDS IN THE
SAME MANNER WITH WHICH WE
SHIFT OUR OWN SHAPES--

WE HAVE TO
MOVE, K'EEL... THAT
JUMP SHIP IS OUR
ONLY HOPE

IT'S NO USE.
RHENA... THEY'LL TEAR
US APART...

THROUGH FORCE
OF WILL.

GET
TO YOUR FEET
NOW, K'EEL!

OUR WILL. THE FIERY
BREATH OF OUR ONE
TRUE GOD--

WE ARE
ROYAL SCIENCE
OFFICERS! WE ARE
SKRULLS!

THE ENTIRE
EMPIRE IS
COUNTING
ON--

WAR.

RHENA!

KRRRAK



THROUGH WAR
WE ARE FORGED,
THEY SAY.

OUR TRUE SHAPE
REVEALED.

STAY DOWN
BOY! STAY DOWN
OR JOIN YOUR
FRIEND

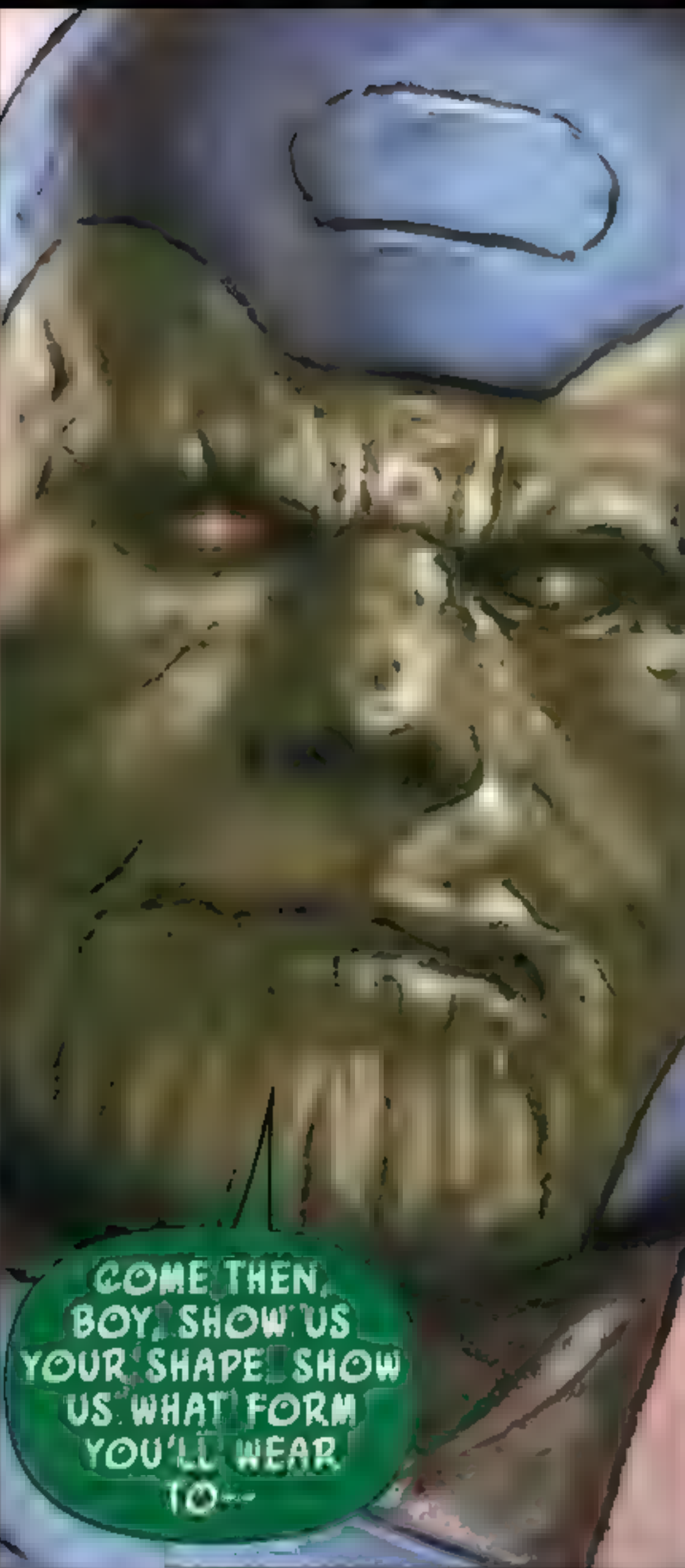


I HAVE NEVER
BELIEVED THEM.

G-GET
AWAY F-FROM
HER!

GET AWAY
OR I'LL
K-KILL YOU!

IS THAT SO?
ARE YOU GOING TO
TURN INTO A BOOK
AN' BORE ME TO
DEATH?



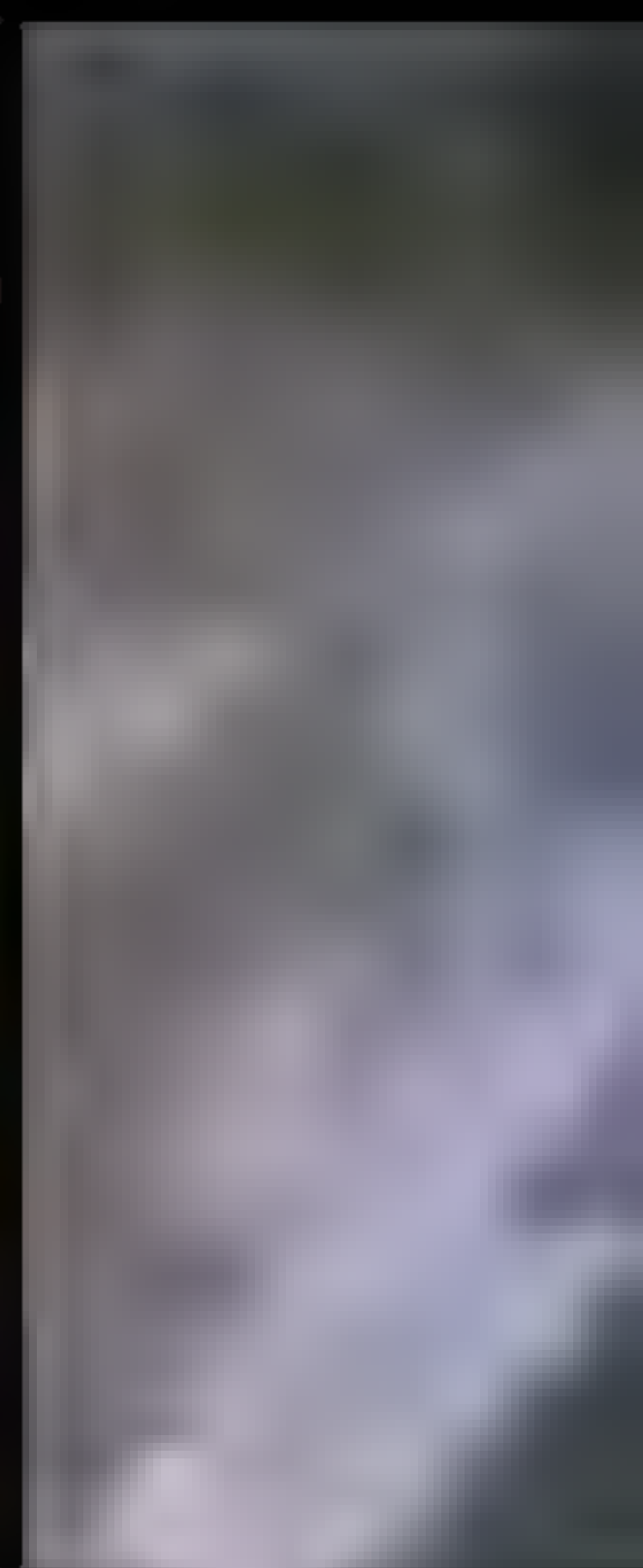
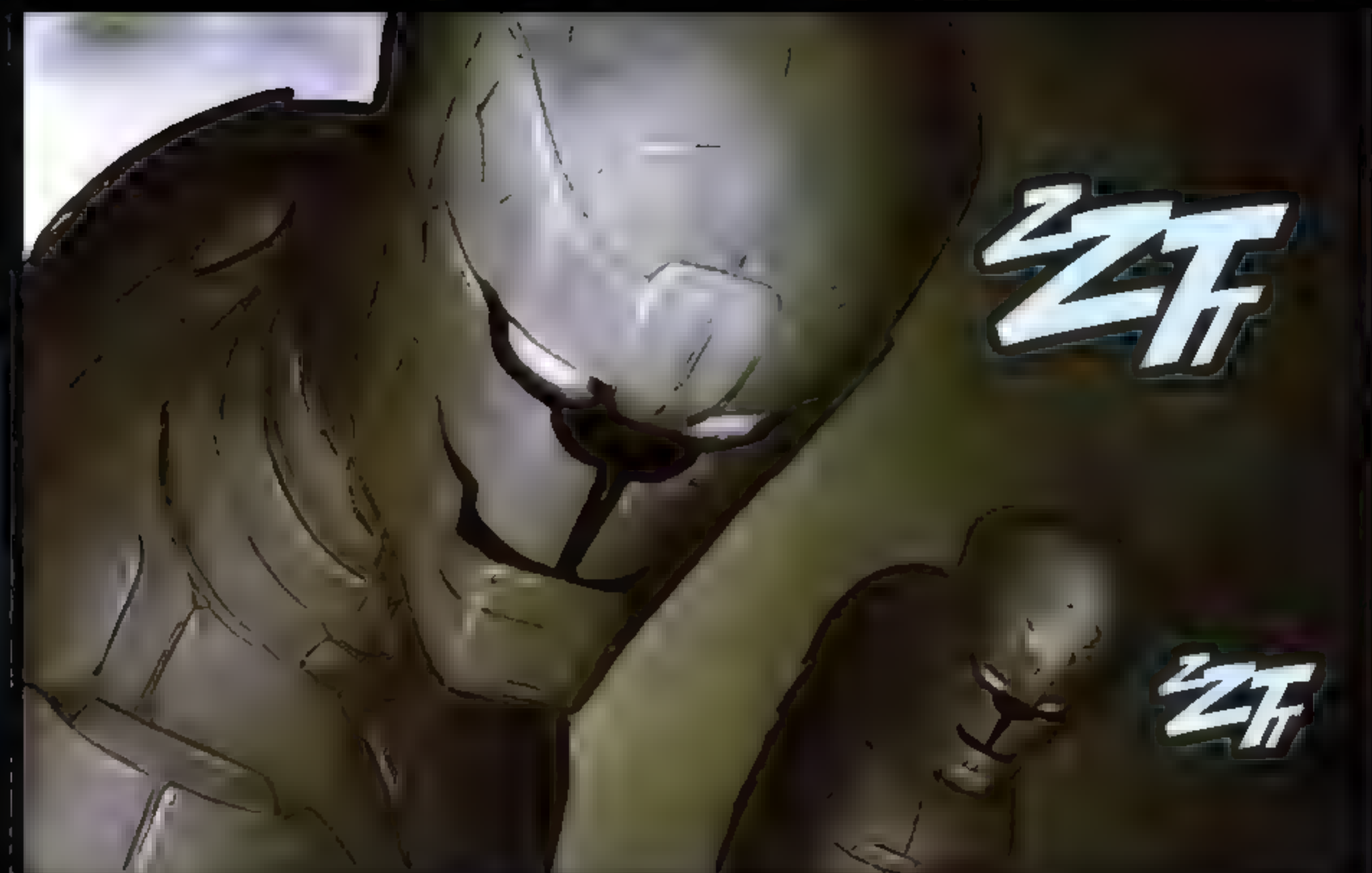
COME THEN,
BOY, SHOW US
YOUR SHAPE. SHOW
US WHAT FORM
YOU'LL WEAR
TO--

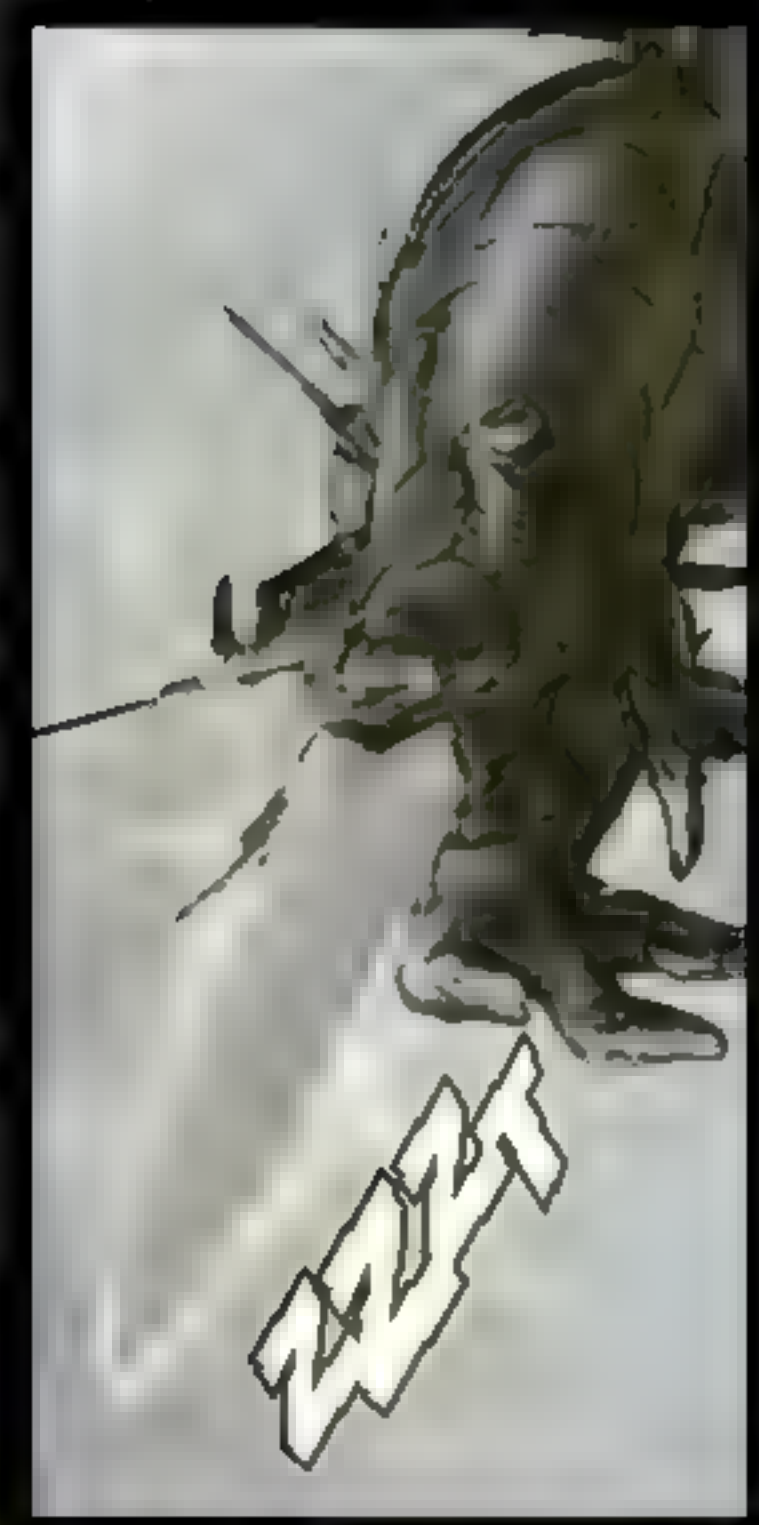


--HELL









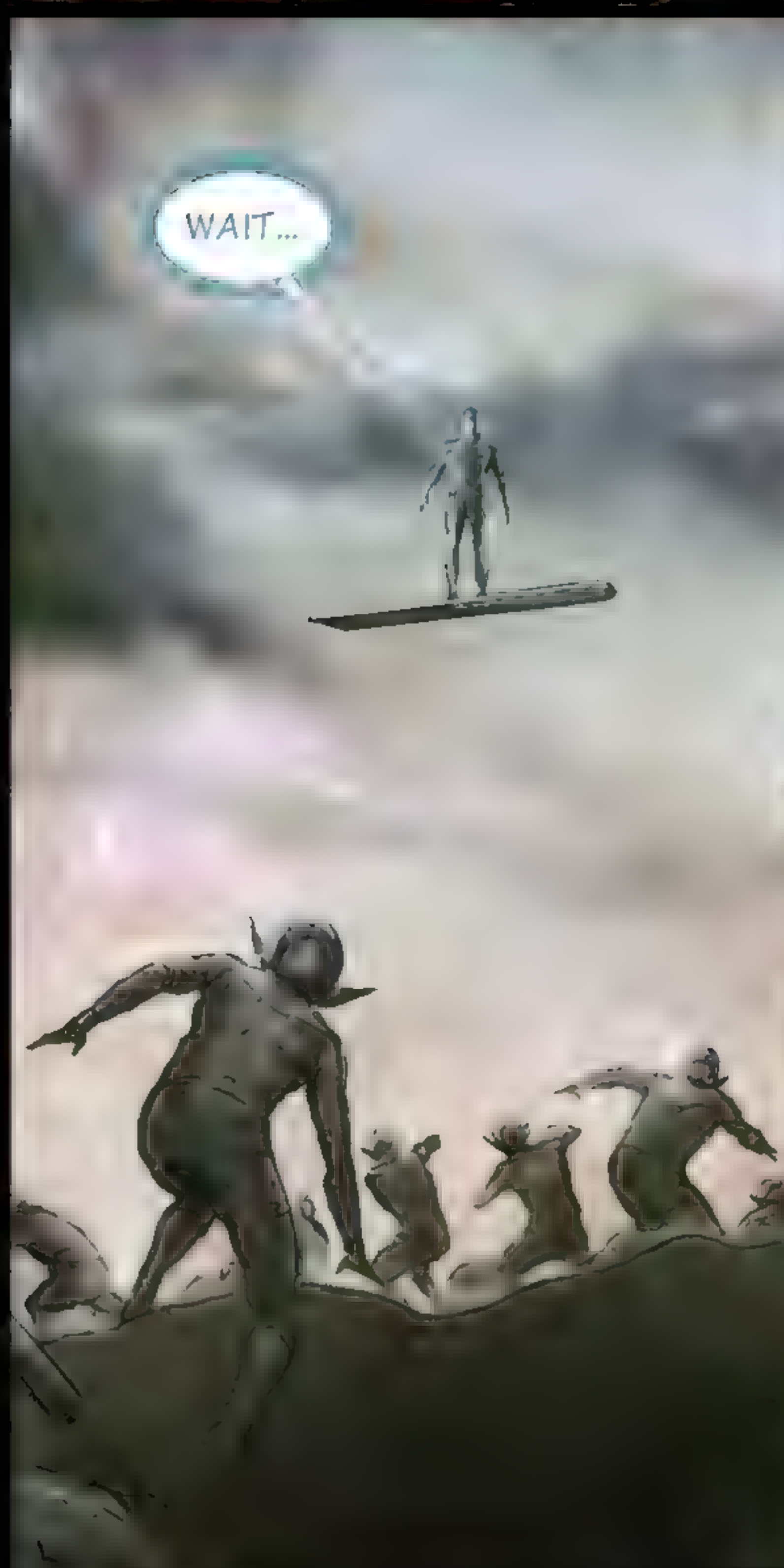




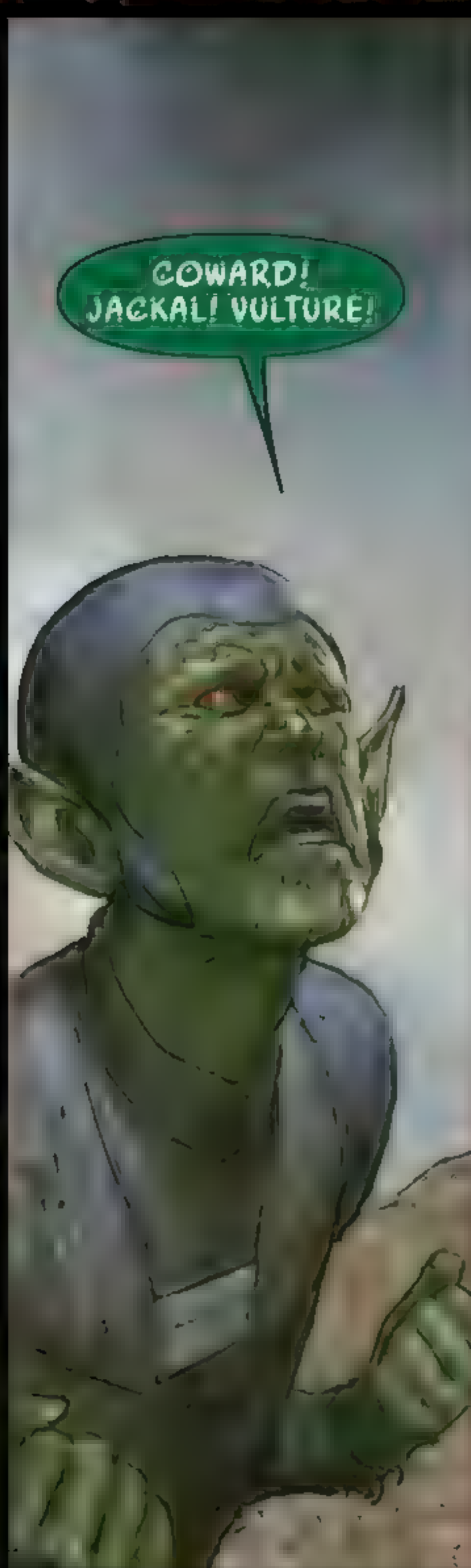


NO!
NO! GODS
NO!
IT IS THE
ANGEL OF
DEATH!

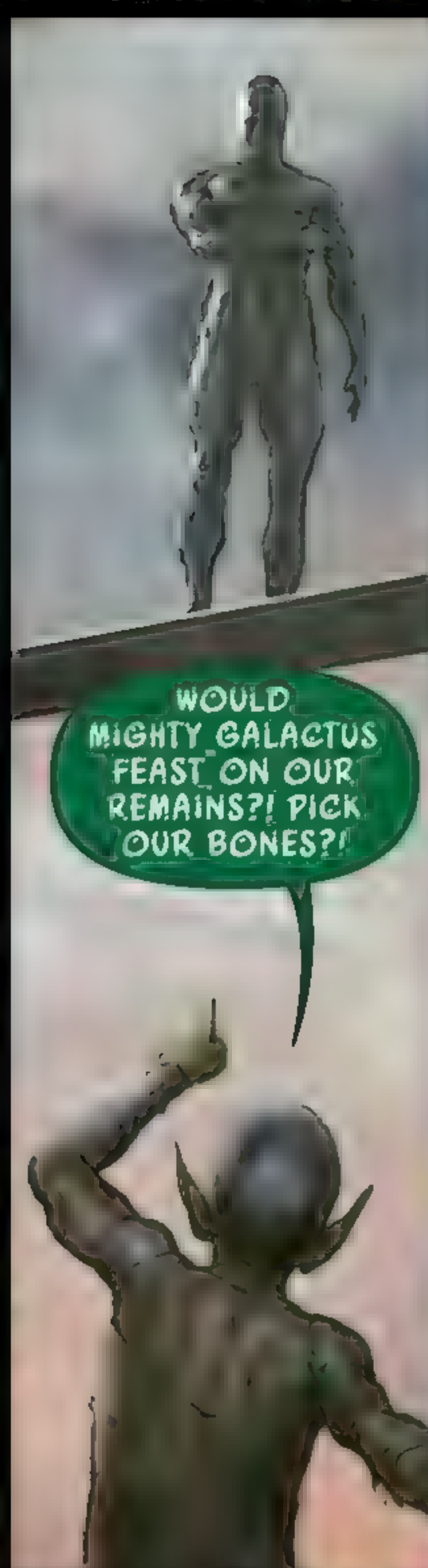
THE
HERALD OF
GALACTUS!



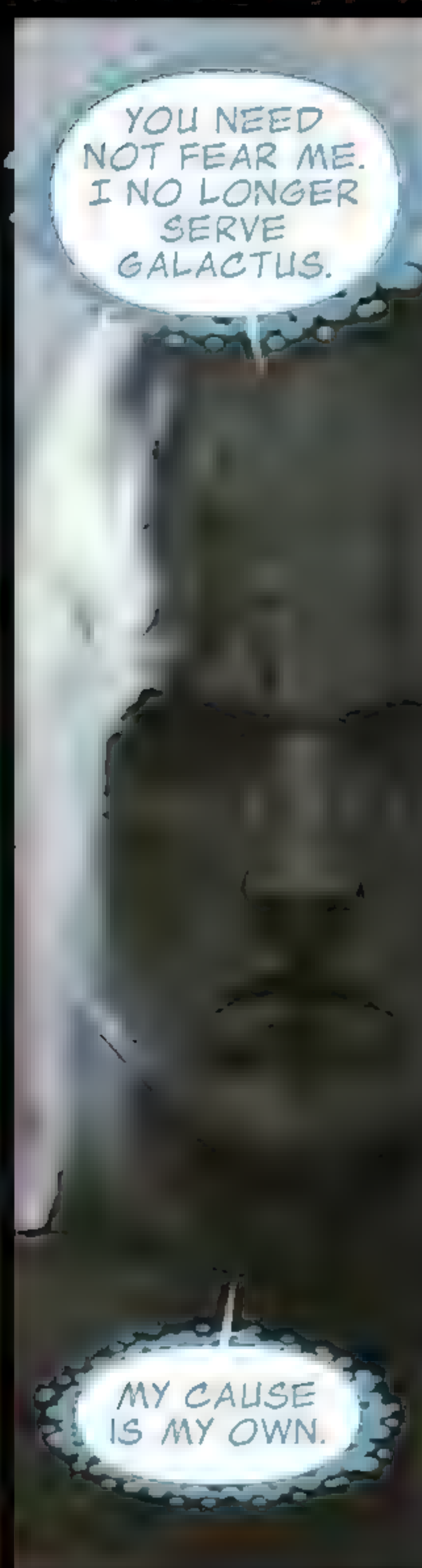
WAIT...



COWARD!
JACKAL! VULTURE!



WOULD
MIGHTY GALACTUS
FEAST ON OUR
REMAINS?! PICK
OUR BONES?!

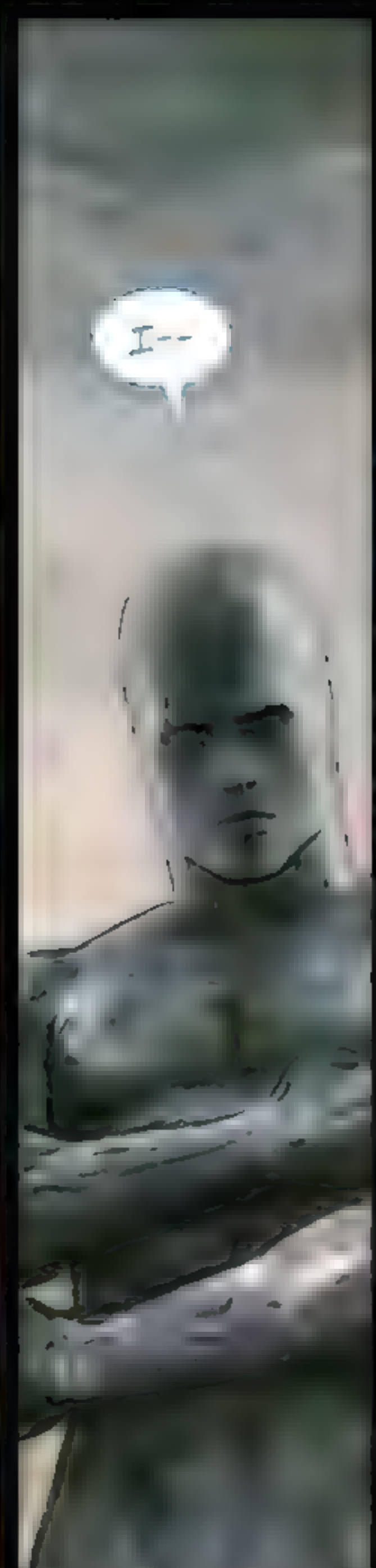


YOU NEED
NOT FEAR ME.
I NO LONGER
SERVE
GALACTUS.

MY CAUSE
IS MY OWN.



THEN WHY?
WHY ARE YOU
HERE?
TO STOP
THEM?
TO SAVE
US?



I--



I AM
HERE TO
TRY.



BUT OUR SHIP IS IN RUINS!

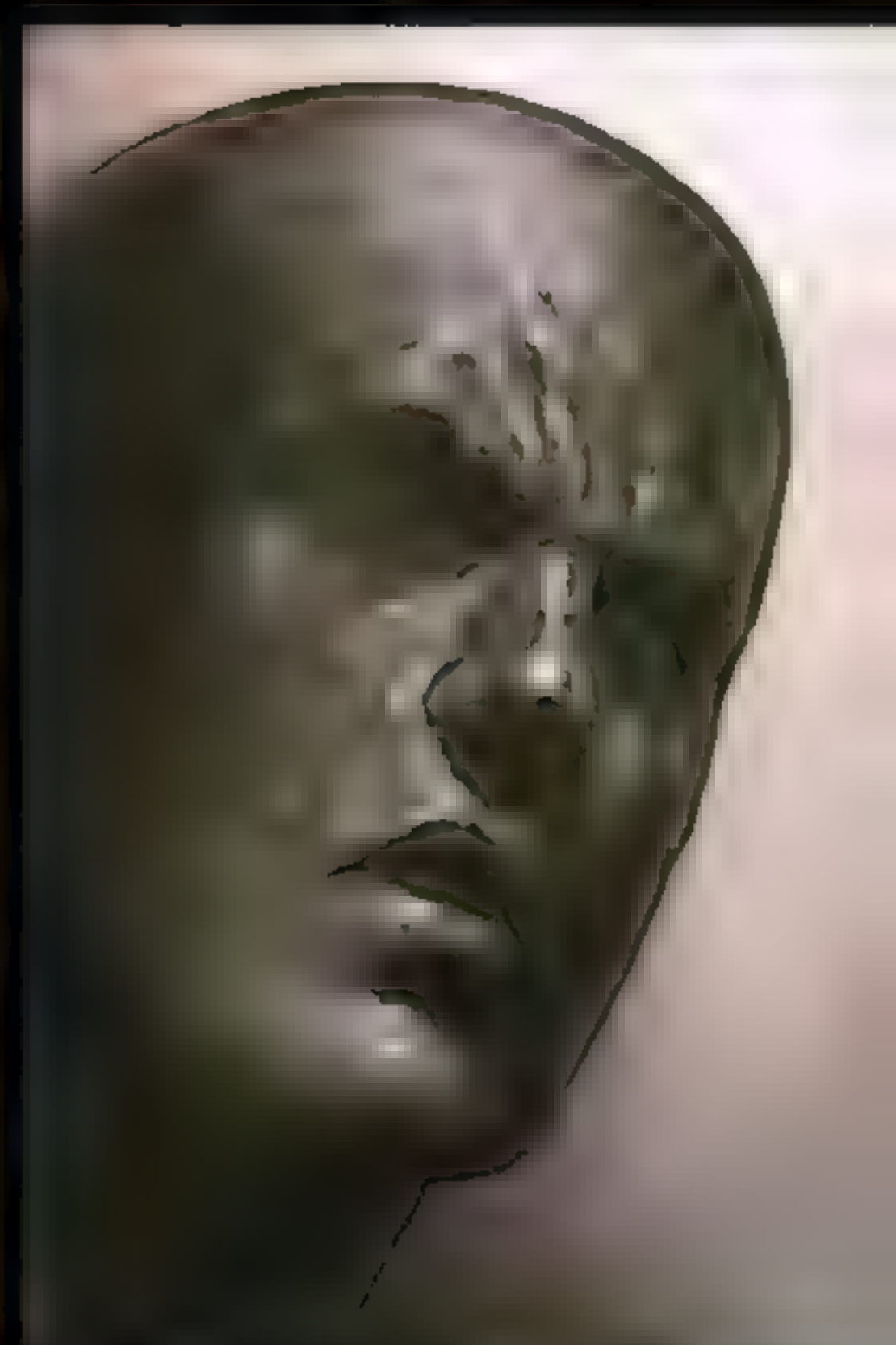
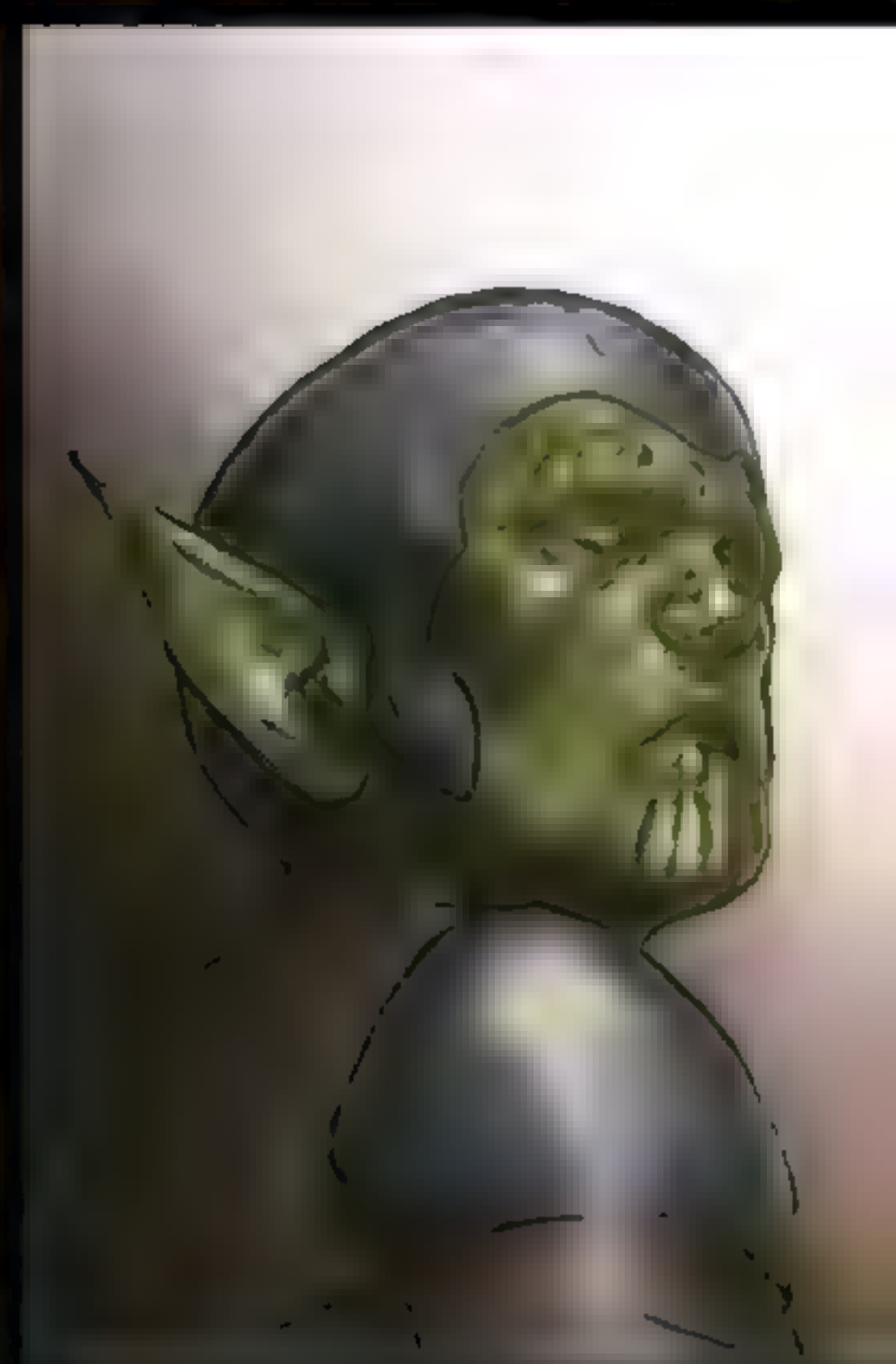
HOW IN THE HELL IS HE GOING TO SAVE US ALL?



WHO SAID HE'D SAVE US ALL, YOU WORTHLESS FOOL?!



NO! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!



GOAL: WORLD-
RAZING.

OBJECTIVE:
TIME SENSITIVE.

COMMAND:
EXECUTE!





IN THE END, WE
ALL STAND
ALONE.

EACH LIFE WITH ITS
OWN VANTAGE POINT.
ITS OWN SINGULAR
EXPERIENCE.

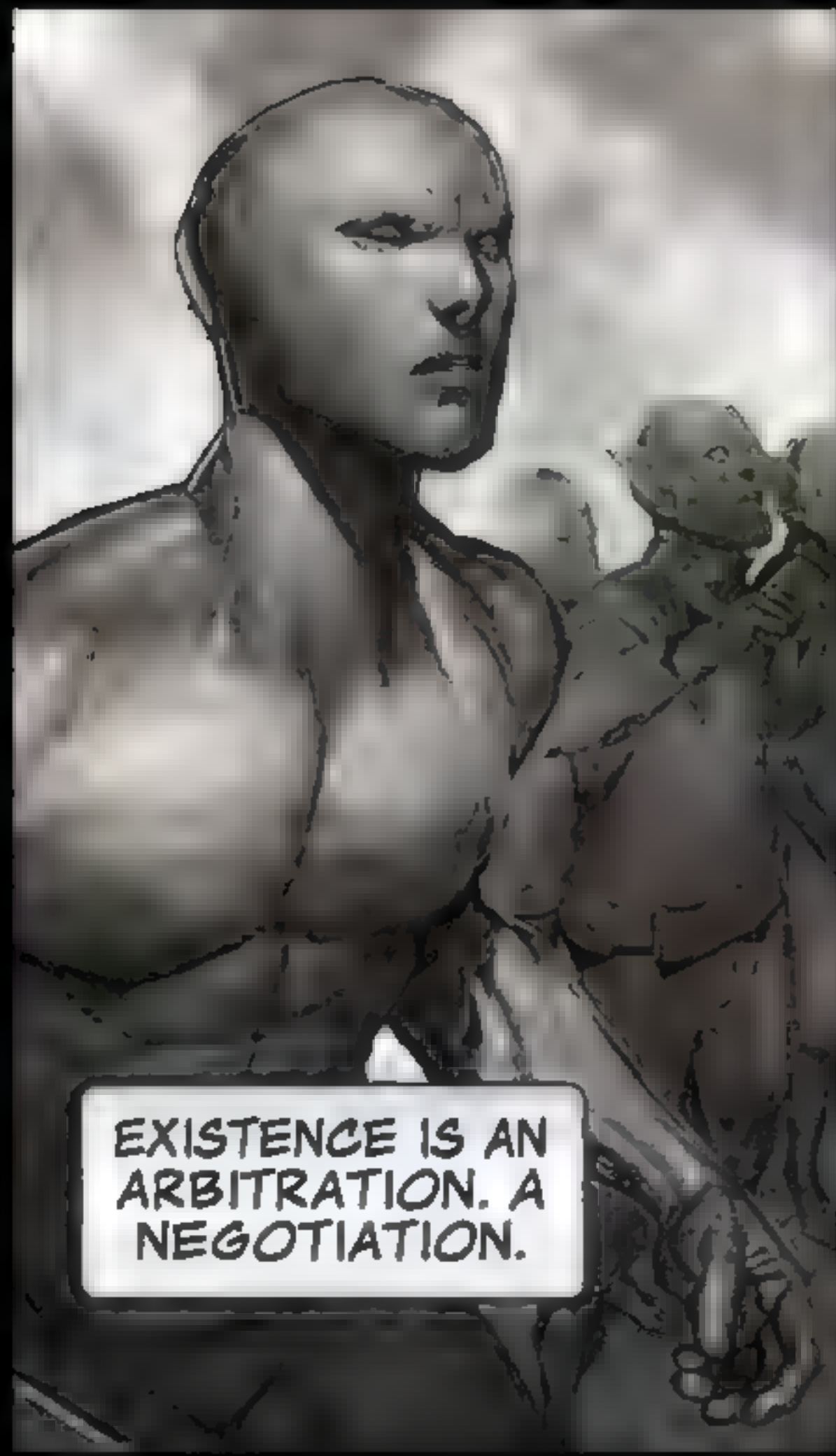


ALL ELSE IS
FOREIGN. OTHER.

WE COEXIST BY
COINCIDENCE OF
INTEREST AND NEED
AND DESIRE.



INITIATE:
WORLD RAZING.



EXISTENCE IS AN
ARBITRATION. A
NEGOTIATION.



IT IS ONLY DEATH
THAT TRULY UNITES
US.



I BECAME A
SERVANT TO
A LARGER
MASTER.

A GREATER
POWER.



I BECAME THE
JUDGE OF
WORLDS.



AND THOUGH I WRESTLED
WITH HORRORS BEYOND THE
SCOPE OF MY UNDERSTANDING,
WITH PAIN THAT THREATENED
TO DESTROY ME--



IT WAS A BURDEN
I KNEW MUST BE
CARRIED.

COMMAND
INQUIRY: ENGAGE?

COMMAND: NEGATIVE.
RESUME: PRIMARY
DIRECTIVE.



I SHOULDERS IT FOR FEAR
THAT ONE DAY SUCH POWER
MIGHT REST WITH THOSE
WITHOUT SUCH COMPLUNCTION.



WITH A FORCE SINGULAR IN
ITS FOCUS. UNBURDENED
BY MORALITY--

A POWER THAT CANNOT BE
SATED OR BARGAINED WITH.
THAT SEEKS NO NEGOTIATION--

NO!



INFINITY *THE SILVER SURFER*



AGAINST THE TIDE
CONCLUSION



"RUN!", SOMEONE
SCREAMS.



AND THE BRAVE
CHILDREN OF HY'LT
MINOR FLEE IN
TERROR.



BUT I KNOW
IT'S NO USE.

EVEN THE POWER OF THE
SILVER SURFER CANNOT
STOP THE INEVITABLE.



OUR EMPIRE IS
SHATTERED.



OUR MIGHTY
HAVE FALLEN.



THEIR HANDS TOO
SOFT. THEIR FEET
TOO SLOW--

WHAT CHANCE
DID I EVER HOPE
TO STAND?



COME NOW,
BOOKWORM--



THIS IS NO
TIME TO SLITHER
AND SCRAPE! TO
BURY YOUR HEAD
IN SHAME!

Y-YOOU?
HURK--H-HOW--
DID YOU--



SURVIVE?
LIVE?

YOU THOUGHT
I'D JUST ROLL
OVER AND DIE?!



NO, FOOLISH
WORM! NEVER! I
AM A WARRIOR, I
HAVE SHOWN GOD
MY FACE--



"AND NOW I WILL
LAUGH IN HIS!"

I HAVE
FAILED.



TRIED WITH ALL THAT
IS WITHIN MY POWER,
AND STILL THIS WORLD
IS LOST--



WHILE THESE SKRULLS. THESE
"MIGHTY CONQUERORS," THESE
"PROUD WARRIORS"--



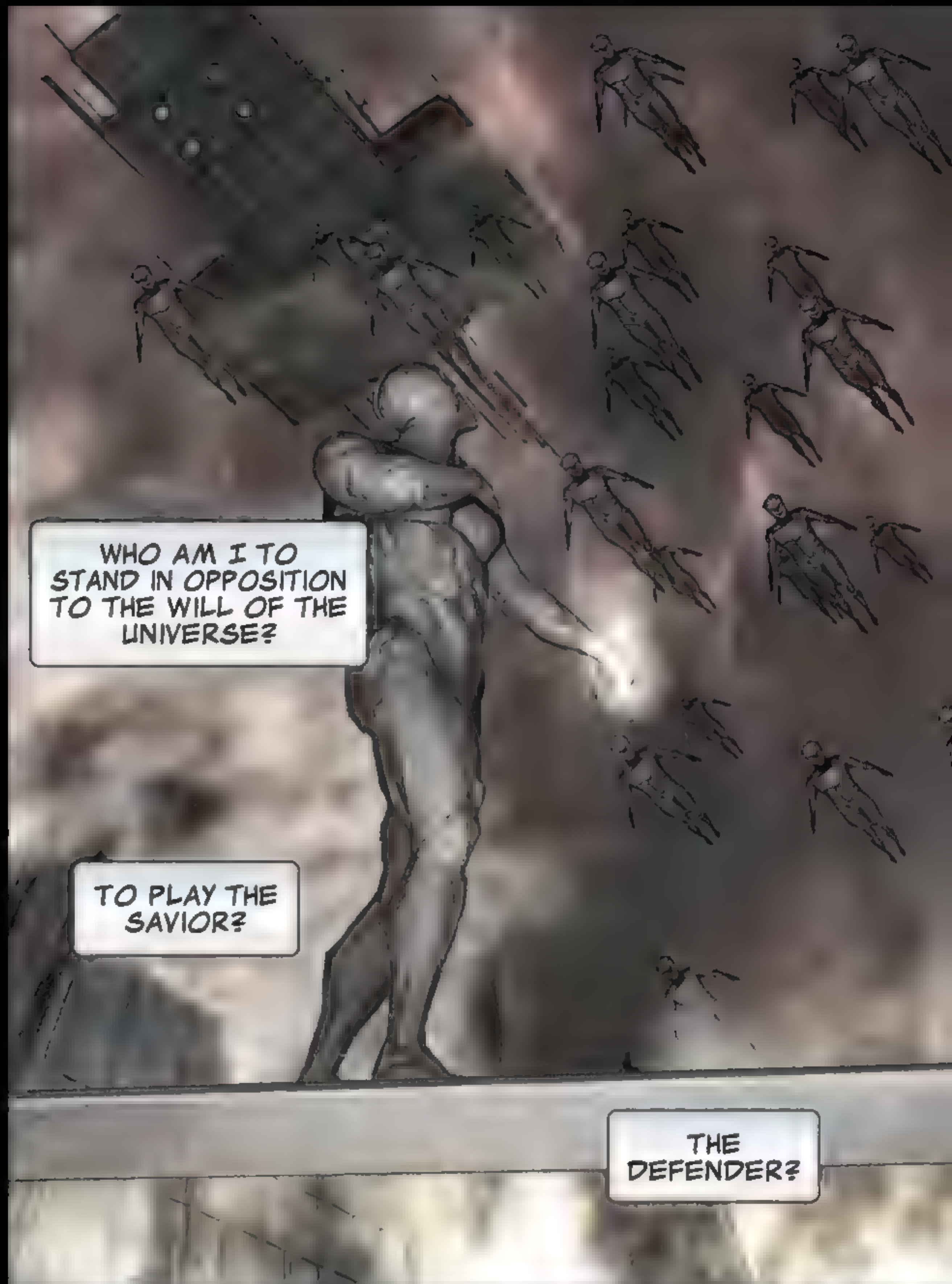
EVEN NOW, EVEN
HERE AT THE END--
THEY WAGE AND
WORSHIP WAR.

THIS BITTER WORLD. WHATEVER
SEEDS REMAIN HERE WILL SURELY
SOW ONLY DEATH AND SORROW.



OF WHAT WORTH
IS THERE IN
SAVING THEM?

OF EVEN
TRYING?



WHO AM I TO
STAND IN OPPOSITION
TO THE WILL OF THE
UNIVERSE?

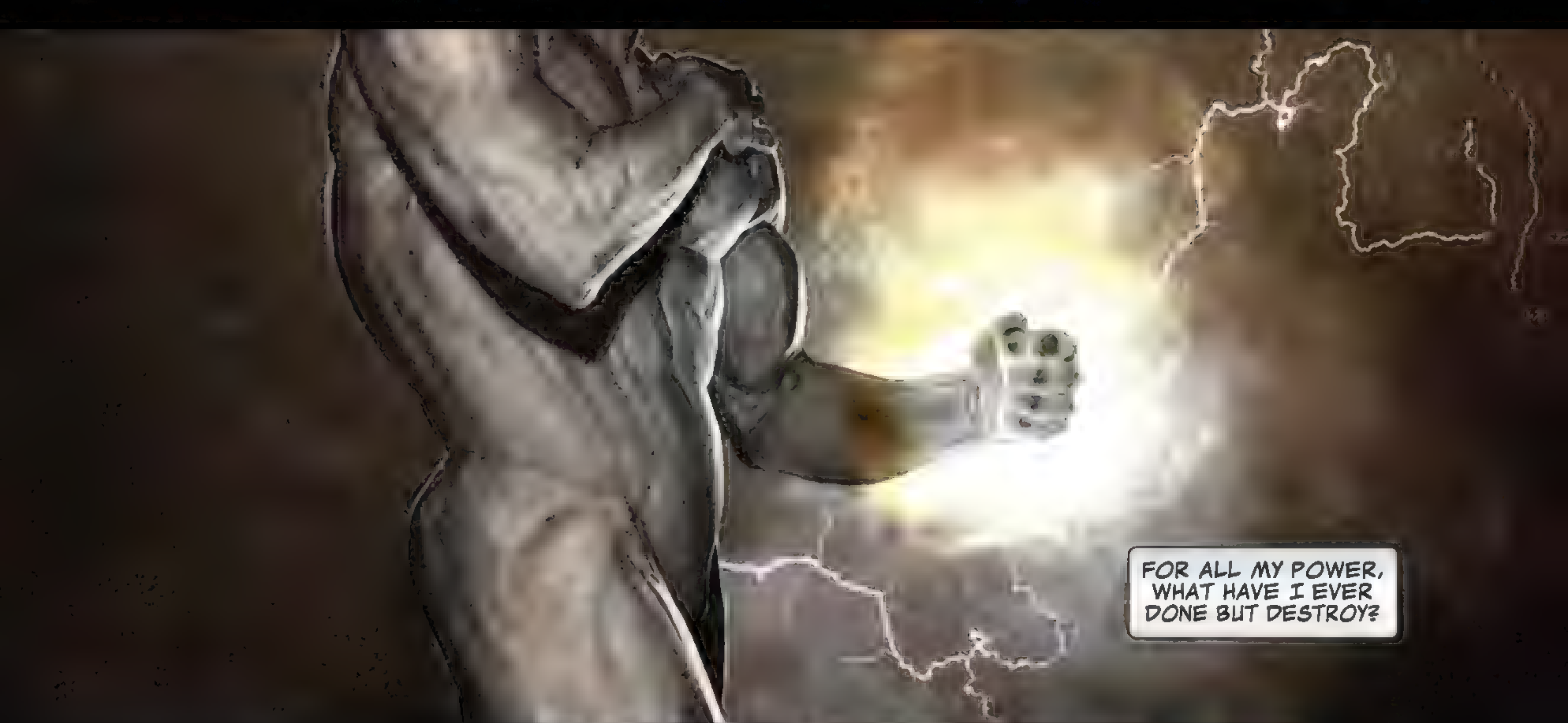
TO PLAY THE
SAVIOR?

THE
DEFENDER?



FAR BETTER
HAVE SUFFERED
ON MY WATCH.

HAVE
FALLEN.



FOR ALL MY POWER,
WHAT HAVE I EVER
DONE BUT DESTROY?



SUCH STRUGGLE!
SUCH FIGHT! PERHAPS
THERE IS A BIT OF
SKRULL IN YOU AFTER
ALL, WORM!



COME,
THE GREAT ABYSS
HAS OPENED WIDE
FOR YOU.

TURNED
ITS GAZE UPON
YOU.



YOU MUST
LOOK BACK,
BOY!



"GAZE UPON YOUR
RUINATION!"



I CANNOT
TURN AWAY.

I HAVE BEEN
GIVEN THE GIFT
OF LIFE--

HARRRNNH!

AND WITH THAT LIFE
I WILL STRIVE TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



THERE IS NO
DISGRACE IN
FAILURE OR
IN FEAR.



KRAK



SHAME,
COWARDICE--

LIE ONLY IN
NEVER HAVING
TRIED.

LET
GO!

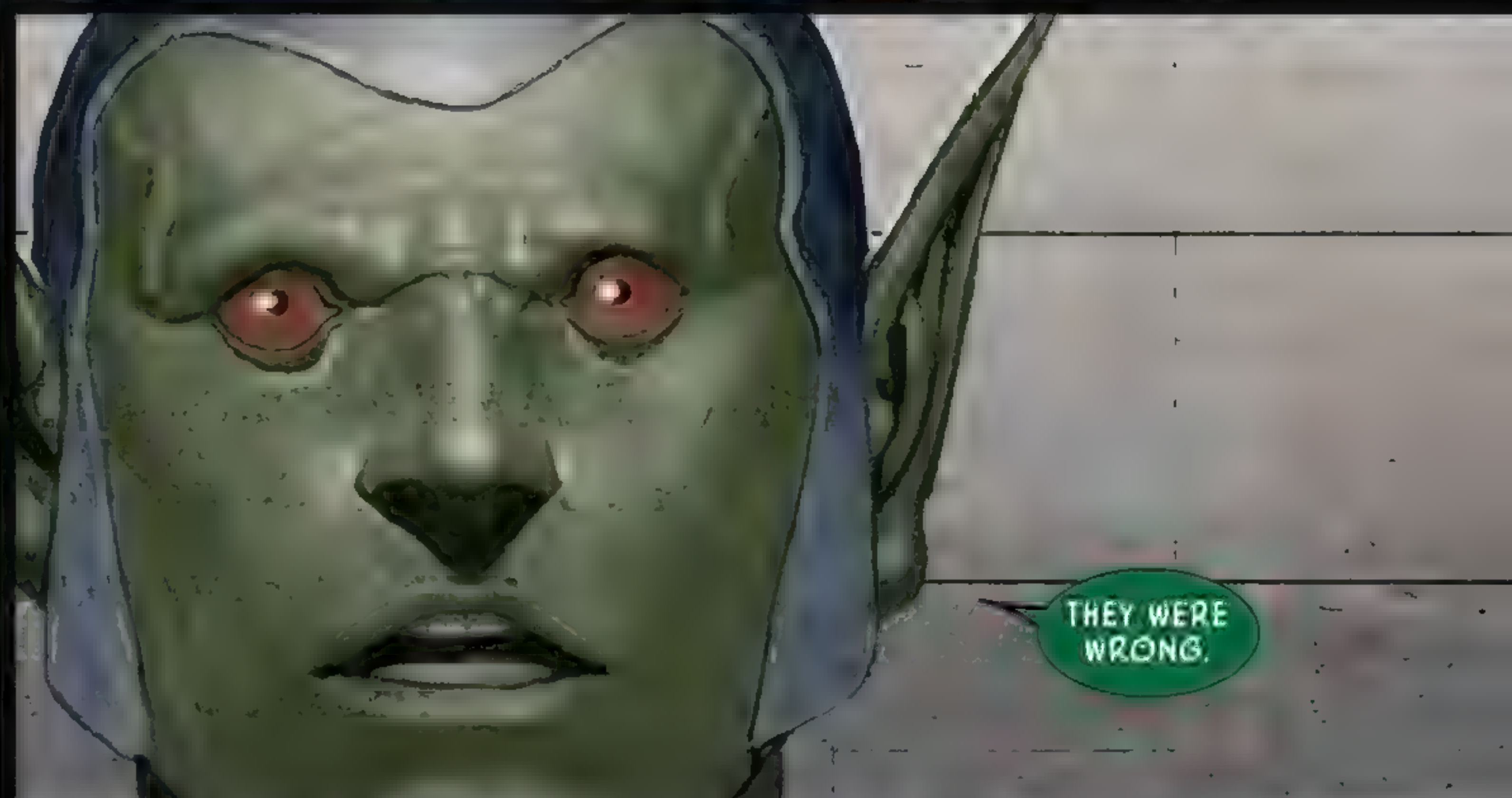
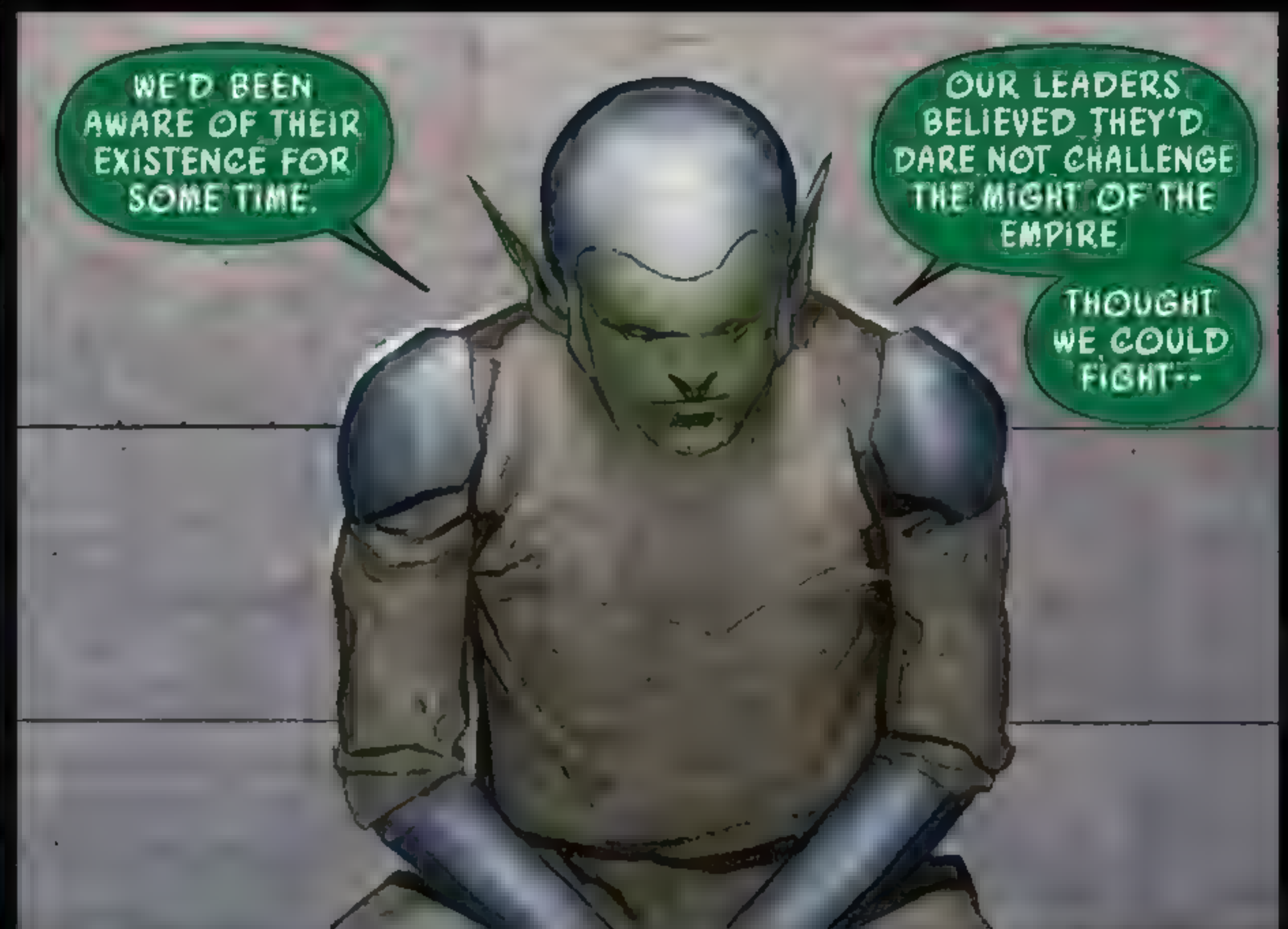
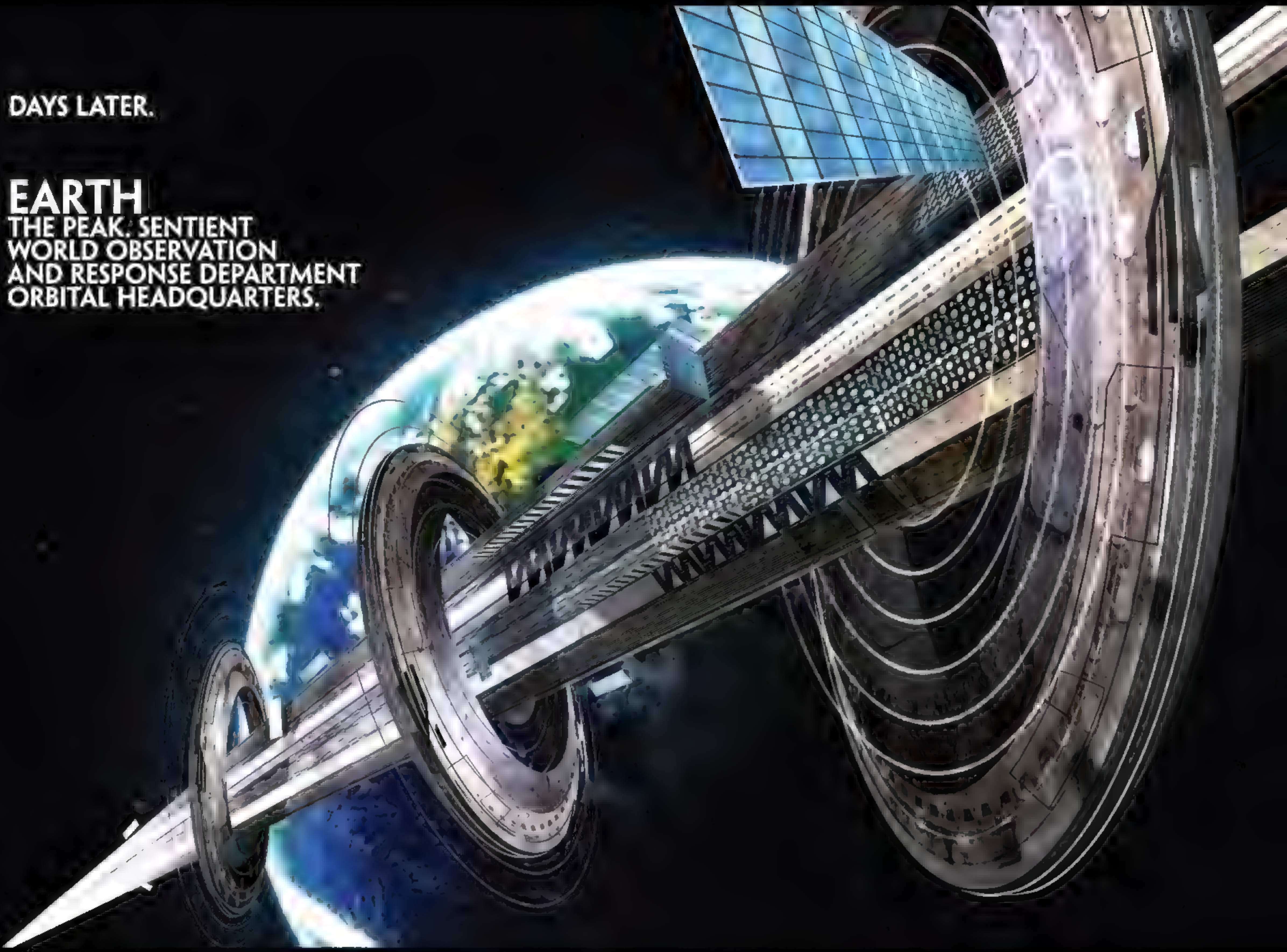
SKRUPNKK

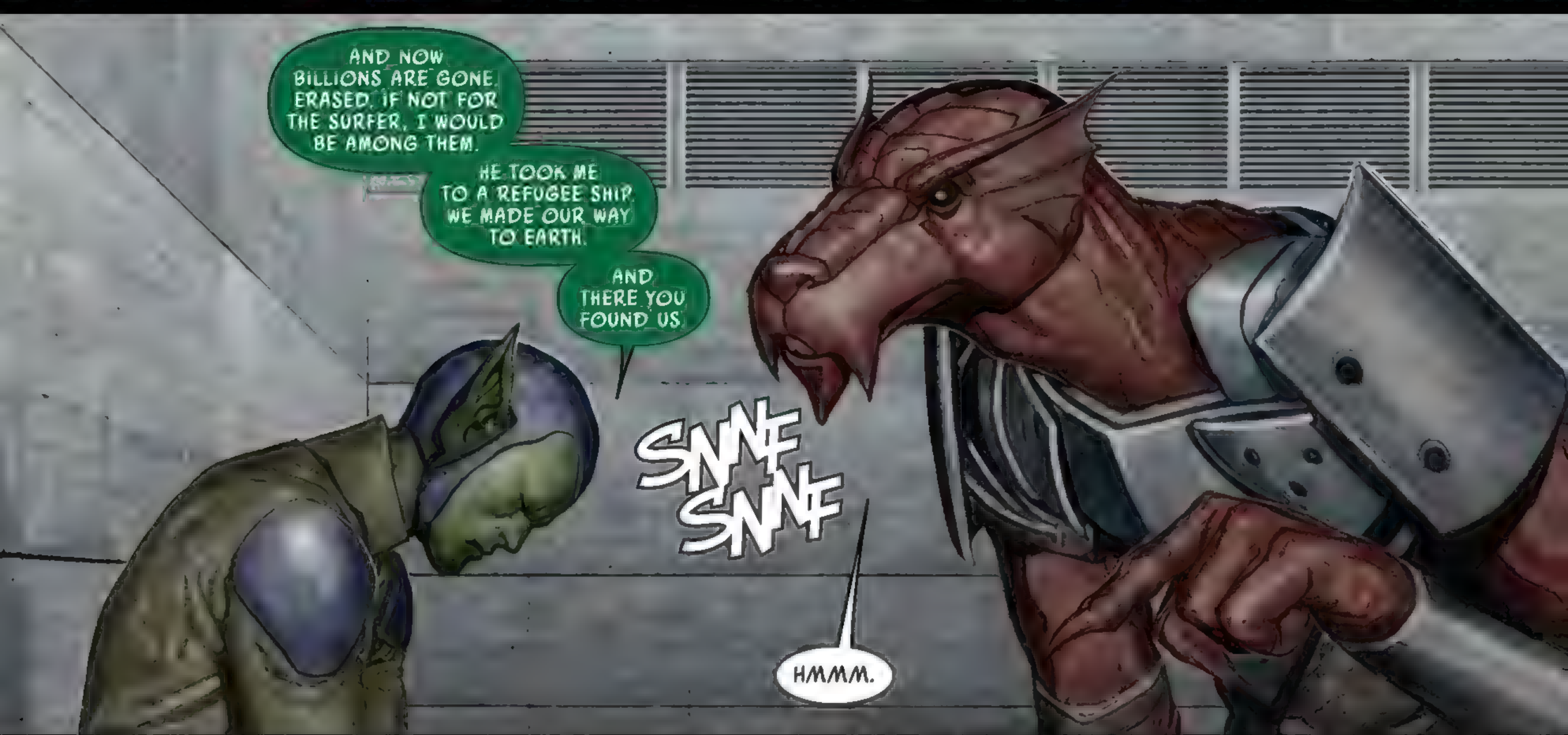




DAYS LATER.

EARTH
THE PEAK. SENTIENT
WORLD OBSERVATION
AND RESPONSE DEPARTMENT
ORBITAL HEADQUARTERS.





AND NOW
BILLIONS ARE GONE
ERASED. IF NOT FOR
THE SURFER, I WOULD
BE AMONG THEM.

HE TOOK ME
TO A REFUGEE SHIP.
WE MADE OUR WAY
TO EARTH.

AND
THERE YOU
FOUND US.

SNNE
SNNE

HMMM.



HISS MIND ISSS
SSSTRANGE...IT SHIFTS,
WARPSSS...BUT HISS
SSCEENT TELLSSS
THE TRUUUTH, AGENT
BRAND.

AT LEAST
WHAT HE
BELIEVSSS TO
BE SSOOOO.

YEAH, WELL
WHAT HE BELIEVES
STINKS, SYDREN.



LOOK--OUR DEEP-
SPACE SCANS CORROBORATE
THE DESTRUCTION OF HY'LT
MINOR. THERE'S NOTHING
REVELATORY IN THAT
INFORMATION.

BUT
THIS "BUILDERS"
NONSENSE...

LET'S SAY I
TAKE YOUR SCHNOZ
AND THIS KID'S WORD
AT FACE VALUE--



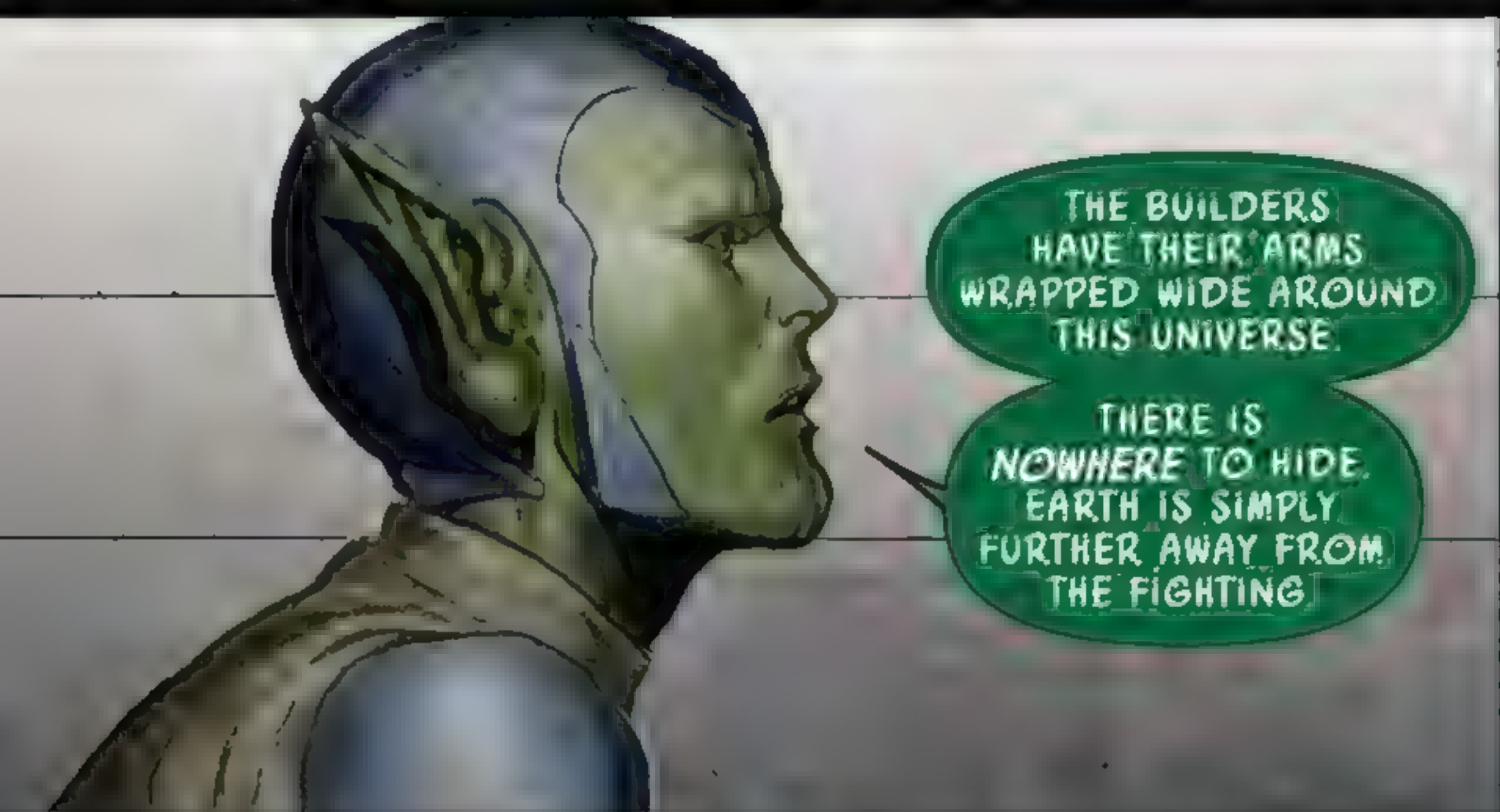
SO A GROUP
OF SKRULLS RISK
THEIR NECKS BY
HIDING ON EARTH?
POST INVASION?

WHAT'S THE
PERCENTAGE? YOU'RE
RUNNING FROM THESE
BUILDERS, SURE--

BUT IF THEY'RE
OUT TO DESTROY
US ALL, THEN WHAT
MAKES EARTH
SO SAFE?



NOTHING



THE BUILDERS
HAVE THEIR ARMS
WRAPPED WIDE AROUND
THIS UNIVERSE.

THERE IS
NOWHERE TO HIDE.
EARTH IS SIMPLY
FURTHER AWAY FROM
THE FIGHTING



BUT THEY'LL
BE HERE SOON
ENOUGH.



WELL? WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING FOR?
SNIFF HIS BUTT
OR WHATEVER.

WHAT HE
SPEAKSSS, HE
BELIEEVESSS.



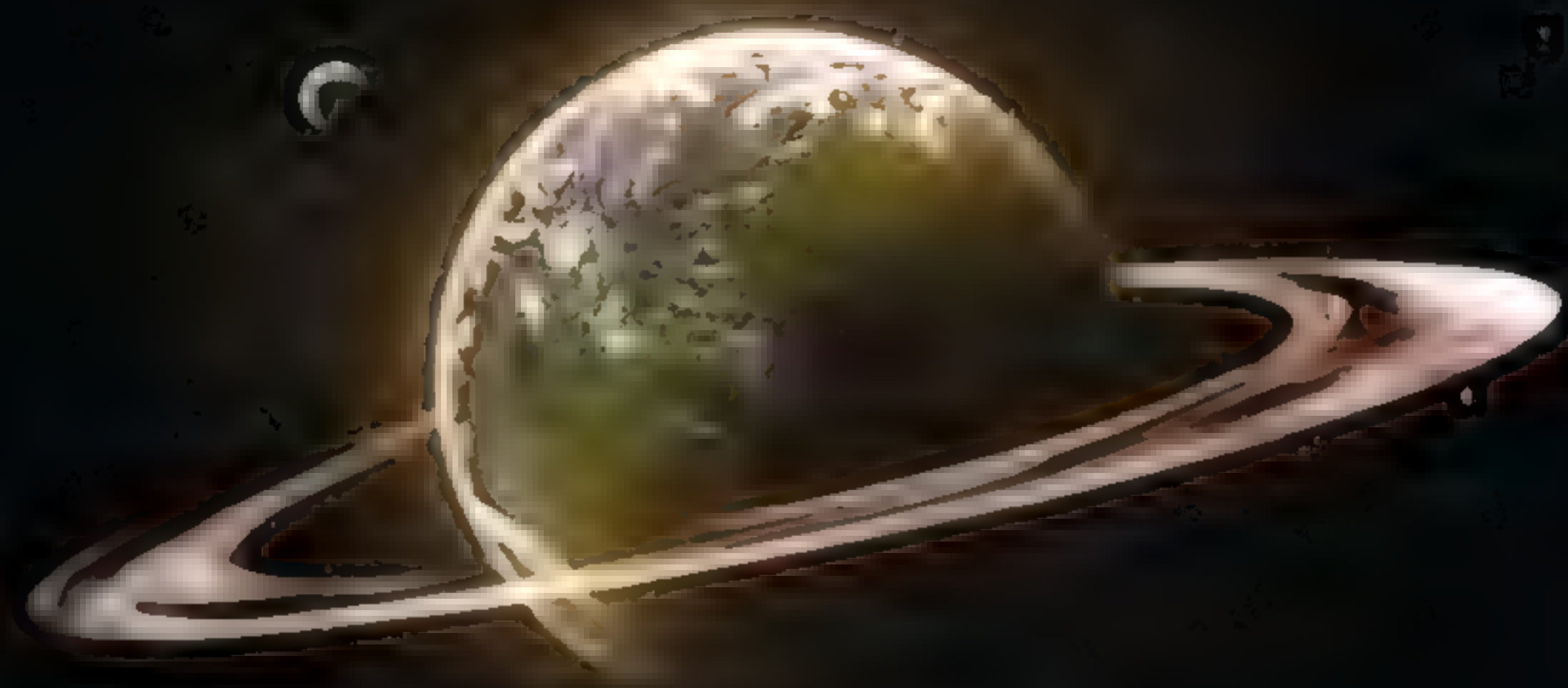
GREAT. JUST
PERFECT. THIS DAY
IS GOING SIDWAYS
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN
FINISHED MY FIRST
POT OF COFFEE.

OKAY. ALL RIGHT.
GET ME MARIA HILL
AT S.H.I.E.L.D. OR
WHOEVER IS RUNNING
THAT MADHOUSE...

SCRATCH
THAT, GET ME A
LINE STRAIGHT TO
THE AVENGERS.







CENTAURI VII.



PROPELLED
BY COSMIC
IMPERATIVE...

THE BUILDERS
YET MARCH.



THEIRS IS
A POWER
UNMATCHED.

A FORCE
UNYIELDING.

AN UNFATHOMABLE
DARKNESS. ALL-
CONSUMING. UNBROKEN...



SAVE FOR A
SLIVER OF LIGHT.

JASON LATOUR – WRITER AND STORYBOARDS

AGUSTIN ALESSIO – ARTIST, CHAPTER ONE

ROCK-HE KIM – ARTIST, CHAPTER TWO

VC'S JOE SABINO – LETTERER

LARISSA LOUIS & ARLIN ORTIZ – PRODUCTION

TIM SMITH 3 – MNGR/PRODUCTION

JAKE THOMAS – ASSISTANT EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT WITH LAUREN SANKOVITCH – EDITORS

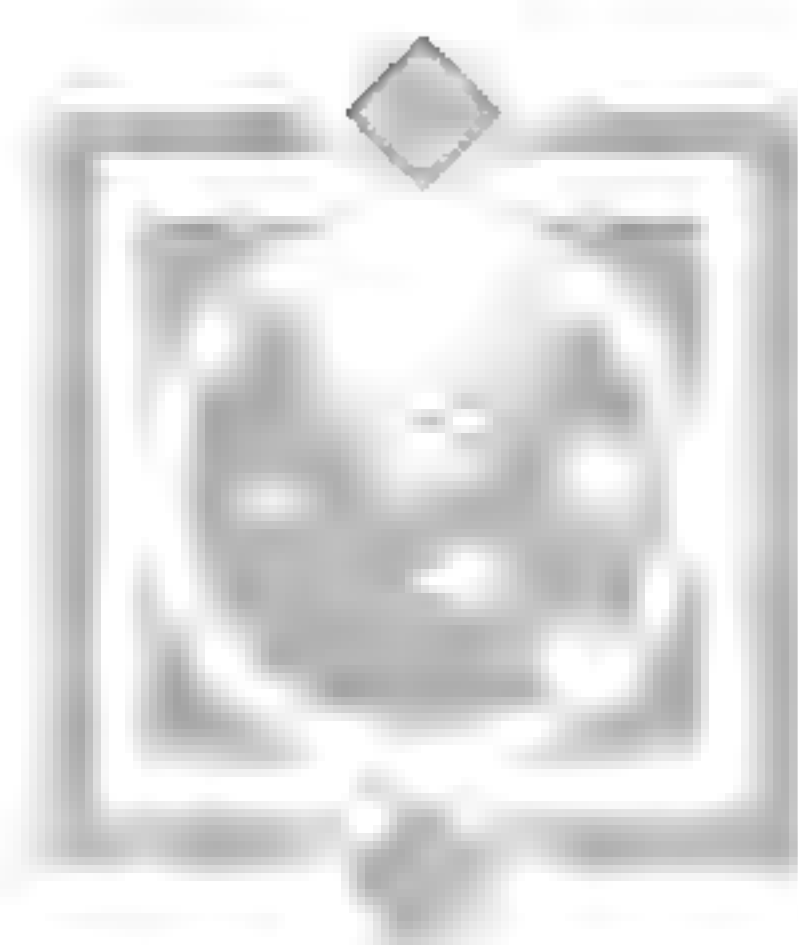
AXEL ALONSO – EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA – CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

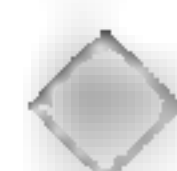
DAN BUCKLEY – PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE – EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

SPECIAL THANKS TO JONATHAN HICKMAN, MATIAS TIMARCHI AND JONGMIN SHIN



COVER GALLERY





AVENGERS #1-3 COMBINED COVERS BY DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR



AVENGERS #5 BY DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR





AVENGERS #7 BY DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR







DUSTIN WEAVER J-P

AVENGERS #10 BY DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR



DUSTIN WEAVER
J-P0



AVENGERS #11 BY DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR









AVENGERS #16 BY LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO











AVENGERS #21 BY LEINIL FRANCIS YU & LAURA MARTIN













-jock-





NEW AVENGERS #5 BY JOCK





NEW AVENGERS #8 BY MIKE DEODATO JR. & MARTE GRACIA







NEW AVENGERS #11 BY MIKE DEODATO JR. & LAURA MARTIN





INFINITY #1 BY ADAM KUBERT & LAURA MARTIN











INFINITY #6 BY ADAM KUBERT & LAURA MARTIN





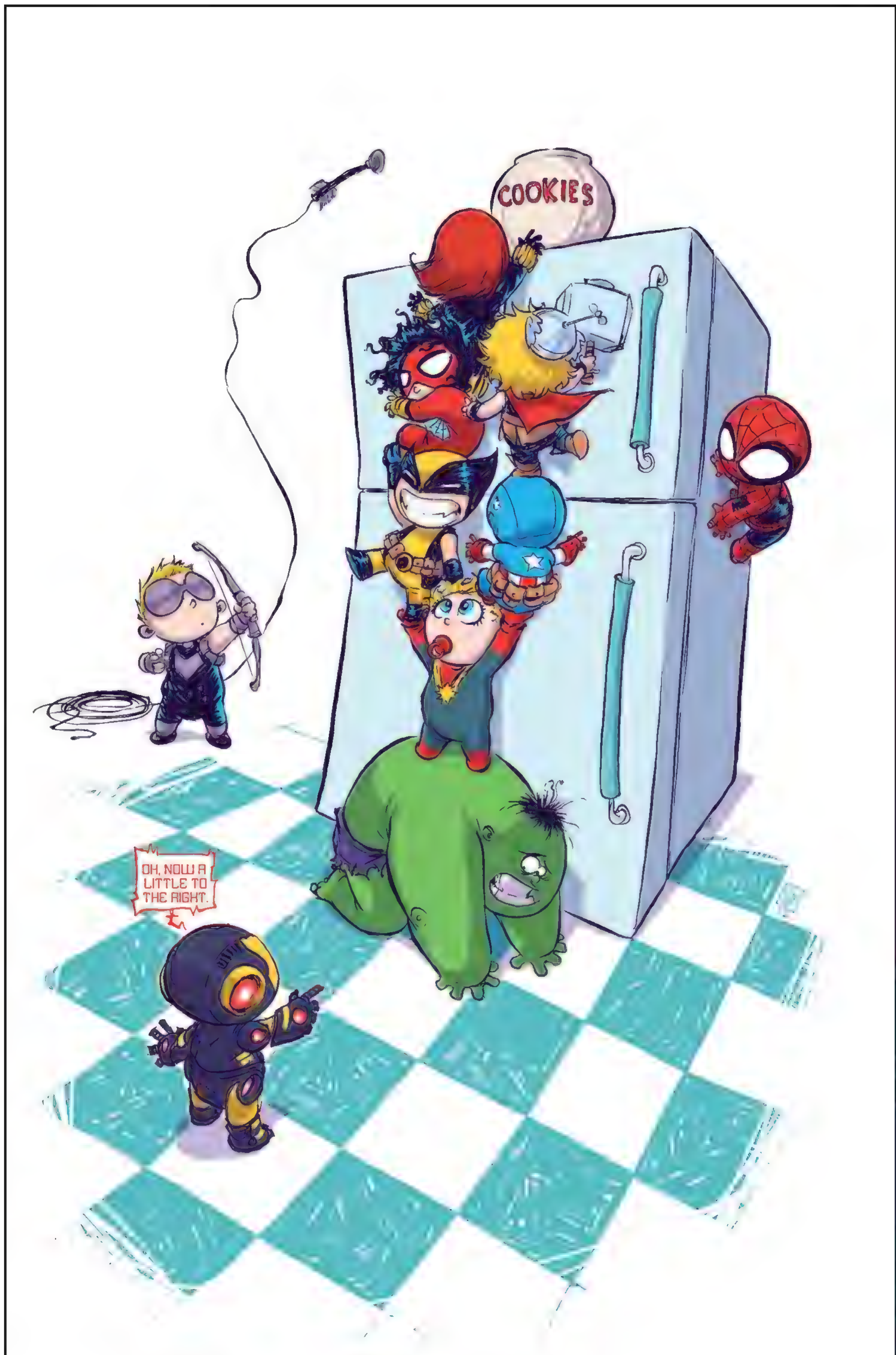
ALL-NEW X-MEN #1, UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 & AVENGERS #1 COMBINED
MIDTOWN VARIANTS BY J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & NEI RUFFINO

AVENGERS #3, #6, #8, #10, #12, #14, #16, #18, #20 & #22-23
AVENGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMBINED VARIANTS BY DANIEL ACUÑA





AVENGERS #1 VARIANT
BY STEVE MCNIVEN & JOE QUINONES



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT
BY ESAD RIBIĆ



AVENGERS #1 DEADPOOL GANGNAM STYLE VARIANT
BY MARK BROOKS WITH DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT BY
GREG HORN



AVENGERS #2 VARIANT
BY JOHN ROMITA JR., KLAUS JANSON & DEAN WHITE



AVENGERS #2 VARIANT
BY MARK BROOKS



AVENGERS #2 VARIANT
BY ESAD RIBIĆ



AVENGERS #3 VARIANT
BY ADI GRANOV



AVENGERS #4 VARIANT
BY DALE KEOWN & FRANK D'ARMATA



AVENGERS #5 VARIANT
BY CARLOS PACHECO, ROGER BONET & JOSÉ VILLARRUBIA



AVENGERS #5 VARIANT
BY PAOLO RIVERA



AVENGERS #9 MANY ARMORS OF IRON MAN VARIANT BY JOE QUINONES

AVENGERS

ISSUE
19



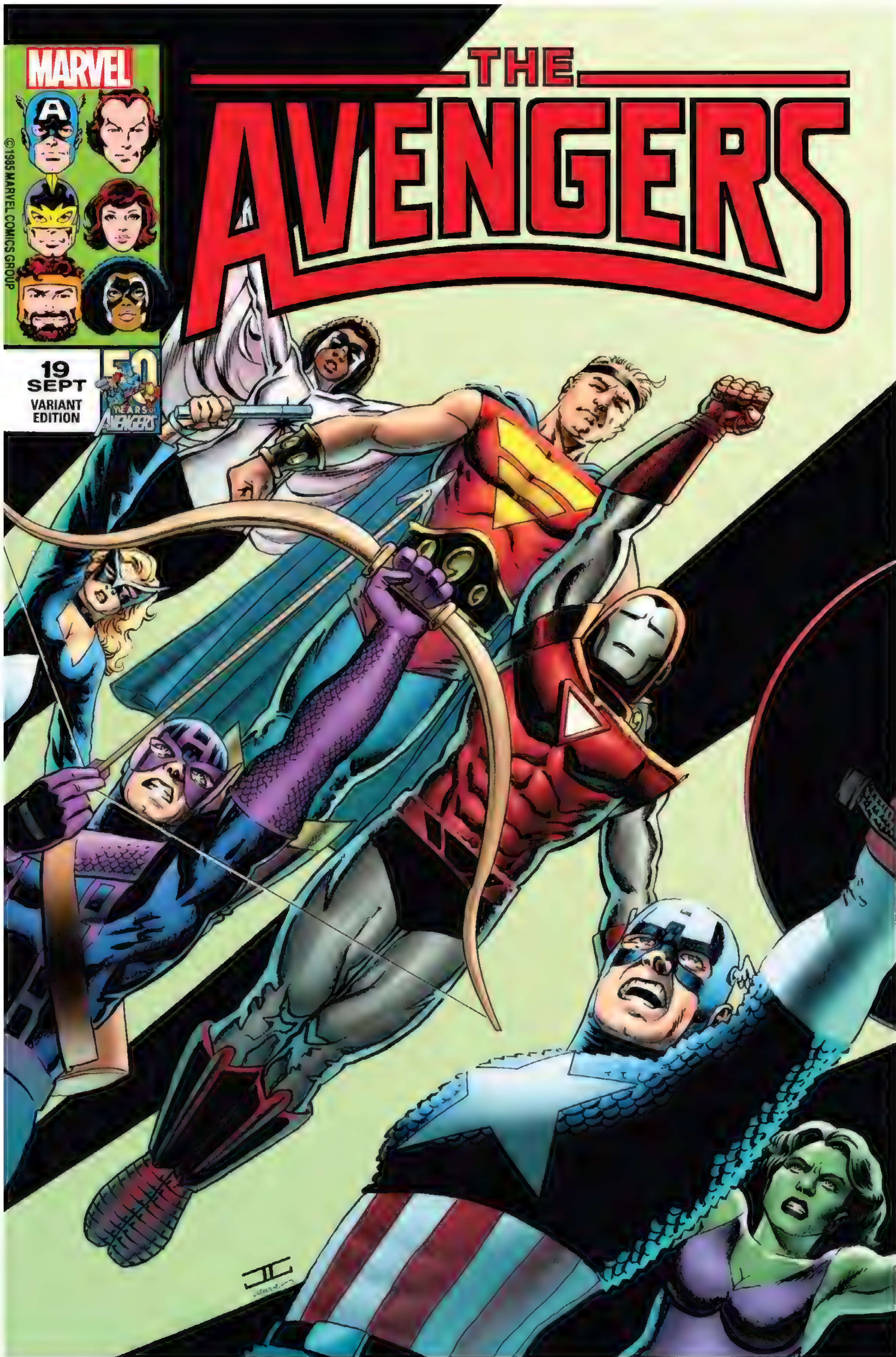
MARVEL
VARIANT EDITION



AVENGERS #19 AVENGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT
BY JOHN CASSADAY & LAURA MARTIN



AVENGERS #19 AVENGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT
BY JOHN CASSADAY & LAURA MARTIN



AVENGERS #19 AVENGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT
BY JOHN CASSADAY & LAURA MARTIN

MARVEL



VARIANT
EDITION

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

AVENGERS

19
SEPT.



AVENGERS #19 AVENGERS 50TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT
BY JOHN CASSADAY & LAURA MARTIN



AVENGERS #21 LEGO VARIANT
BY LEONEL CASTELLANI



NEW AVENGERS #1 VARIANT
BY STEVE EPTING



NEW AVENGERS #1 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



NEW AVENGERS #2 VARIANT
BY SIMONE BIANCHI & SIMONE PERUZZI



NEW AVENGERS #2 VARIANT
BY J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & NEI RUFFINO



NEW AVENGERS #3 VARIANT
BY DALE KEOWN & MORRY HOLLOWELL



NEW AVENGERS #4 VARIANT
BY STÉPHANE ROUX



NEW AVENGERS #5 VARIANT
BY JOE QUINONES & MATTHEW WILSON



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



INFINITY #2 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



INFINITY #3 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



INFINITY #4 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



I KNOW YOU ARE
ALL SUPER POWERFUL
ALIENS AND GODS
AND STUFF, BUT TRUST
ME, THIS IS A
PRETTY FREAKIN'
SWEET SHIELD.

INFINITY #5 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



INFINITY #6 VARIANT
BY SKOTTIE YOUNG



SUPERGIANT

INFINITY #1 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JEROME OPEÑA



INFINITY #2 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JIM CHEUNG



INFINITY #3 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JEROME OPEÑA



INFINITY #4 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JEROME OPEÑA



INFINITY #5 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JEROME OPEÑA



THANE

INFINITY #6 DESIGN VARIANT
BY JEROME OPEÑA



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY MARK BROOKS



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY PHIL JIMENEZ & FRANK D'ARMATA



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY ALEX MALEEV



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY SHANE DAVIS & MORRY HOLLOWELL



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY ARTHUR ADAMS & PETER STEIGERWALD



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY ADAM KUBERT



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY RON LIM & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY HUMBERTO RAMOS & EDGAR DELGADO



INFINITY #1 VARIANT
BY MARKO DJURDJEVIĆ



INFINITY #2 VARIANT
BY STEVE McNIVEN, JOHN DELL & FRANK MARTIN



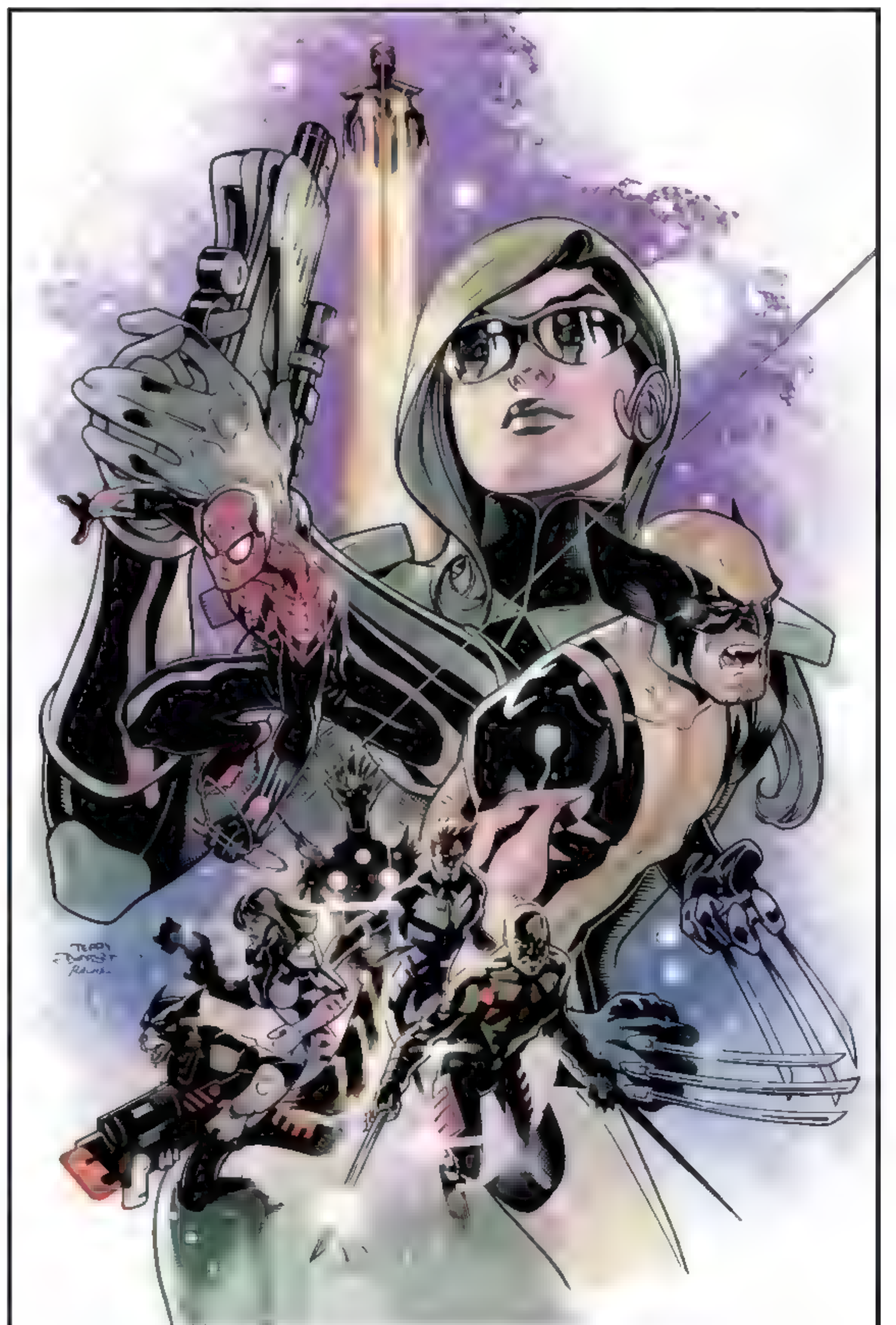
INFINITY #3 VARIANT
BY SIMONE BIANCHI



INFINITY #4 VARIANT
BY RYAN STEGMAN & FRANK MARTIN



INFINITY #5 VARIANT
BY SARA PICHELLI & MARTE GRACIA



INFINITY #6 VARIANT
BY TERRY DODSON & RACHEL DODSON



INFINITY #1-6 GENERALS COMBINED VARIANTS BY INHYUK LEE

CHARACTER DESIGNS
BY DUSTIN WEAVER





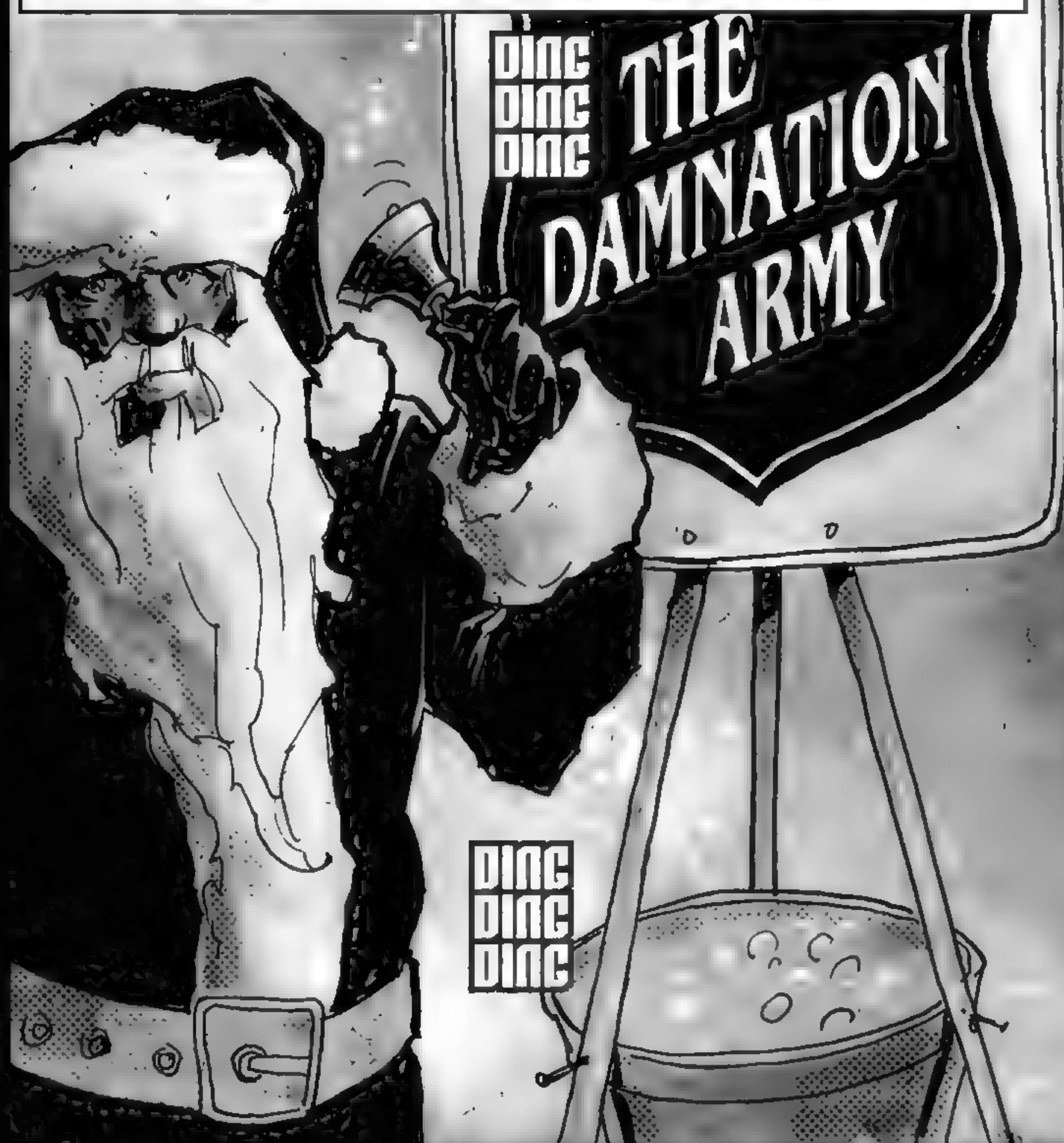


SHANG-CHI: MASTER OF KUNG FU ONE-SHOT
COVER BY LUCIO PARRILLO

WHAT FOLLOWS
IS THE STORY OF
THE LAST EVER
SUMMER SOLSTICE
BURNOUT.

A BIKE RACE ACROSS
THE DESERT WHERE THE
CHIHUAHUA SAND
MEETS THE SHADOWS
OF THE SIERRA MADRE.

ORGANIZED AND RUN BY THE BLACK SANTAS OF THE DAMNATION
ARMY TO BENEFIT THE HOMELESS--ALL UNCONSUMED LIQUOR,
UNUSED DRUGS AND NON-EXPENSE RELATED FUNDS ARE
SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN THE BUMS OF WICHITA, KANSAS
AND THE VAGRANTS OF DES MOINES, IOWA.



HELP
EASE A
SINGLE MOTHER'S
PAIN. FREE DRINKS
FOR THE
LADIES.

HERE YOU
GO.

THANK
YOU, SIR.

MALT
LIQUOR. MALT
LIQUOR...THINK
OF THE
CHILDREN.

CLINK!

DING
DING
DING

THEY COME FROM
ALL OVER: SOME OF
THE EVILEST MEN IN THE
HEMISPHERE HOPING
TO LIFT THE CUP AND
CLAIM THE PRIZE.

INSTEAD, FOR THE
LAST 3 YEARS, THEY
HAVE BEEN TAUGHT
HUMILITY AND TASTED
ONLY DEFEAT--FOR
I HAVE WON IT.



I'VE BEEN MEANING TO
ASK, WHY DO YOU COMPETE
IN THIS THING? WOULDN'T
IT BE EASIER TO BEAT THEM
UP OR CALL THE COPS
OR SOMETHING?

I LIKE
TO RACE.

JUST BECAUSE I'VE SPENT
MY LIFE BECOMING PROFICIENT
AT CERTAIN DISCIPLINES
DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T LIKE
TO ENJOY OCCASIONAL
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

A GREAT TEACHER
ONCE SAID, "TO ENJOY
LIFE, ONE MUST
ACTUALLY LIVE."



A GREAT TEACHER.
HUH. WHAT'S HE
A TEACHER OFF?

OH, DON'T
MAKE ME
SAY IT.

HELLO, MOST
DISHONORABLE
OPPONENTS.

I HOPE YOU
HAVE SUFFICIENTLY
PREPARED
YOURSELF FOR THE
HUMBLING SOON
TO ENSUE.

I DON'T
TALK LIKE
THAT.

QUIET. I'M
THE ONE
NARRATING.

NO YOU
AREN'T, I
AM.

FINE. WE'LL
TAKE TURNS.
AGE BEFORE
BEAUTY?



DEFEAT HAD MADE
THESE EVIL MEN
BITTER AND WITH
TIME THAT BITTERNESS
TURNED TO MALICE.

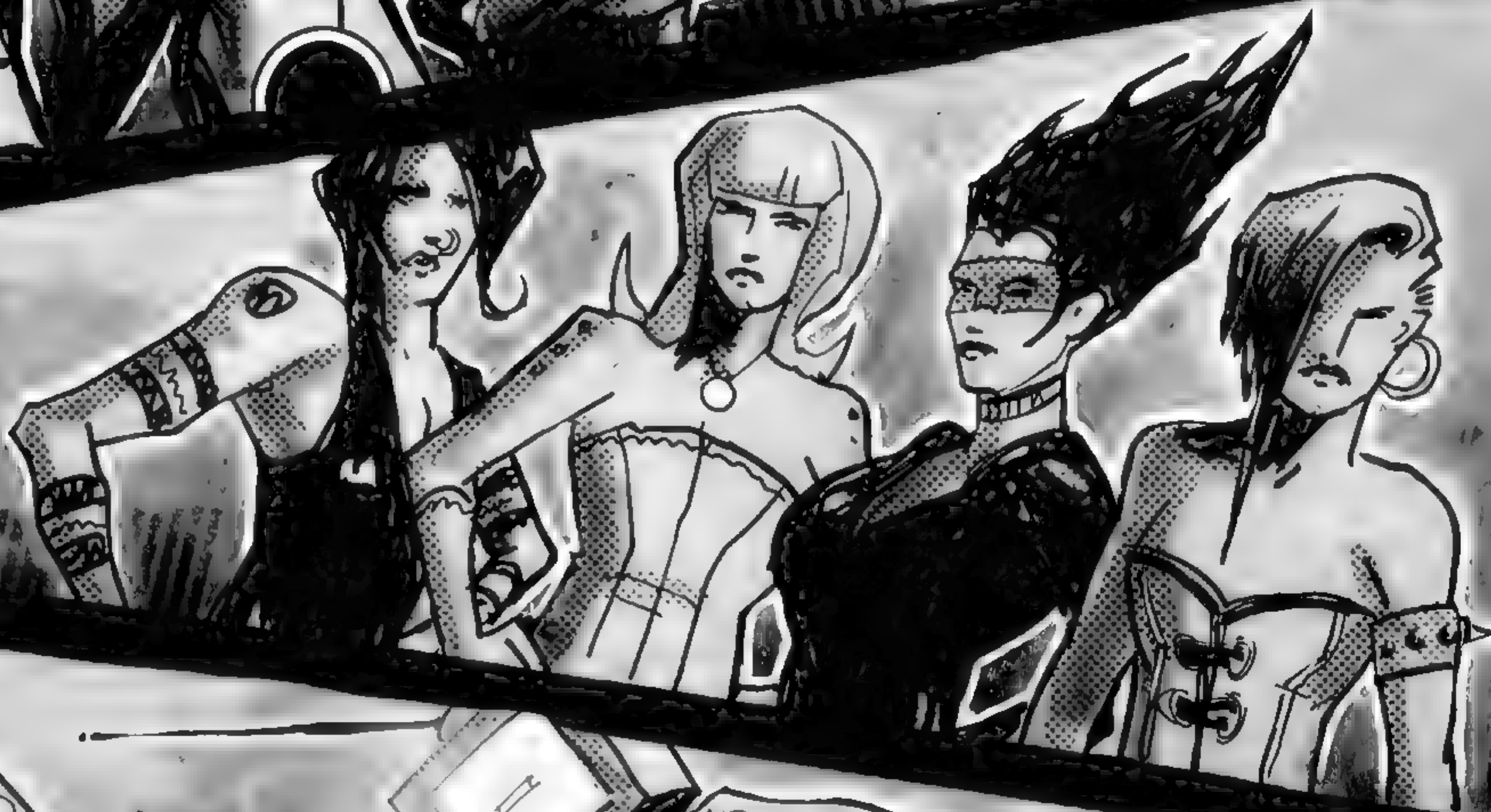
THEY ALL WANTED
REVENGE...THE BLACK
SANTAS, THE HITLER
TWIN FROM
PITTSBURGH...



THE CROSS-DRESSING, CAT-
THEMED PROFESSIONAL
WRESTLERS FROM THE
WOMEN'S EXTREME
WRESTLING LEAGUE: MISS
SCRATCHY, SPOT AND
DOCTOR HEMORRHOID...



THE NEEDY WOMEN
OF RENO: ARIA,
ARIANNA, ALANNA,
AND ARIA...



THE THINKING
MEN OF PALO
ALTO: CAPTAIN
ENVIRONMENT,
CORPORATION MAN,
THE INTERFACE AND
CAPPUCCINO...

AND THE
LUCHADORES...

THEY WANTED REVENGE--ALL
OF THEM--SO BADLY THAT
THEY MADE THE MISTAKE OF
POOLING THEIR MONEY TOGETHER
AND HIRING AN OUTSIDER TO
MAKE SURE I WOULD NEVER
AGAIN WIN THEIR RACE.



SHANG-CHI: MASTER OF KUNG-FU & DEADPOOL IN The Annual Race to Benefit Various and Sundry Evil Organizations and Also The Homeless

NOW WITH BEER
AND HOT DOGS

SOMETIMES
YOU DO NOT
GET WHAT YOU
PAY FOR.

SAY
IT WITH
ME:

CROTCH
ROCKET.

SOUND
ACCURATE?

IT ROLLS
OFF THE
TONGUE.

CROTCH.
CROTCH.
CROTCH.



WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN
ARTIST: KODY CHAMBERLIN
LETTER: VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA
EDITORS: JODY LEHEUP WITH JOHN BARBER

AND THEN
IT WAS TIME
TO RACE.

A SMALL ARMY OF
COMPETITORS EDGED
THE STARTING LINE. THE
SUN WAS BEATING ON
OUR BACKS AND THE
SMELL OF GAS AND
OIL FILLED THE AIR.

THEN THE
FLAGGER
DROPPED HER
HANDKERCHIEF
AND THE
RACE WAS...

WAIT. WAIT.
WAIT...

YOU
FORGOT...

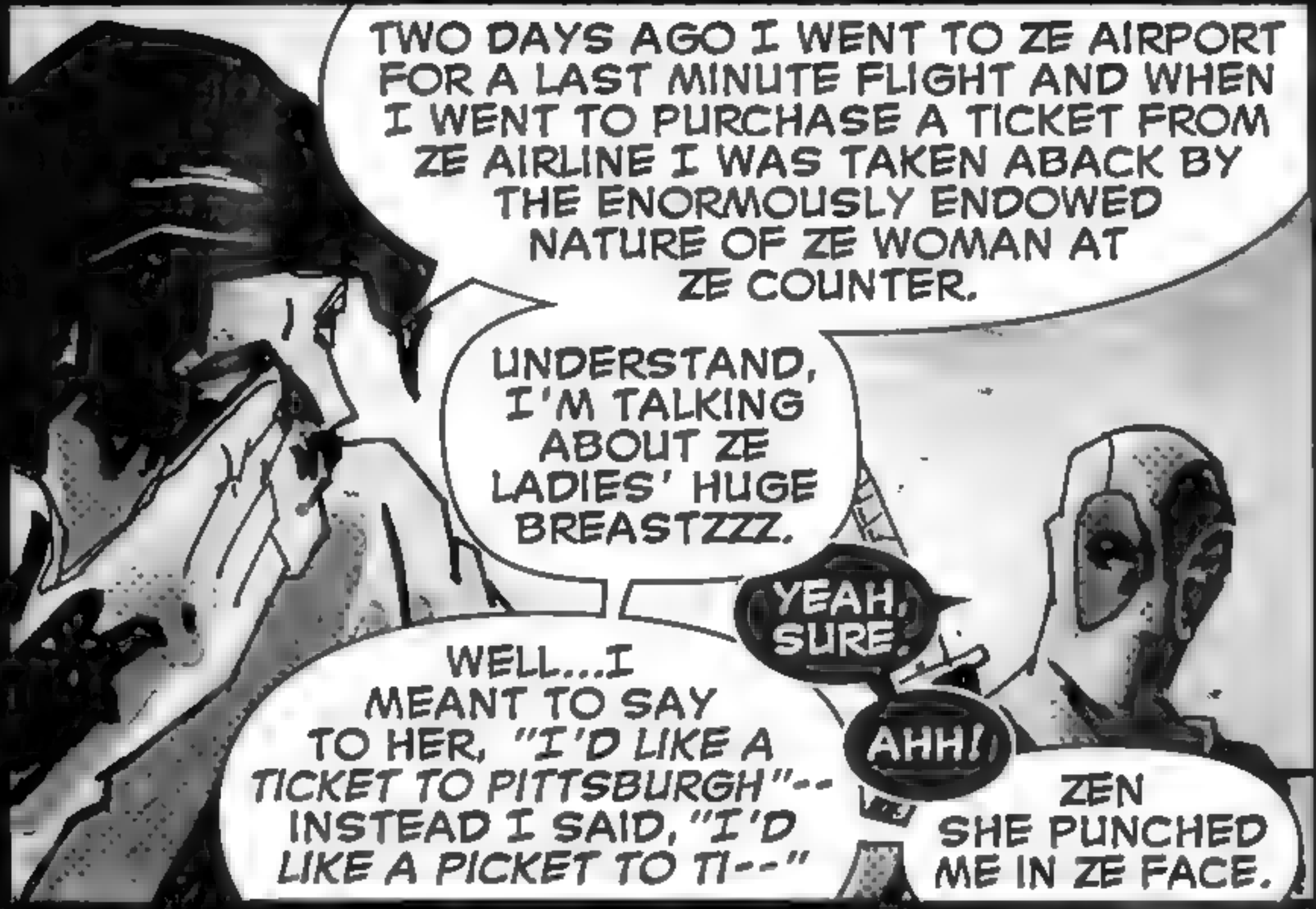
THIS
HAPPENED
FIRST.



HEY! BOTH
OF YOU GUYS
HAVE BLACK EYES.
HOW DOES SOMETHING
LIKE THAT
HAPPEN?



MINE
WAS A SLIP
OF ZE
TONGUE.



TWO DAYS AGO I WENT TO ZE AIRPORT
FOR A LAST MINUTE FLIGHT AND WHEN
I WENT TO PURCHASE A TICKET FROM
ZE AIRLINE I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY
THE ENORMOUSLY ENDOWED
NATURE OF ZE WOMAN AT
ZE COUNTER.

UNDERSTAND,
I'M TALKING
ABOUT ZE
LADIES' HUGE
BREASTZZZ.

YEAH,
SURE

WELL...I
MEANT TO SAY
TO HER, "I'D LIKE A
TICKET TO PITTSBURGH"--
INSTEAD I SAID, "I'D
LIKE A PICKET TO TI--"

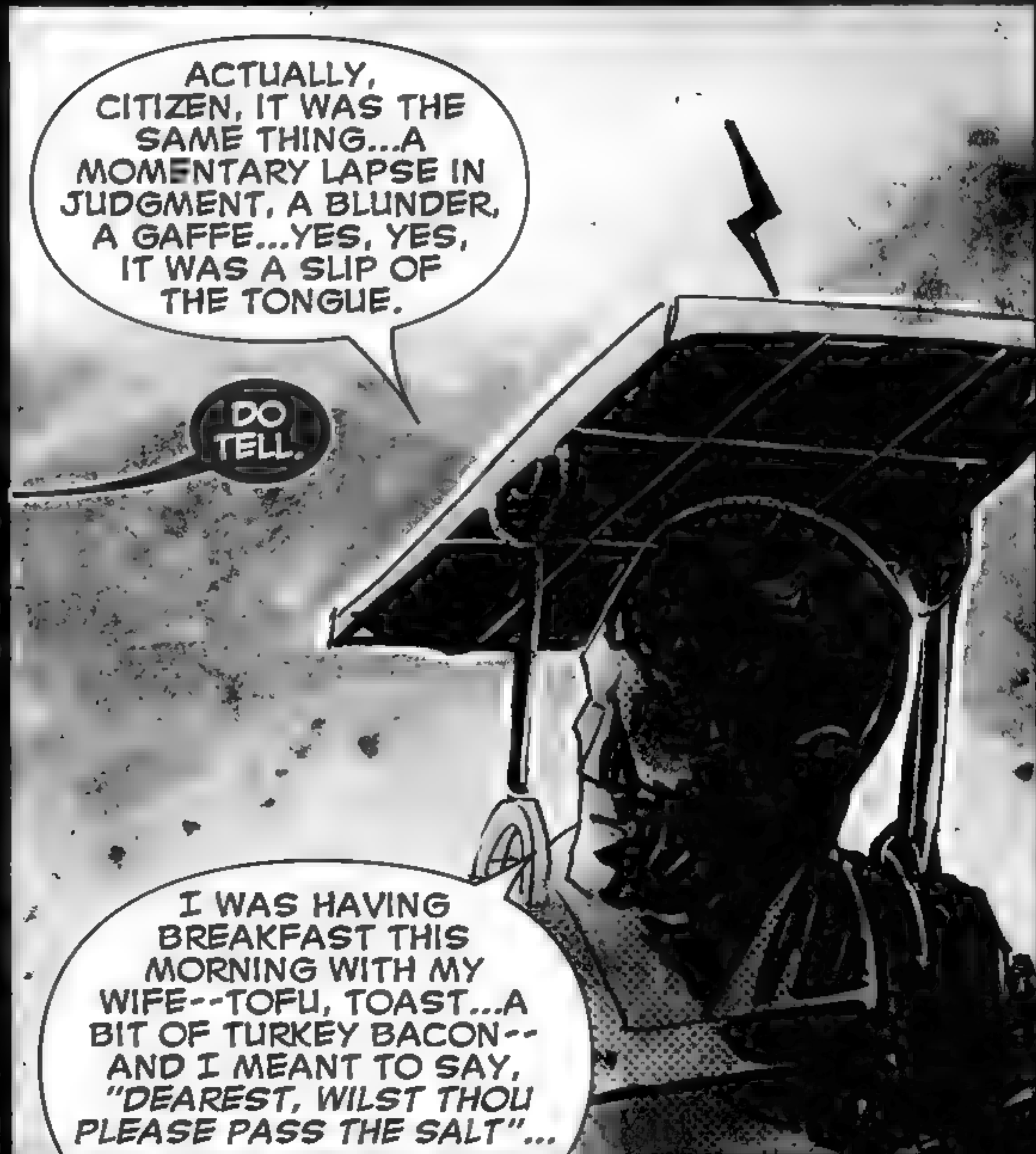
AHH!
ZEN
SHE PUNCHED
ME IN ZE FACE.



UNDERSTANDABLE.

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

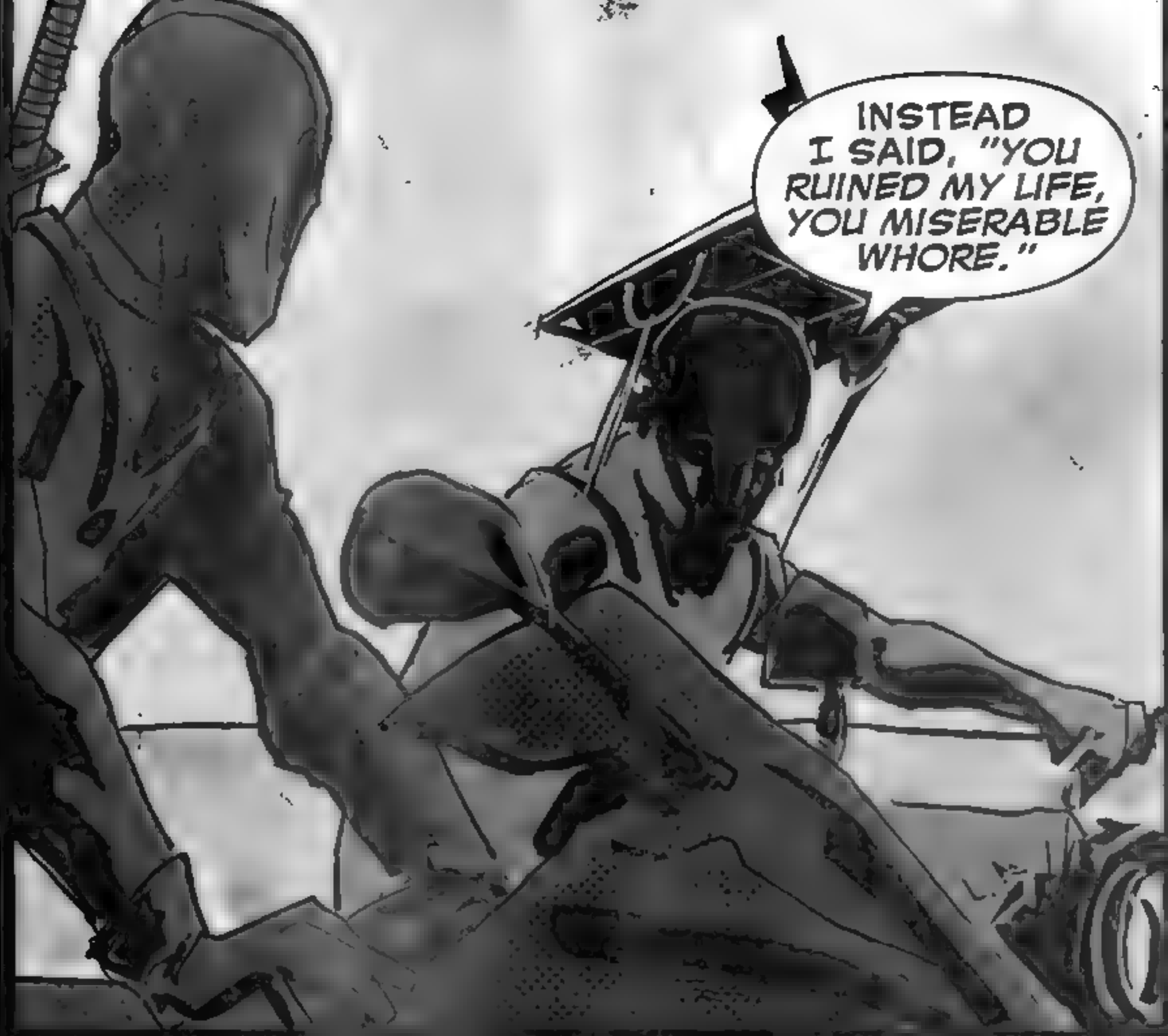
HRMMPH!



ACTUALLY,
CITIZEN, IT WAS THE
SAME THING...A
MOMENTARY LAPSE IN
JUDGMENT, A BLUNDER,
A GAFFE...YES, YES,
IT WAS A SLIP OF
THE TONGUE.

DO
TELL.

I WAS HAVING
BREAKFAST THIS
MORNING WITH MY
WIFE--TOFU, TOAST...A
BIT OF TURKEY BACON--
AND I MEANT TO SAY,
"DEAREST, WILST THOU
PLEASE PASS THE SALT"...



INSTEAD
I SAID, "YOU
RUINED MY LIFE,
YOU MISERABLE
WHORE."



THAT'LL
HAPPEN.

OKAY, NOW
YOU CAN DO
THE START OF
THE RACE.



THANKS...AS I SAID,
THE SUN WAS BEATING
ON OUR BACKS AND
SMELL OF GAS AND OIL
FILLED THE AIR.

WHO'S
READY TO
RACE?!



THEN
THE FLAGGER
WAVED HER
HANDKERCHIEF...



GO!!!

AND WE
WERE OFF!

HEY! HEY!
WHERE ARE
THEY GOING?

THEY'RE GOING
SO FAST, WHAT IF
THEY GET CONFUSED
AND LOST?

IF ONLY THERE WERE
SOME KIND OF DOCUMENT
THAT SHOWED WHERE A
RACE BEGAN, THE COURSE
THAT IT FOLLOWED AND
WHERE IT ENDED...

OH, WELL, FAREWELL BRAVE RACERS--
GODSPEED--PERHAPS LUCK WILL HAVE
OUR PATHS CROSSING AGAIN
SOME DISTANT DAY IN THE FUTURE...

SO YOU
WANT ME TO
SHOW THEM
THE MAP?

YEESSSSS!
A MAP...
BRILLIANT!

FINISH LINE

THE DAREDEVIL DEATH COURSE
OF MISTER KEN EVIL, ESQUIRE

STARTING LINE

SODOM'S DINER

THE TOPHETTI
TUNNEL OF TERROR

THE LOST CITY
OF NANAUATZIN

NOW IS AS
GOOD A TIME AS ANY
TO GO OVER THE
RULES OF THE RACE:



ONLY BLUNT
OBJECTS AND
EDGE WEAPONS
MAY BE USED
DURING THE
COURSE OF
THE EVENT.



GUNS, GRENADES,
ROCKET LAUNCHERS
AND ANY OTHER
PROJECTILES ARE
PROHIBITED.



EXCEPT FOR DESIGNATED
REST AREAS AND RACE
CHALLENGES, IF ANY RIDER GETS
OFF OF--OR IS REMOVED
FROM--THEIR BIKE, THEY ARE
IMMEDIATELY DISQUALIFIED.



AND FINALLY...ONCE A RIDER IS OUT OF THE RACE, THAT PERSON IS NO LONGER "IN PLAY" AND IS NO LONGER FAIR GAME.

THEY SHOULD NOT BE ENGAGED IN ANY WAY.

PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD.



RACE CASUALTIES WERE EARLY AND OFTEN THAT YEAR.

SURPRISINGLY, THE HITLER TWINS WENT OUT FIRST.



LESS STUNNING WAS THE PREDICTABLE, AND ANNUAL, ELIMINATION OF THE LUCHADORES..



EVERY YEAR THEY STARTED OUT WITH THE INTENTION OF WINNING THE RACE, BUT WHEN IT CAME TIME TO CROSS THE BORDER, THEY COULDN'T STAND TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY THEY HAD GROWN TO LOVE.



OH, AND THEY WERE ALSO WANTED ON DRUG TRAFFICKING, EXTORTION, AND KIDNAPPING CHARGES.

AFTER CROSSING THE BORDER INTO MEXICO, OUR FIRST CHALLENGE WAS SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING THE LOST CITY OF NANAUATZIN.



NORMALLY THE FINDING
OF A HIDDEN, HAUNTED
CITY AND OVERCOMING A
GIANT LABYRINTH OF DEATH
AT ITS CENTER WOULD BE
A FEAT UNTO ITSELF.



BUT AT THE HEART OF
NANAUATZIN, AT THE
CENTER OF THIS DARK PLACE,
WAS SOMETHING EVEN
MORE DANGEROUS...

THE MINOTAUR
MATADORS OF
THE MAZE!

ONCE UPON A TIME--BEFORE
NANAUATZIN BECAME LOST--
THEY WERE VEGETARIANS,
BUT WHEN THE CITY GREW
MAD IN ISOLATION THEIR
APPETITES CHANGED
INTO WANTING SOMETHING
FATTY AND TENDER.



THOSE
BULL-BASTARDS
WANTED TO
EAT US!



SO THE GOAL WAS
TO FIND THE CITY,
NAVIGATE THE
MAZE AND AVOID
BECOMING A SNACK.





OKAY, I WANT TO INTERRUPT HERE TO SAY THAT THIS IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A PERFECTLY PERFORMED SLEEPER HOLD.

NOTICE HOW EVEN THIS GUY KNOWS TO COMPRESS BOTH CAROTID ARTERIES WITHOUT CRUSHING THE AIRWAY.

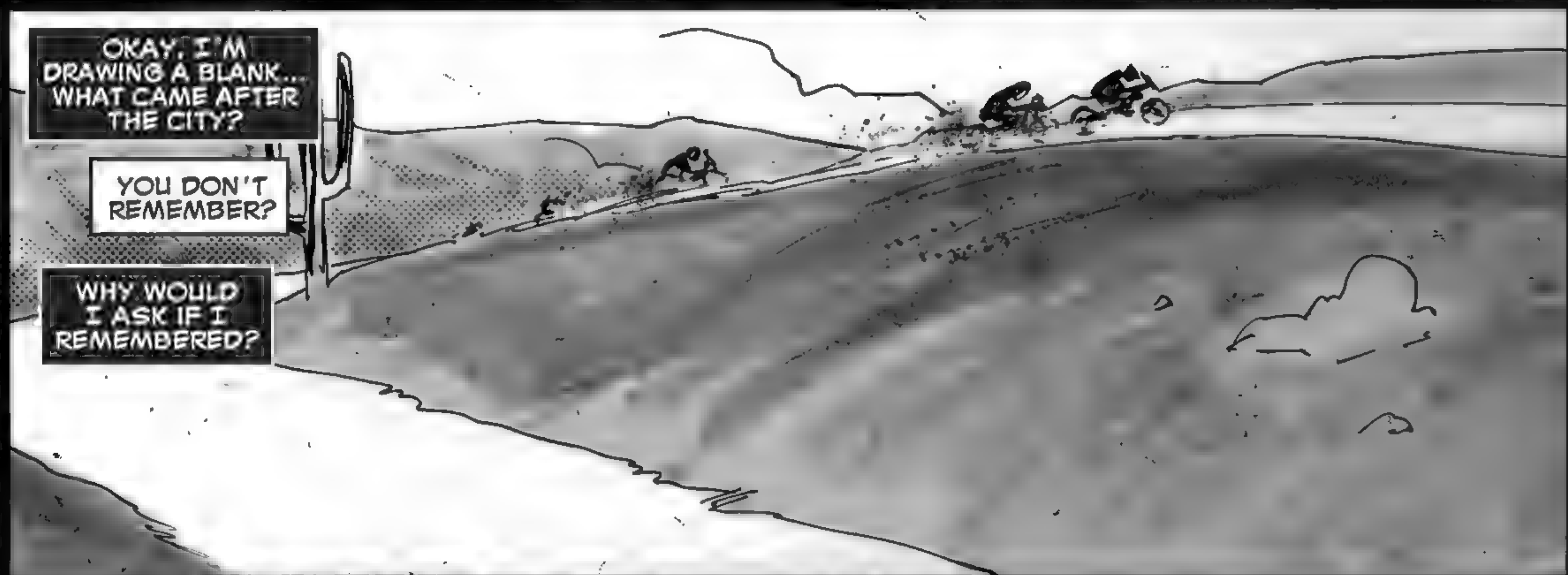
THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT.

WHICH IS BAD FOR THIS GUY/GIRL/WHATEVER... CAUSE, YOU KNOW, THEY'RE GONNA GET EATEN.



WHICH, I WOULD ARGUE, HOWEVER BAD, IS BETTER THAN TAKING ONE IN THE SEAT.

CAUSE THAT'S JUST A CRAPPY WAY TO GO OUT.



OKAY, I'M DRAWING A BLANK... WHAT CAME AFTER THE CITY?

YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

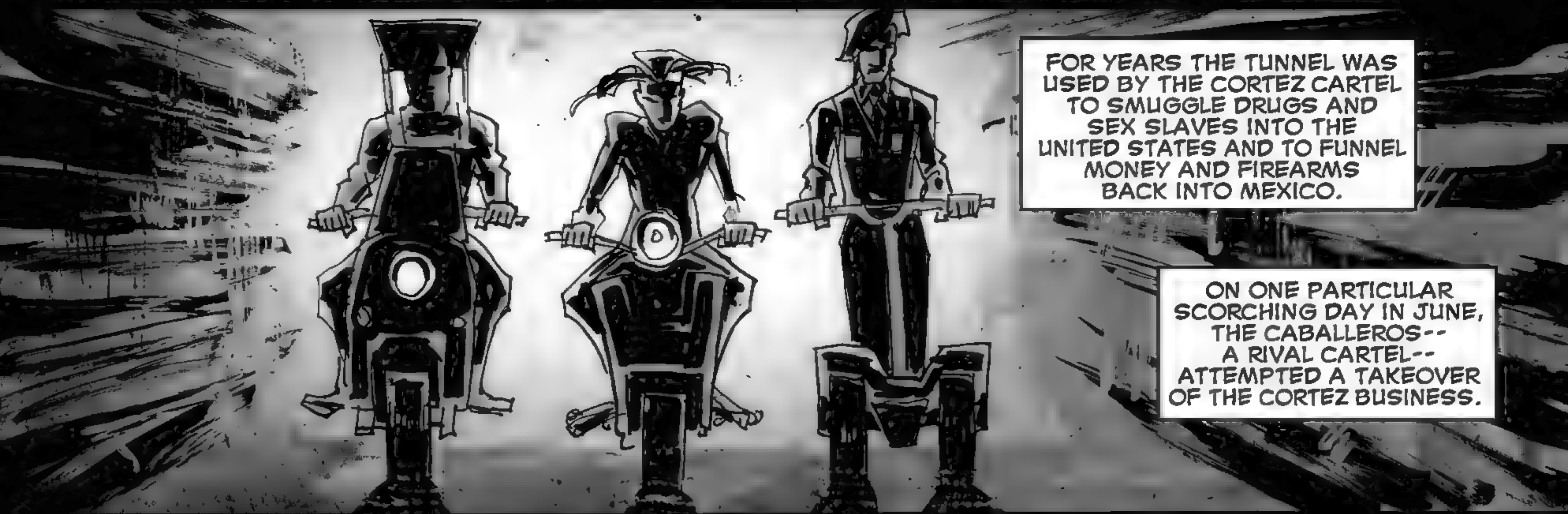
WHY WOULD I ASK IF I REMEMBERED?



GOOD POINT...BUT HOW CAN YOU NOT REMEMBER TOPHETTI'S TUNNEL OF TERROR?

BECAUSE IT'S GOT A STUPID, AND FORGETTABLE, NAME?

NO, BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THERE...



FOR YEARS THE TUNNEL WAS USED BY THE CORTEZ CARTEL TO SMUGGLE DRUGS AND SEX SLAVES INTO THE UNITED STATES AND TO FUNNEL MONEY AND FIREARMS BACK INTO MEXICO.

ON ONE PARTICULAR SCORCHING DAY IN JUNE, THE CABALLEROS-- A RIVAL CARTEL-- ATTEMPTED A TAKEOVER OF THE CORTEZ BUSINESS.



THEY MURDERED ESTIBAN CORTEZ--THE KINGPIN OF THE FAMILY--AND CHASED HIS SON, JAVI, TO THIS TUNNEL AS HE TRIED TO ESCAPE THE CABALLEROS.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR JAVI, THERE WERE TWO THINGS HE DID NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT:

1. THAT THE MOMENT HE CHOSE TO FLEE WAS AT THE EXACT SAME TIME THAT 100 WHORES FROM HERMOSILLO AND A SMALL ARMY OF CORTEZ LOYALISTS CARRYING 500 POUNDS OF COCAINE WERE MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE TUNNEL.

AND 2. THE TUNNEL HAD COLLAPSED 1 MILE FROM THE EXIT IN THE U.S.

THE CABALLEROS SEALED THE ENTRANCE IN MEXICO, IN ESSENCE BURYING EVERYONE ALIVE.



THE FIRST DAY SAW THE CONTINUAL RAPE OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAST OF THEIR WATER BEING CONSUMED.

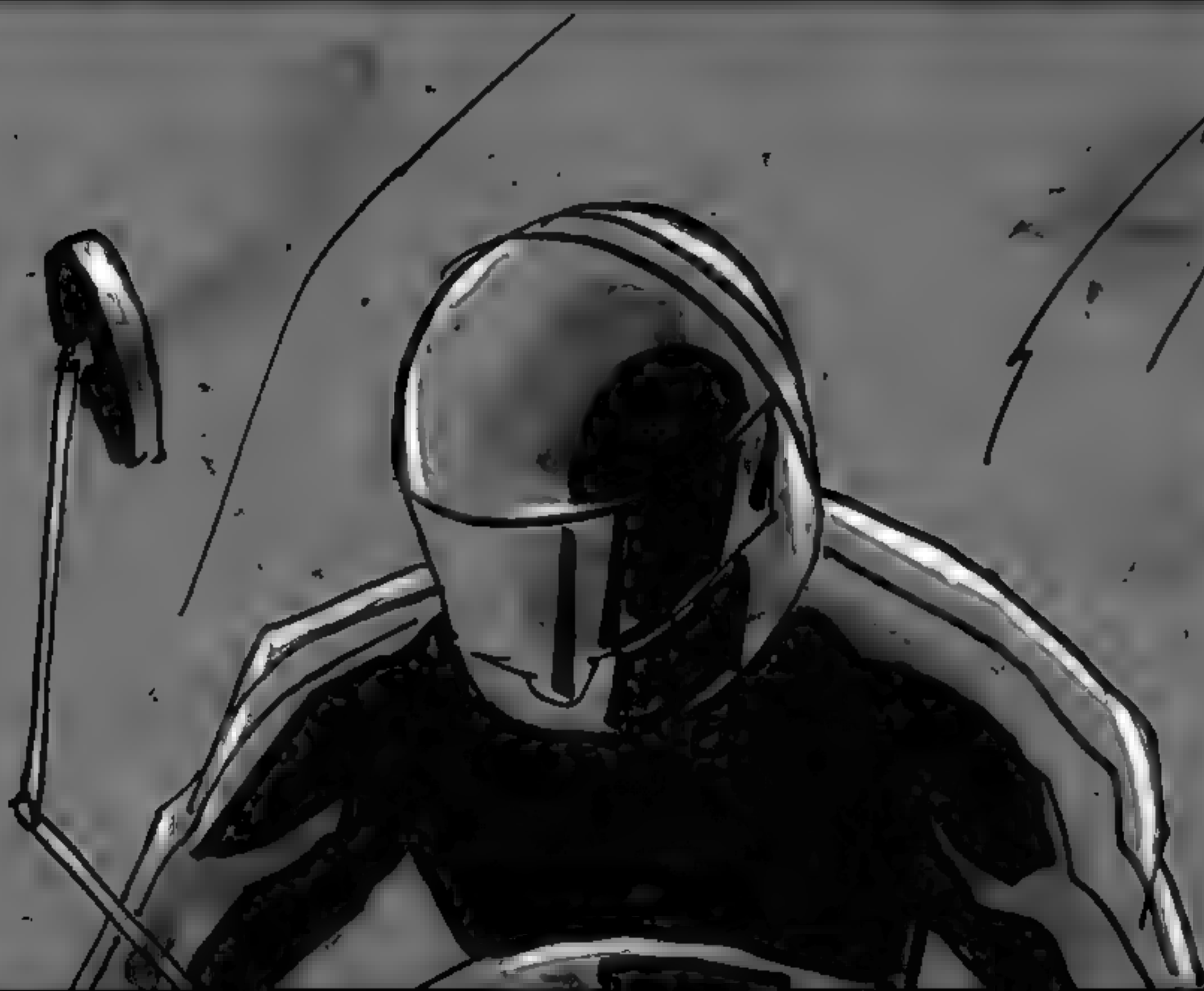
AFTER THE SECOND DAY, SOME DRUG-ADDLED SOUL CAME UP WITH THE IDEA THAT MAYBE THEY COULD DRINK THE BLOOD OF THE WEAKEST OF THEM TO SURVIVE.

BY THE THIRD DAY THE TUNNEL HAD DESCENDED INTO THE TYPE OF MURDEROUS HELL THAT NO MAN COULD ESCAPE WITH HIS SANITY INTACT.



IN FACT, NO MAN OR
WHORE LEFT THAT PLACE
WITH THEIR LIVES OR
THEIR SOUL. AND NOW
IT'S BECOME A TUNNEL
OF THE DAMNED.

NO ONE
ESCAPES
UNAFFECTED.



HEY, YOU
HUNGRY?



YEAH.
I'LL CALL
AHEAD FOR
CURBSIDE.





OH MY...OH, MAN...

OH. OH. OH...

THIS IS THE BEST THING I'VE EVER TASTED.



IT'S THE HOT DOG OF THE GODS.

AN OLYMPI-DOG.

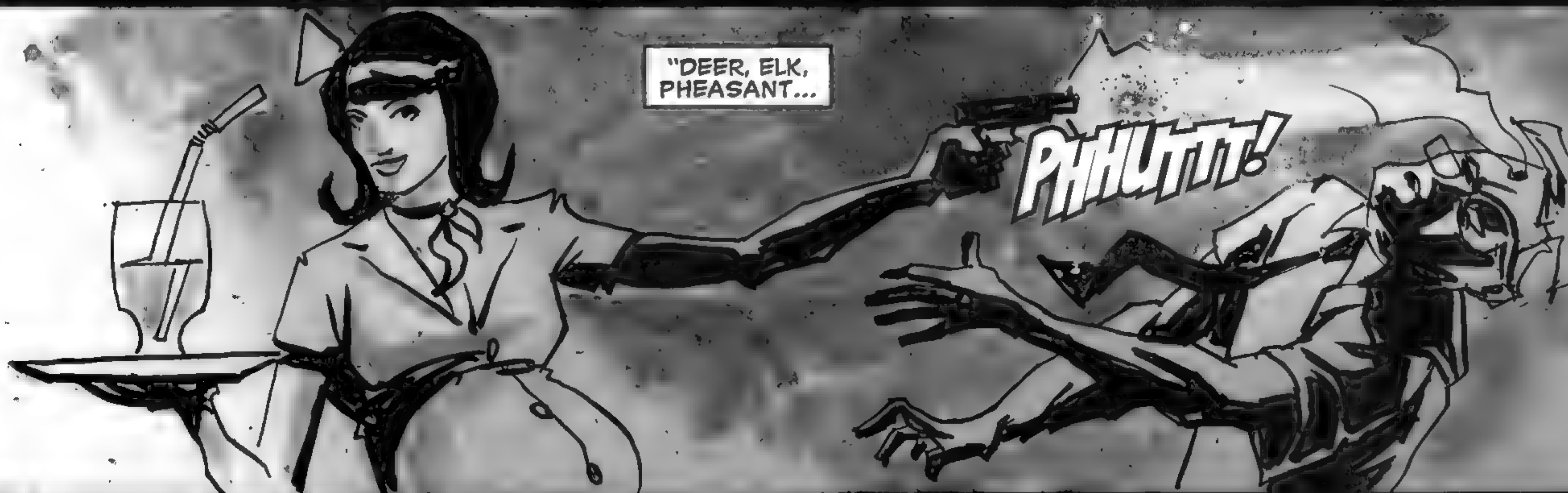
DOG-BROSIA.

IT SAYS HERE THAT SODOM DINER'S WORLD FAMOUS HOT DOGS ARE A COMBINATION OF SEVEN DIFFERENT KINDS OF MEAT...



THIS IS FANTASTIC. WE SHOULD REALLY TURN THIS INTO A CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS.

"BEEF, BACON, BISON..."



"DEER, ELK, PHEASANT..."

PHHUTTT!



"AND THE DINER'S SECRET INGREDIENT..."

"MYSTERY MEAT NUMBER SEVEN."



"MYSTERY MEAT.
HUH...WHAT DO
YOU THINK IT IS?"

**ZZZZZZZ
CH-CHUNK!**



I DUNNO...MAYBE
LAMB.

WHO CARES,
RIGHT? ANYTHING
THIS TASTY. ALL I
WANT TO KNOW
IS CAN I HAVE
SECONDS.



HERE'S
YOUR
BILL.



HEY...
WHAT'S
THIS?

IT'S.
YOUR.
BILL.



NO, I MEAN WHAT'S
THIS--IT'S ALREADY
GOT THE TIP INCLUDED
AND IT'S, WHAT,
THIRTY PERCENT?

ARE YOU
%\$@##\$%
CRAZY?

THIS IS CURBSIDE SERVICE.
YOU BRING FOOD, YOU
BRING BILL...THAT'S YOUR
ENTIRE JOB. YOU DIDN'T
EVEN TAKE THE
ORDER, WE CALLED
IT IN.

AND FOR
THAT YOU
WANT THIRTY
PERCENT?

YOU KNOW
WHAT, I DON'T EVEN
THINK YOU'RE PREGNANT.
I THINK THAT'S
SOME KIND OF MALFORMED
GUT OR A STAGE PROP YOU'RE
HOPING WILL KEEP THE
CUSTOMERS FROM
COMPLAINING...

GUESS
WHAT SISTER--
EITHER SHOW ME
AN ULTRASOUND
OR TAKE OFF
THIS TIP...

RIGHT
NOW, YOUR ASS
IS GETTIN' A
DOLLAR.

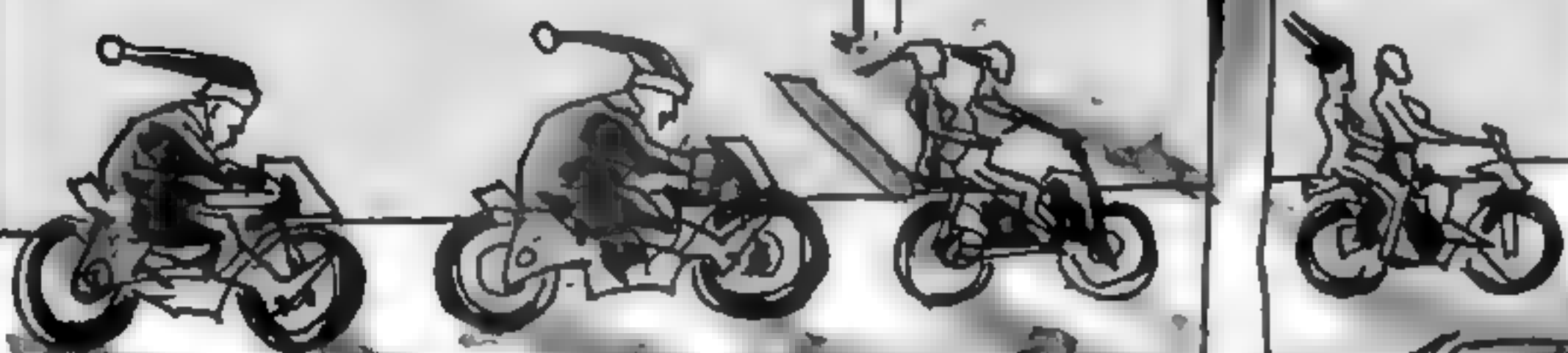


THE BLACK SANTAS AND THE NEEDY WOMEN OF RENO ARRIVED AT THE DEATH COURSE BEFORE US ON ACCOUNT OF HAVING ONLY A SINGLE HOT DOG AT THE DINER BEFORE MOVING ON...

HOW DOES SOMEONE DO THAT? HOW DO YOU EAT JUST ONE?

I HAVE NO IDEA--IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, AND YET, HERE THEY ARE.

DEATH COURSE

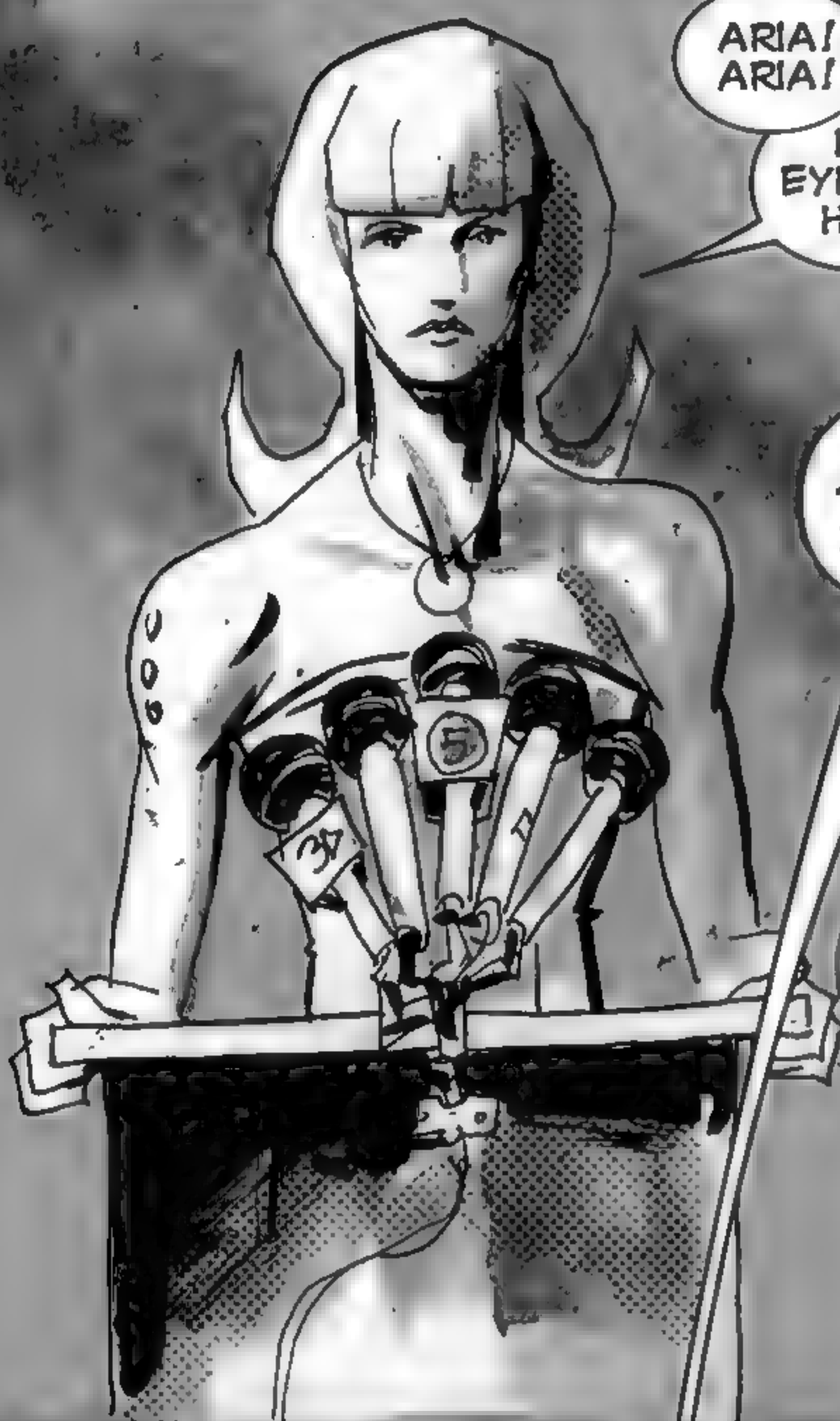


THE BLACK SANTAS MADE IT THROUGH THE COURSE UNSCATHED.

BUT THE CHALLENGE AT MISTER EVIL'S IS THE ONLY ONE THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES--THEREFORE PRESENTING THE OPTIMAL AVENUE FOR MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS PHOTOS.



THE NEEDY WOMEN DE-BIKED POSTHASTE.



ARIA!
ARIA!

HEY!
EYES' UP
HERE!

RIGHT. SORRY.
SO TELL US, WHAT
IS THAT YOU'RE
WEARING?

NOTHIN'
MUTHA \$%&^--
ERS!

AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU
TWO, HOW LONG
HAVE YOU BEEN
TOGETHER?

OH, WE'RE
JUST FRIENDS.
I'M ACTUALLY
NOT ALL THAT
INTO GIRLS.

AND WHAT
IS THAT ANYWAY--
IT'S JUST LABELS.
I'M YOUNG AND
EXPERIMENTAL...

THE THING
TO REMEMBER
IS THAT WE'RE
ALL DIFFERENT
AND...

SO
DIFFERENT.

CENSORED

CENSORED

AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
ARIA?

AND THE
CANADIANS.

FOR THE
TIBETIANS.

OUTRAGEOUS
BEHAVIOR!

OUTRAGEOUS
BEHAVIOR!

THIS LEFT ONLY
THE TWO OF US AND
THE BLACK SANTAS
COMPETING FOR THE
TROPHY. THEN IT
WAS TIME FOR THE
INEVITABLE.

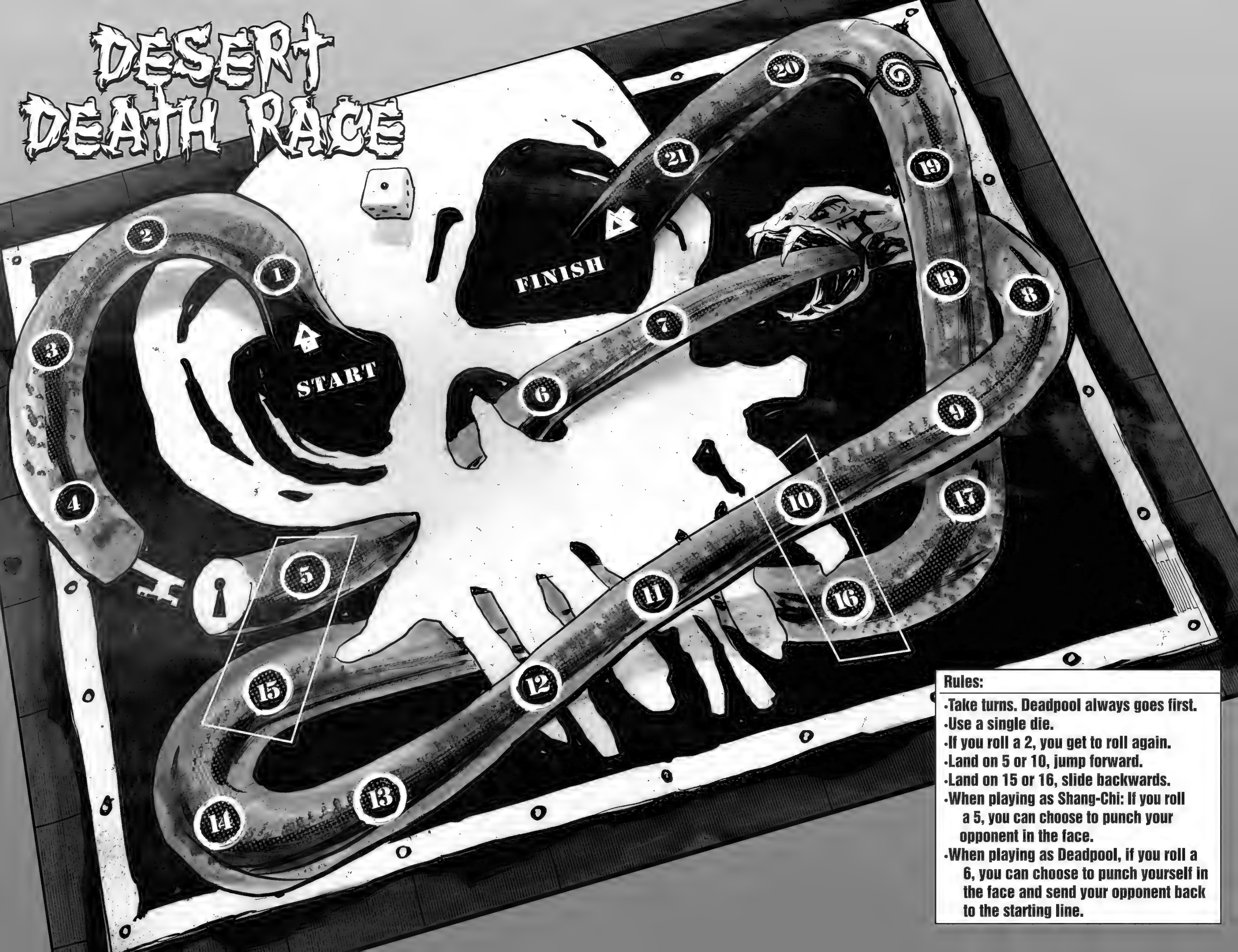
HEY, I'VE
HAD A LOT OF
FUN TODAY, BUT
THESE PEOPLE PAID
ME A LOT OF MONEY
TO MAKE SURE YOU
DON'T WIN.

I HAVE
TO KICK YOUR
ASS NOW.

TO
THE DEATH
THEN.



DESERT DEATH RACE



Rules:

- Take turns. Deadpool always goes first.
- Use a single die.
- If you roll a 2, you get to roll again.
- Land on 5 or 10, jump forward.
- Land on 15 or 16, slide backwards.
- When playing as Shang-Chi: If you roll a 5, you can choose to punch your opponent in the face.
- When playing as Deadpool, if you roll a 6, you can choose to punch yourself in the face and send your opponent back to the starting line.



SO A SHORT WHILE
LATER WE FOUND OURSELVES
BACK AT THE DINER--EATING
THE BEST DOGS ON THE
PLANET--AND TRYING TO
GUESS EXACTLY WHAT THAT
MYSTERY MEAT WAS.

I REMEMBER
THERE WAS ONE
THING THAT DID KIND
OF BOTHER ME.

BABY
KITTENS
MAYBE?

NAH--
A LITTLE
TOO GAMEY
FOR CAT.

I GOTTA
TELL YOU, THE
BLACK SANTAS
WINNING THE RACE
DOES CHAFE
A BIT.

BUT YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT THAT...

IN FACT YOU
DON'T EVEN
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT THE RACE
ANYMORE.

WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

WELL, I FIGURED
THERE WAS THE
POSSIBILITY THAT YOU
COULD FINISH THE
RACE FIRST EVEN
IF I TRIED TO STOP
YOU, SO I WIRED
THE TROPHY TO BLOW
WHEN THE WINNER
LIFTED IT UP
IN THE AIR.

I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU WERE
GOING TO BLOW
ME UP.

WELL THAT WAS BEFORE I
GOT TO KNOW YOU. HOW
WAS I SUPPOSE TO KNOW
YOU WERE A COOL GUY?

WAIT, ARE
YOU POUTING?
OH STOP THAT!

FINE.

I'M SORRY
I PLANNED TO
BLOW YOU UP...



IS THAT BETTER?

YES.

AND I THINK IT'S SOMETHING IN THE RODENT FAMILY... POSSUM, MAYBE

WHO CARES?

HERE'S TO THREE YEARS OF NO RACING...

AND TO THREE YEARS OF GOOD EATING.

THAT'LL BE \$752.37.

END



BOBBY AND SAM IN MOJOWORLD
COVER BY KENNETH ROCAFORT

**THE DA COSTA COMPOUND.
RIO DE JANEIRO...**

BOBBY AND SAM IN MOJO WORLD

**WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN ARTIST: NICK PITARRA
COLORS: NATHAN FAIRBAIRN LETTERS: DAVE SHARPE
ASSISTANT EDITOR: MICHAEL HORWITZ EDITOR: JOHN BARBER
EDITOR IN CHIEF: JOE QUESADA PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY**

THANKS
FOR INVITING
ME DOWN.





DON'T MENTION IT. I KNOW YOU NEEDED THE VACATION.

WELL...

SAM GUTHRIE CAN'T HANDLE THE GRIND AND HE NEEDED A BREAK FROM THE X-MEN.



AWWW, MAN. THAT'S NOT...



SAY NO MORE--I'M SURE IT'S *ROUGH*--LET'S NOT DWELL ON IT.

YOU'RE DOWN HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME AND YOUR BEST FRIEND, *ROBERTO DA COSTA*, IS SURE TO PROVIDE IT.

NOW YOU GO GET UNPACKED, PUT ON YOUR BEST SPEEDO, AND MEET ME BY THE POOL IN 10.

YOU'RE PALE, MY MAN, YOU NEED SOME *COLOR*.



YOU GOT THE FRUITY DRINKS...STRAWS... UMBRELLAS?

SAM, IT'S RIO DURING CARNAVAL... WE'VE GOT *EVERY-THING*.

WATCH OUT FOR GIRLS WITH BIG HANDS.



NEW PLACE?
I'VE NEVER BEEN
HERE BEFORE.

JUST
BOUGHT
IT.



HONEY,
PLEASE BRING
SAMMY HERE
A MAI TAI.

IT USED TO
BE THE HOME STUDIO
OF AN OVERLY AMOROUS,
DIRECT-TO-DVD PRODUCER
WHO HAD SERIOUS MONEY
PROBLEMS BECAUSE HE WAS
GETTING KILLED BY THE
EASTERN EUROPEAN
OUTFITS...

...AAAANNND,
SINCE I'M STILL FLUSH
WITH ALL MY DAD'S MONEY
AS WELL AS THAT X-CORP REAL
ESTATE CASH, I BOUGHT
THIS UP ALONG WITH SOME
OTHER STUFF.

LET'S SEE...
I GOT A STATE-OF-
THE-ART PRODUCTION
FACILITY, FILM EQUIPMENT,
A CABLE AFFILIATE...I EVEN
GOT A SMALL THEATER
CHAIN.

NO BIG
DEAL...

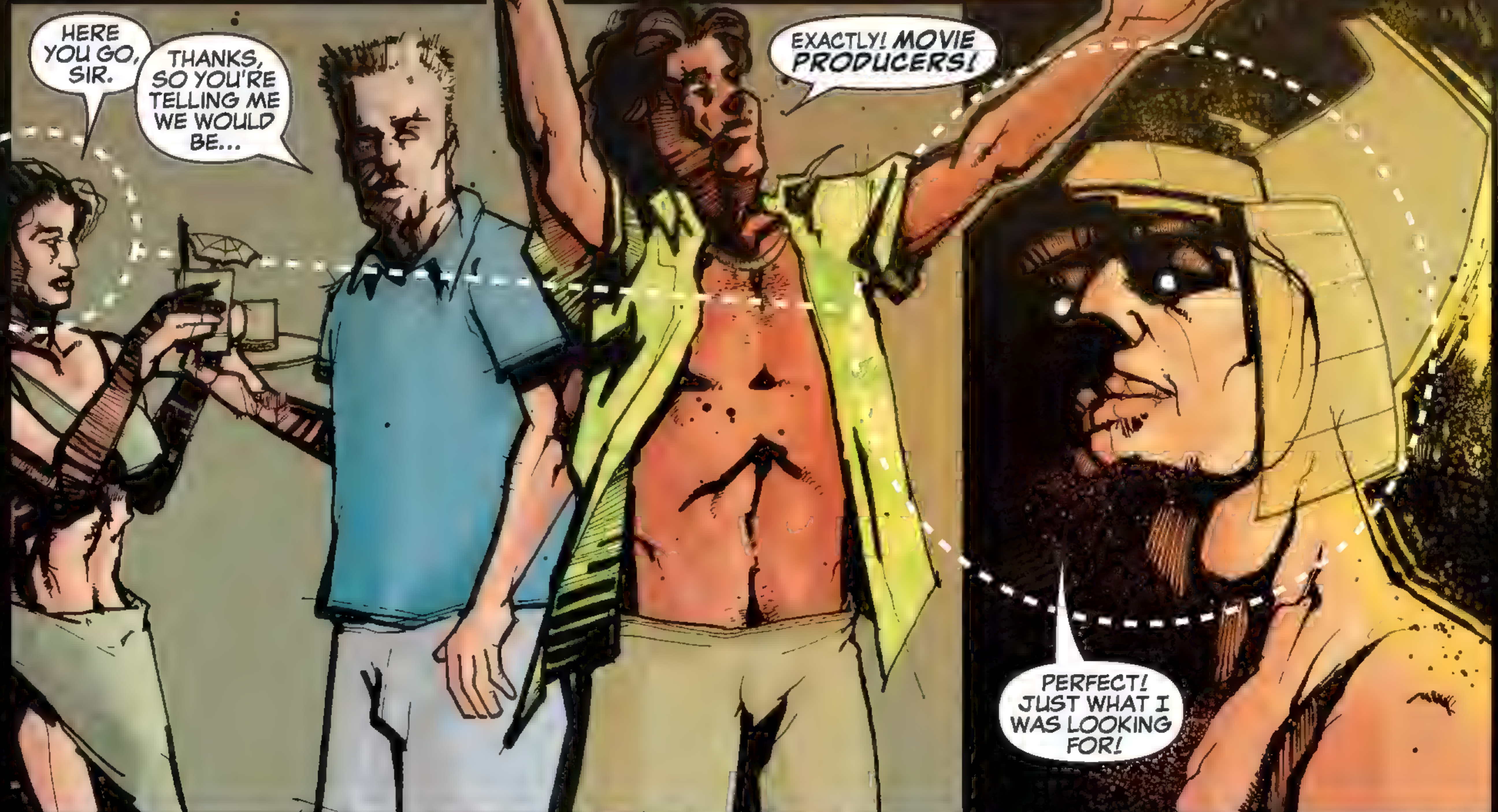
SAY...
YOU WANT
IN?



SERIOUSLY?

WAIT,
WHAT WOULD
WE DO?

I DUNNO...
WHATEVER WE
WANT. I JUST
MADE A LOW
BUDGET ACTION
FILM. IT WAS
KINDA' FUN.



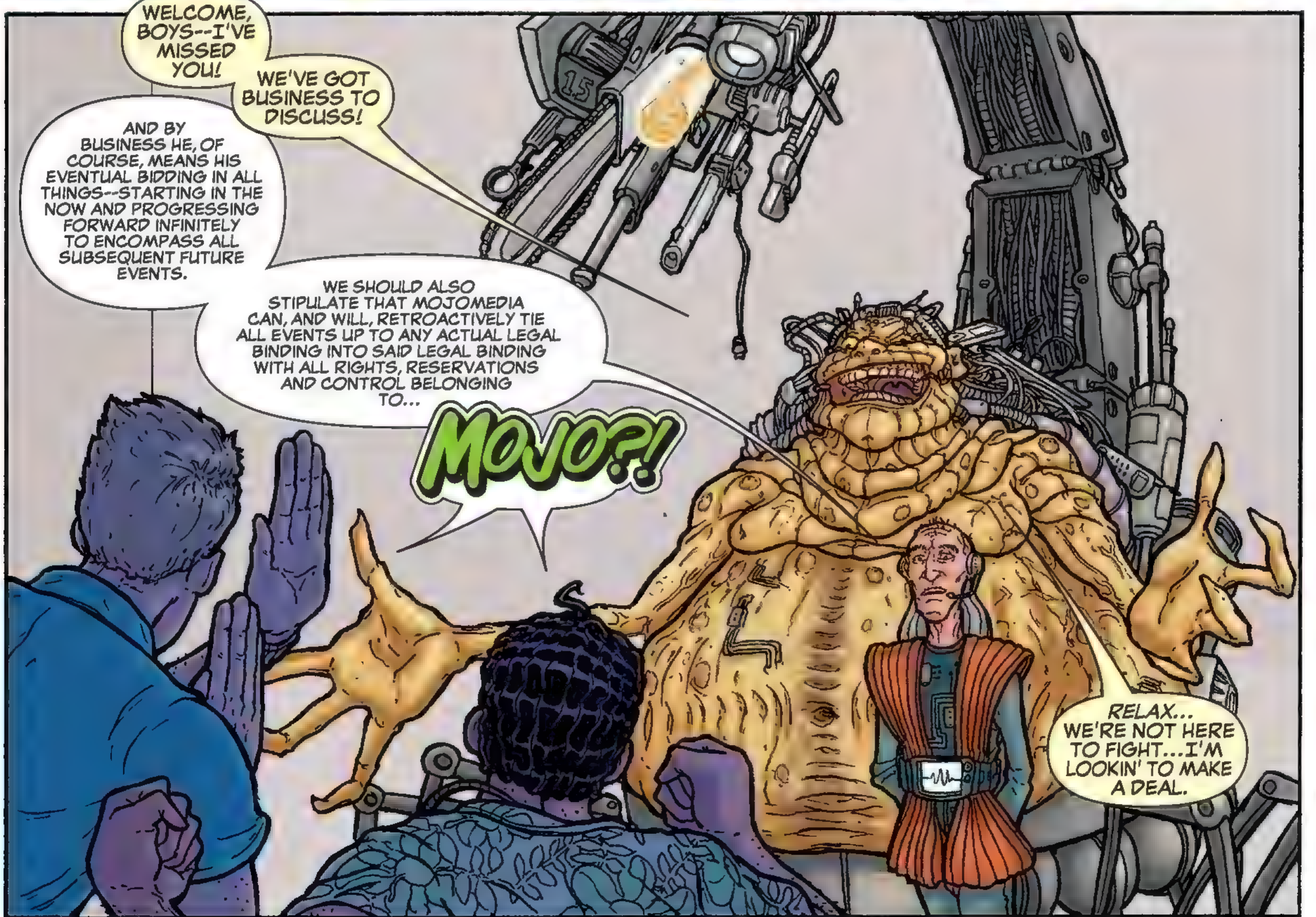
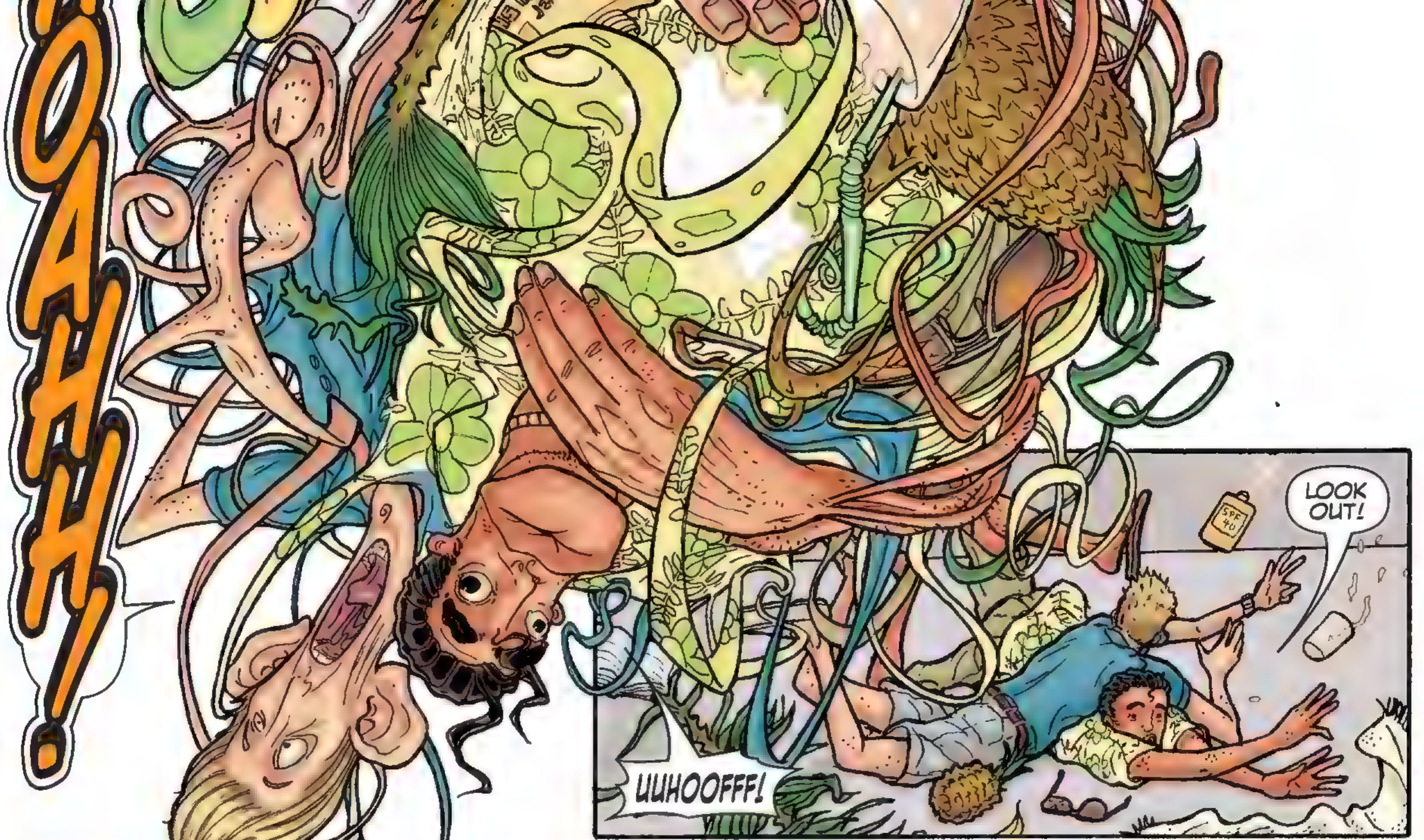
HERE
YOU GO,
SIR.

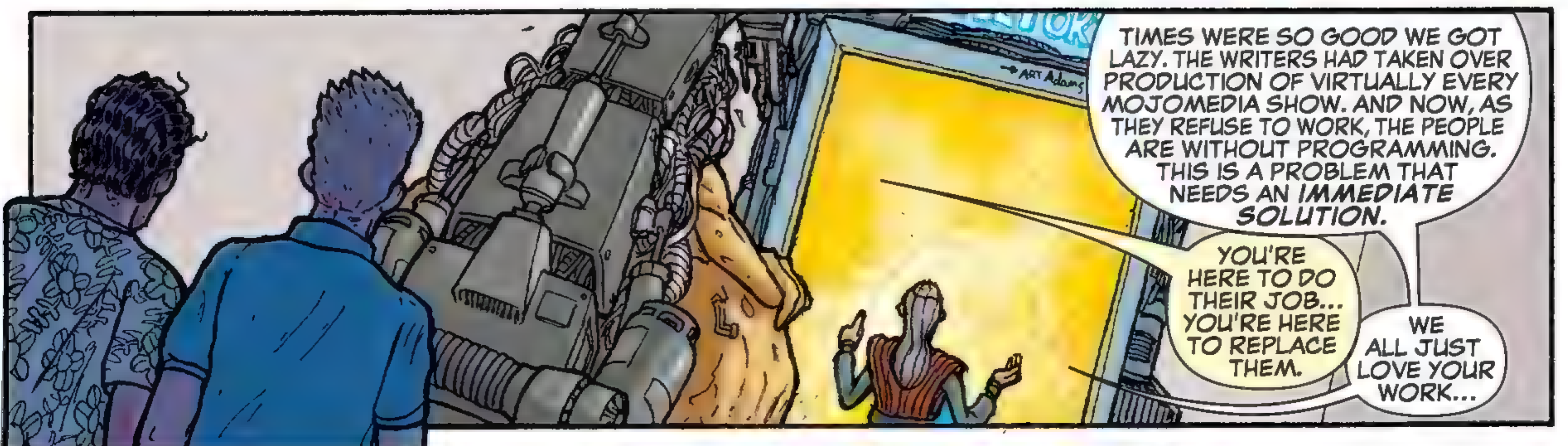
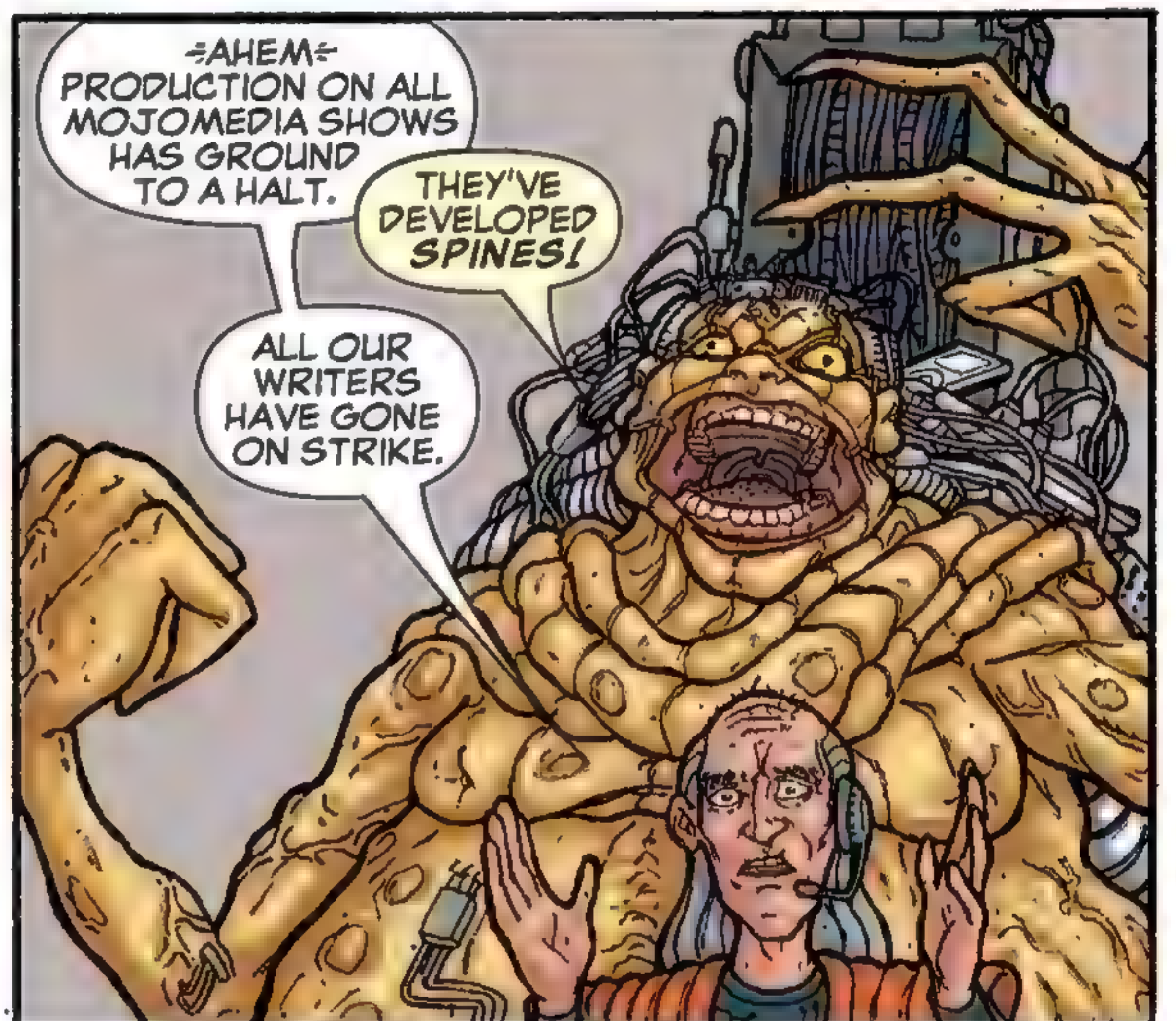
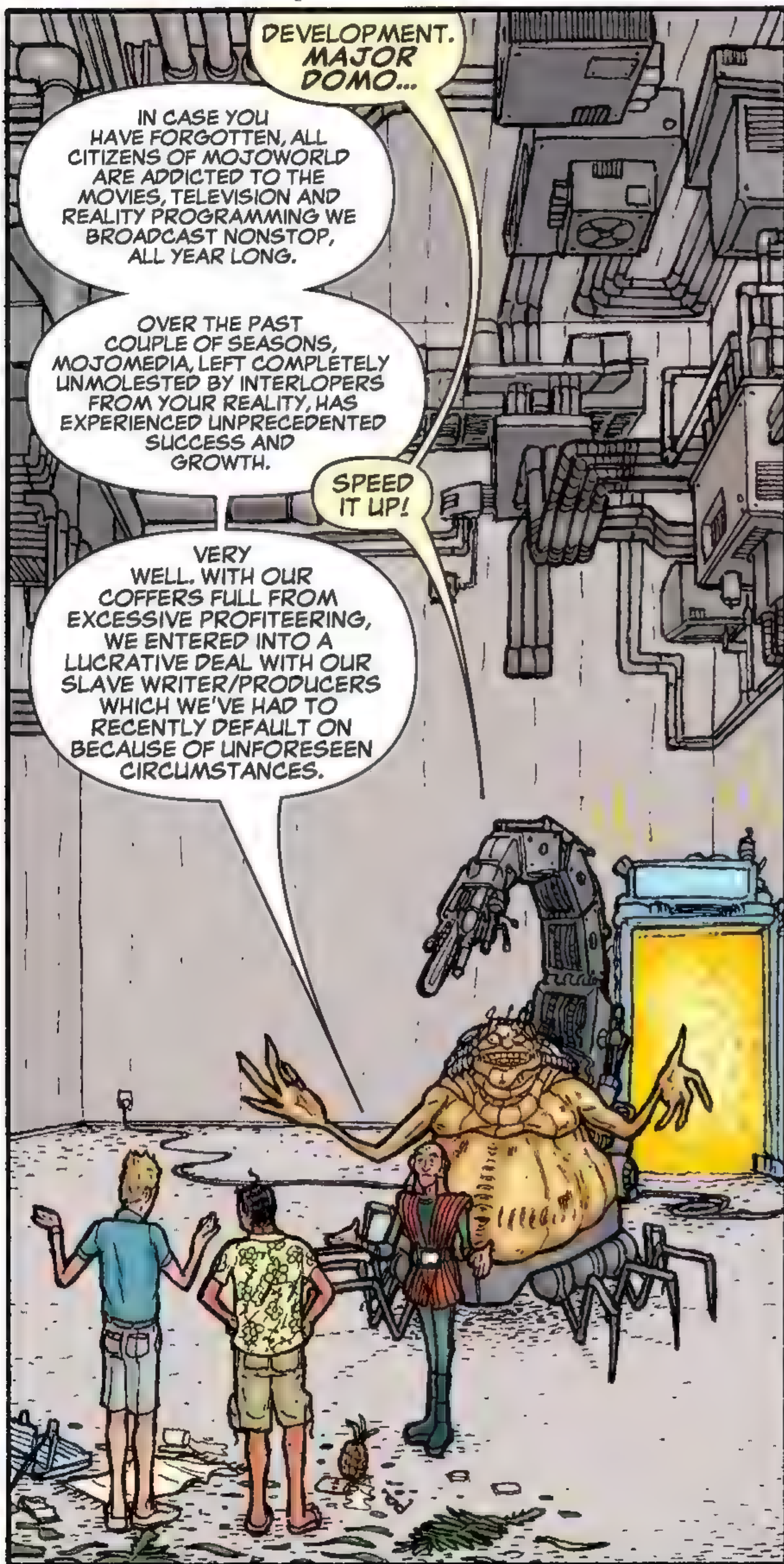
THANKS,
SO YOU'RE
TELLING ME
WE WOULD
BE...

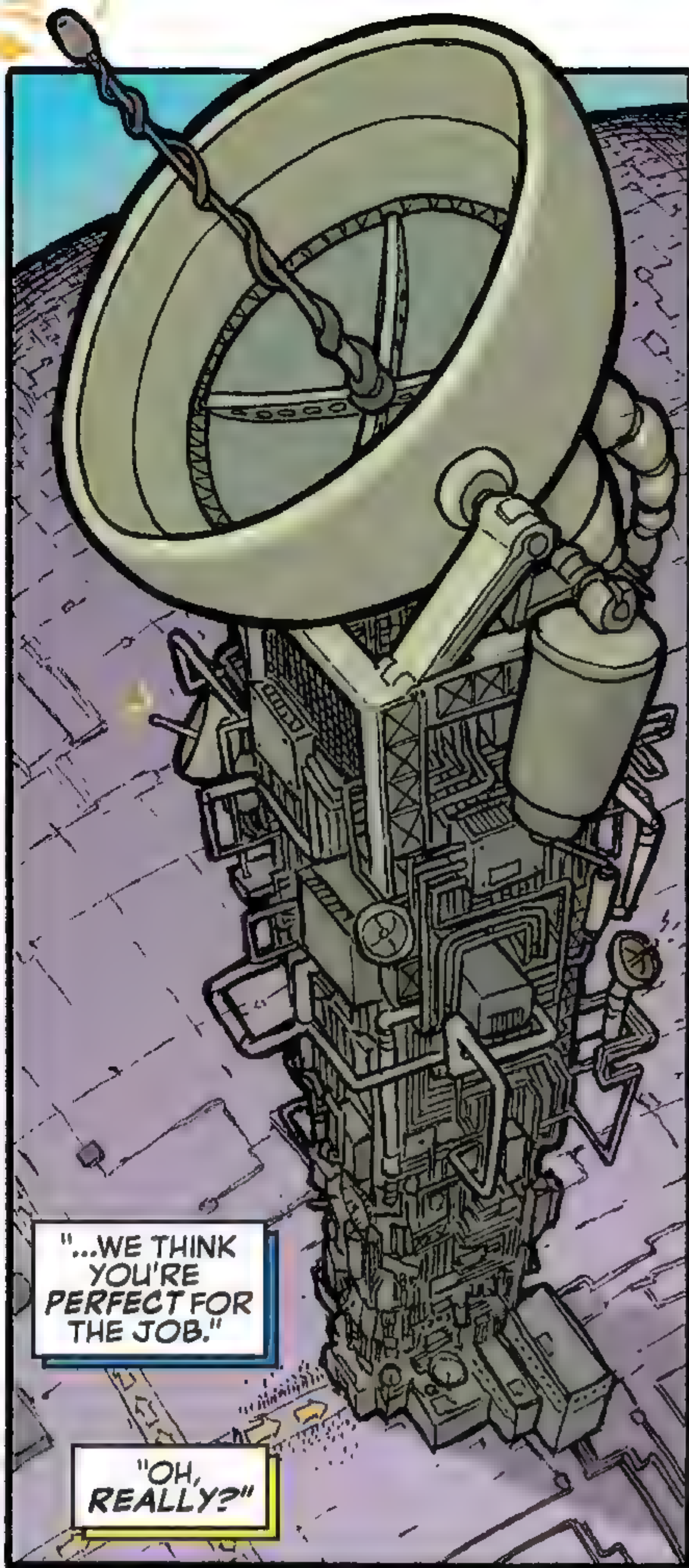
EXACTLY! MOVIE
PRODUCERS!

PERFECT!
JUST WHAT I
WAS LOOKING
FOR!



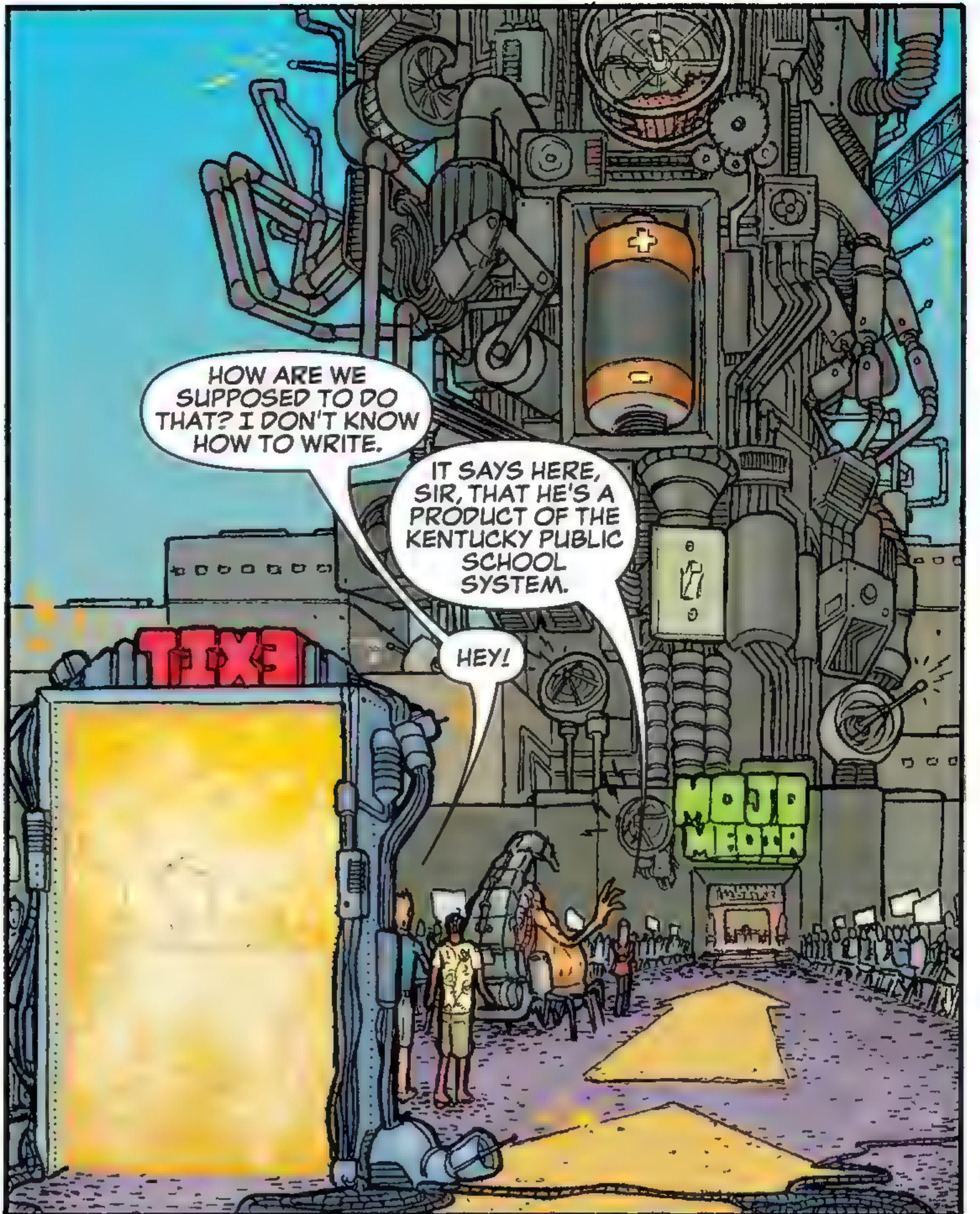






"...WE THINK
YOU'RE
PERFECT FOR
THE JOB."

"OH,
REALLY?"



HOW ARE WE
SUPPOSED TO DO
THAT? I DON'T KNOW
HOW TO WRITE.

IT SAYS HERE,
SIR, THAT HE'S A
PRODUCT OF THE
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SCHOOL
SYSTEM.

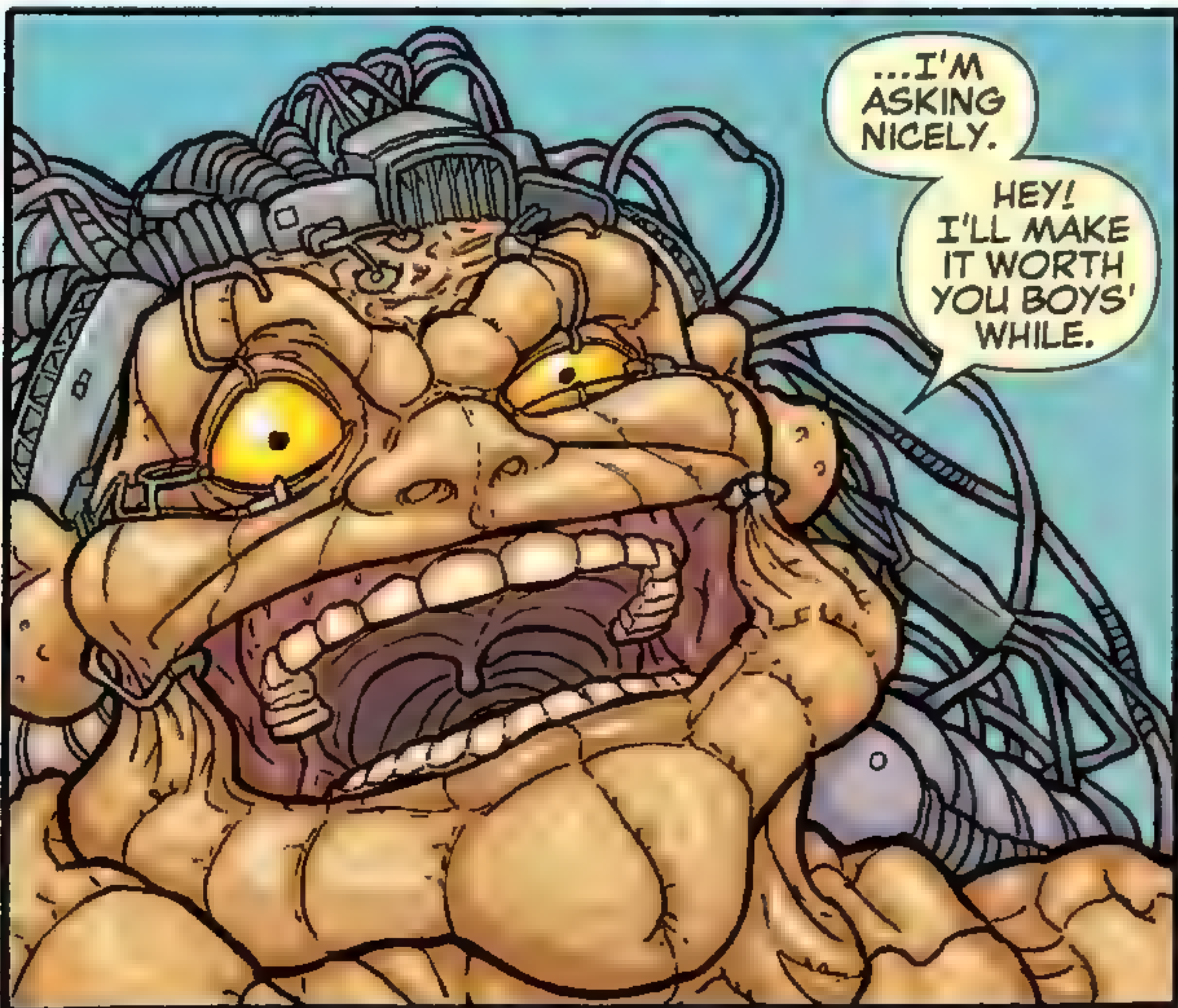
HEY!



WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK WE
WOULD AGREE
TO DO THIS,
MOJO?

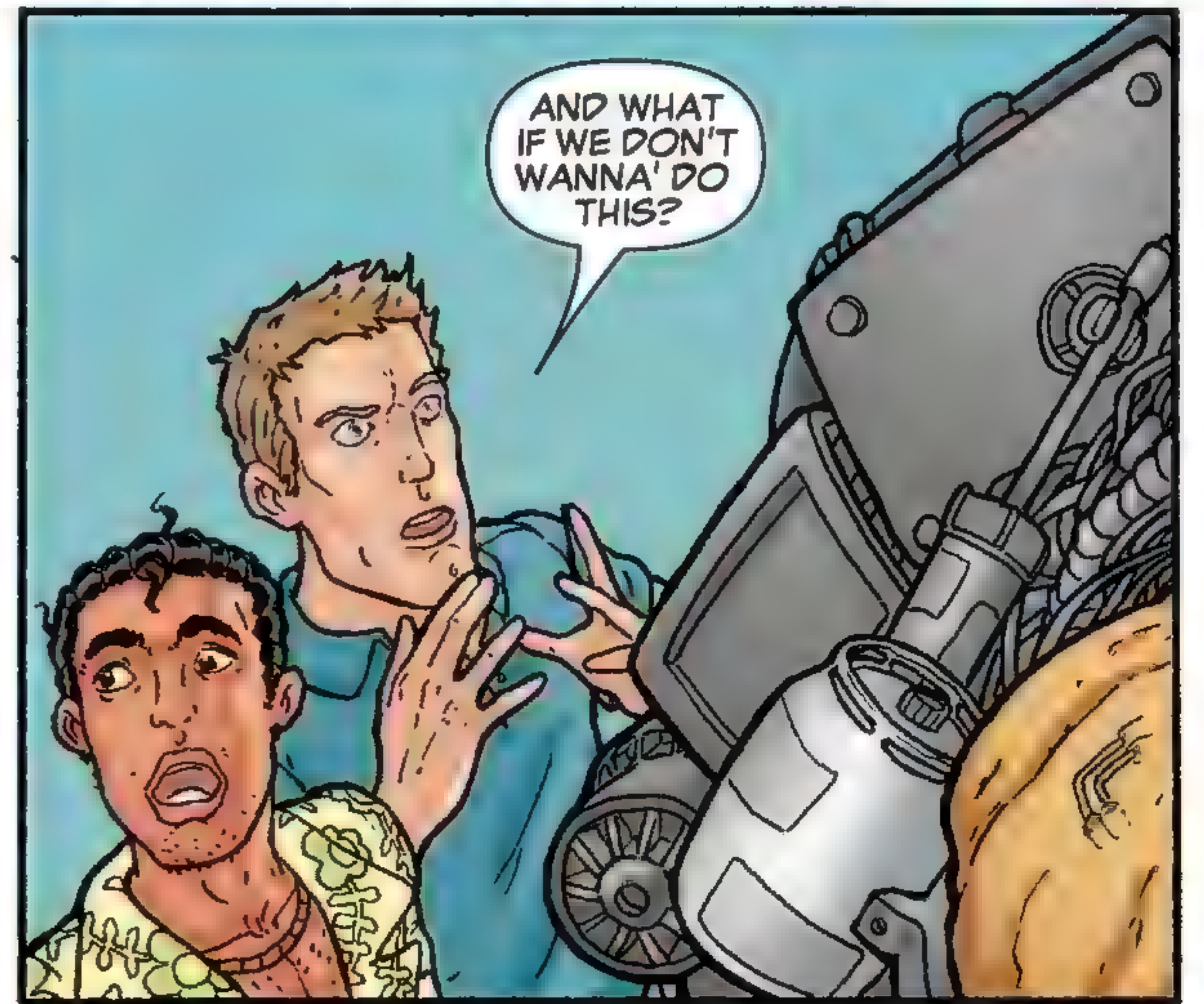
NO PROFIT
SHARING
NO PEACE!

BECAUSE...

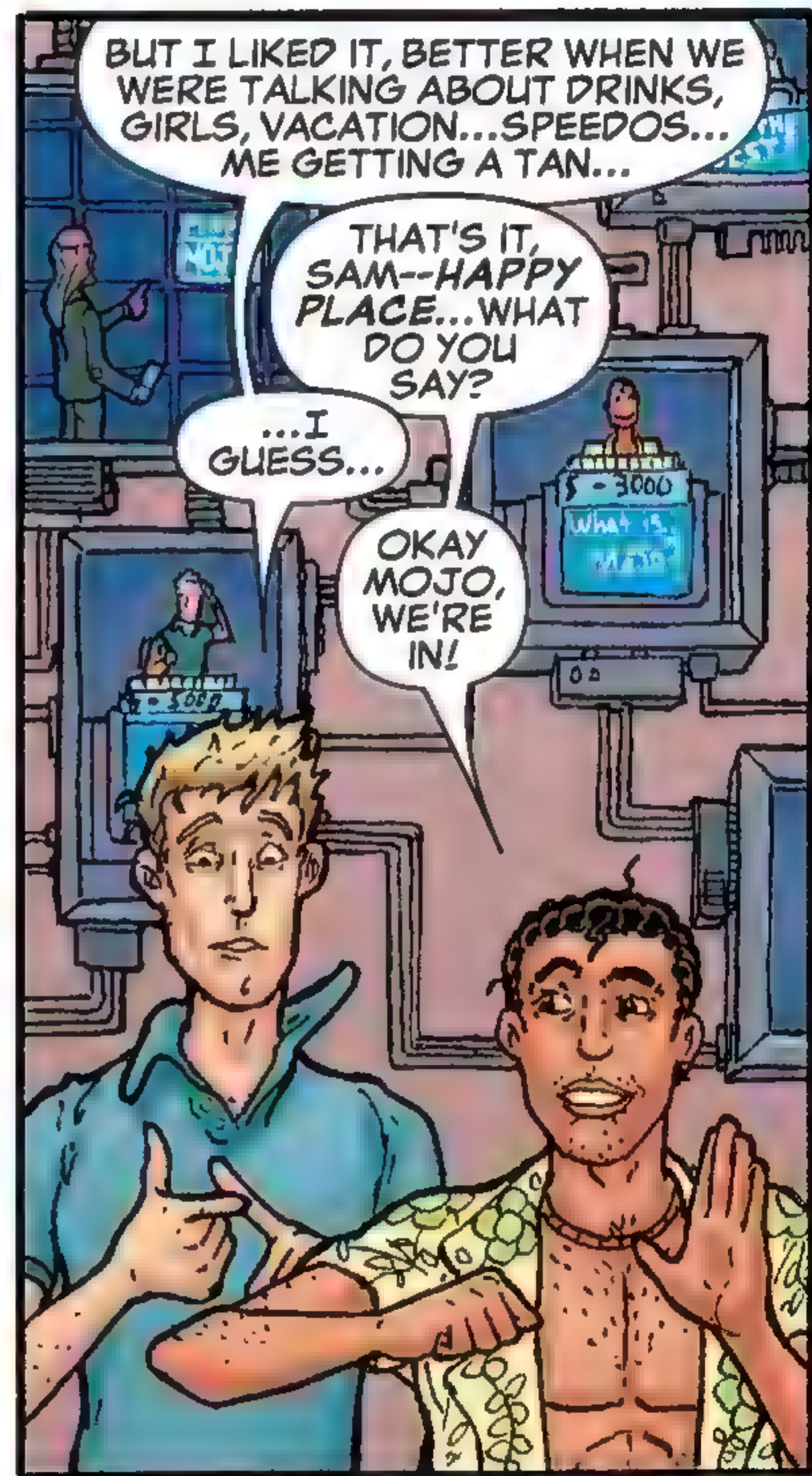
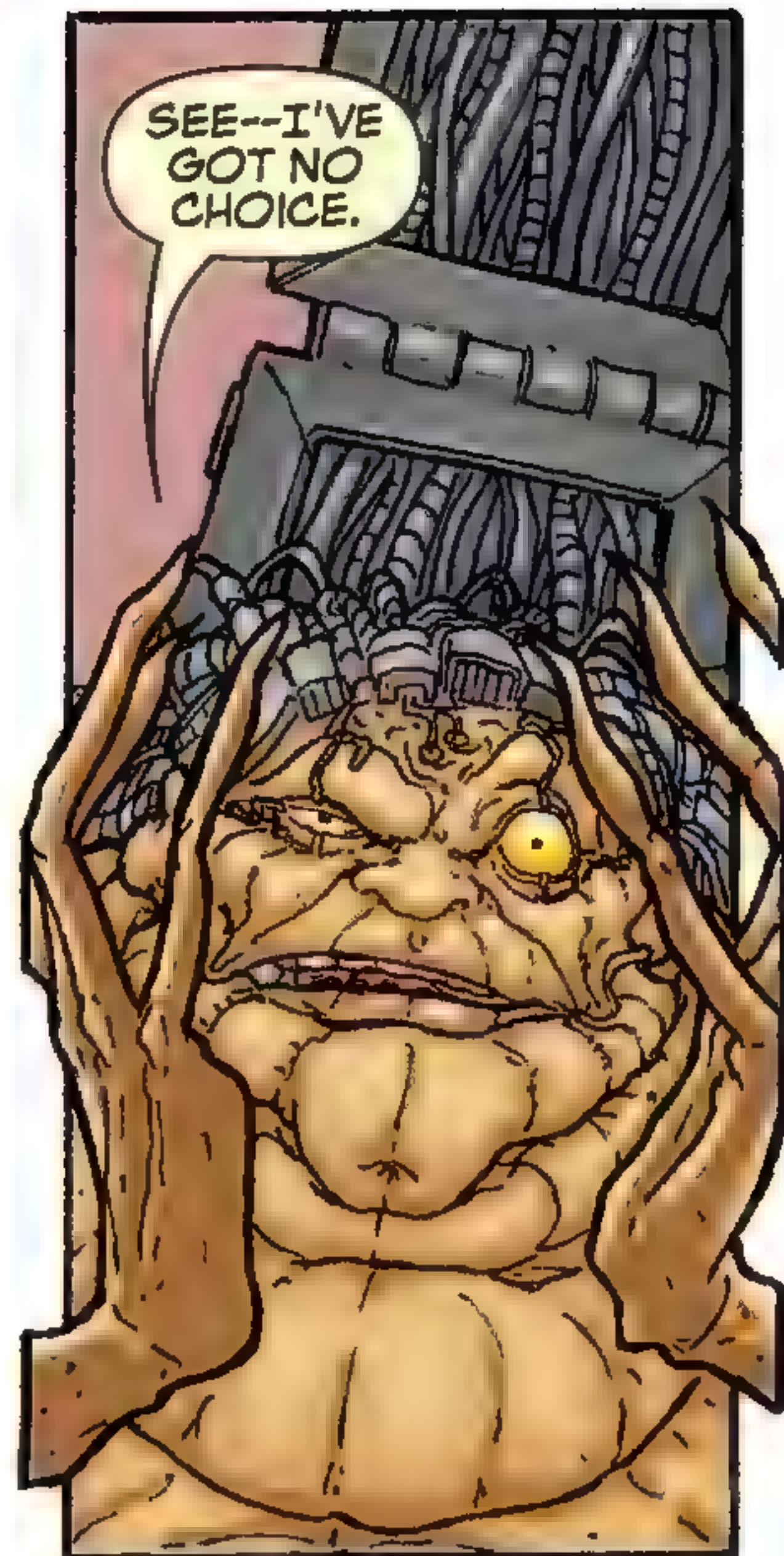


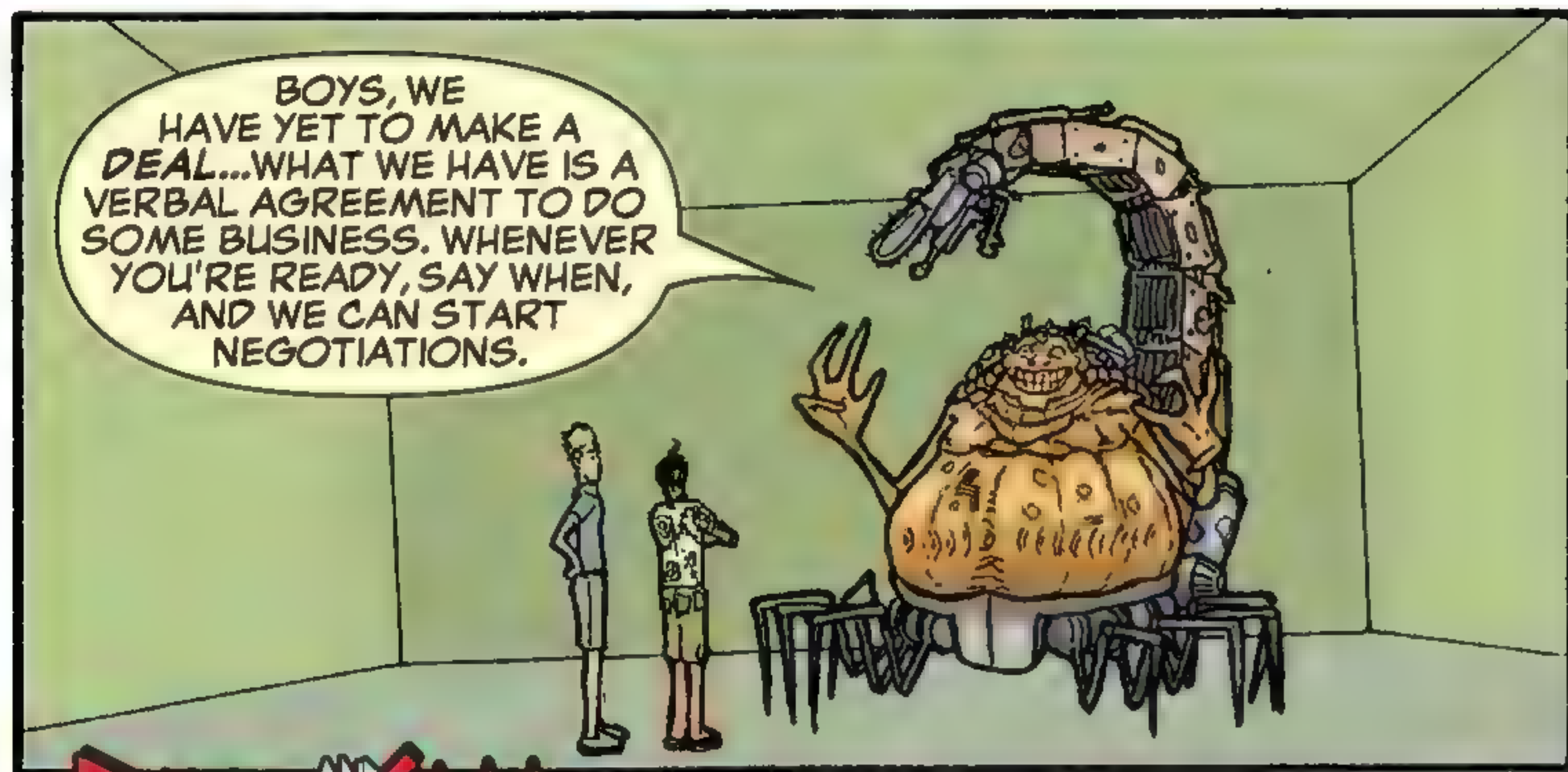
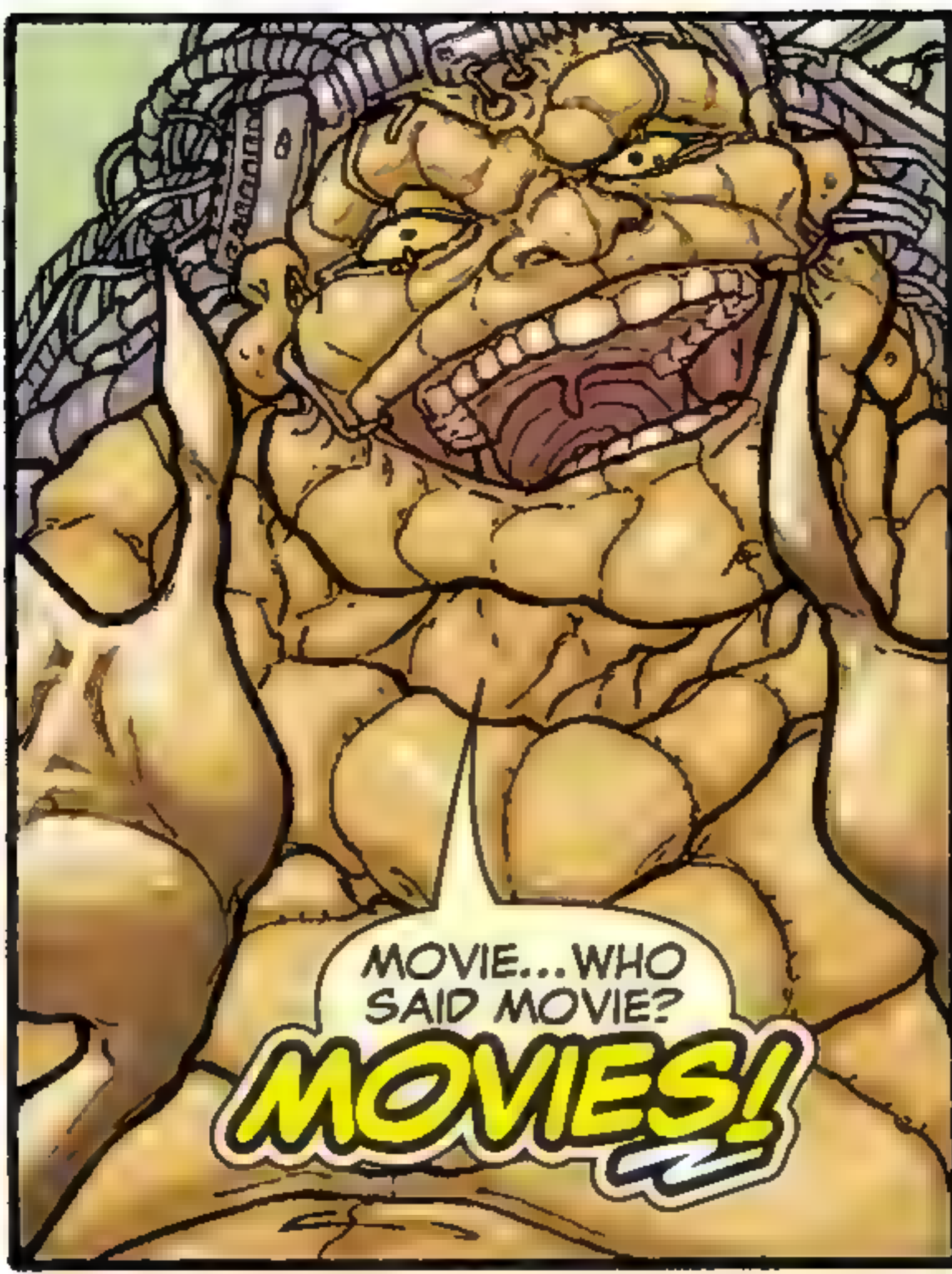
...I'M
ASKING
NICELY.

HEY!
I'LL MAKE
IT WORTH
YOU BOYS'
WHILE.

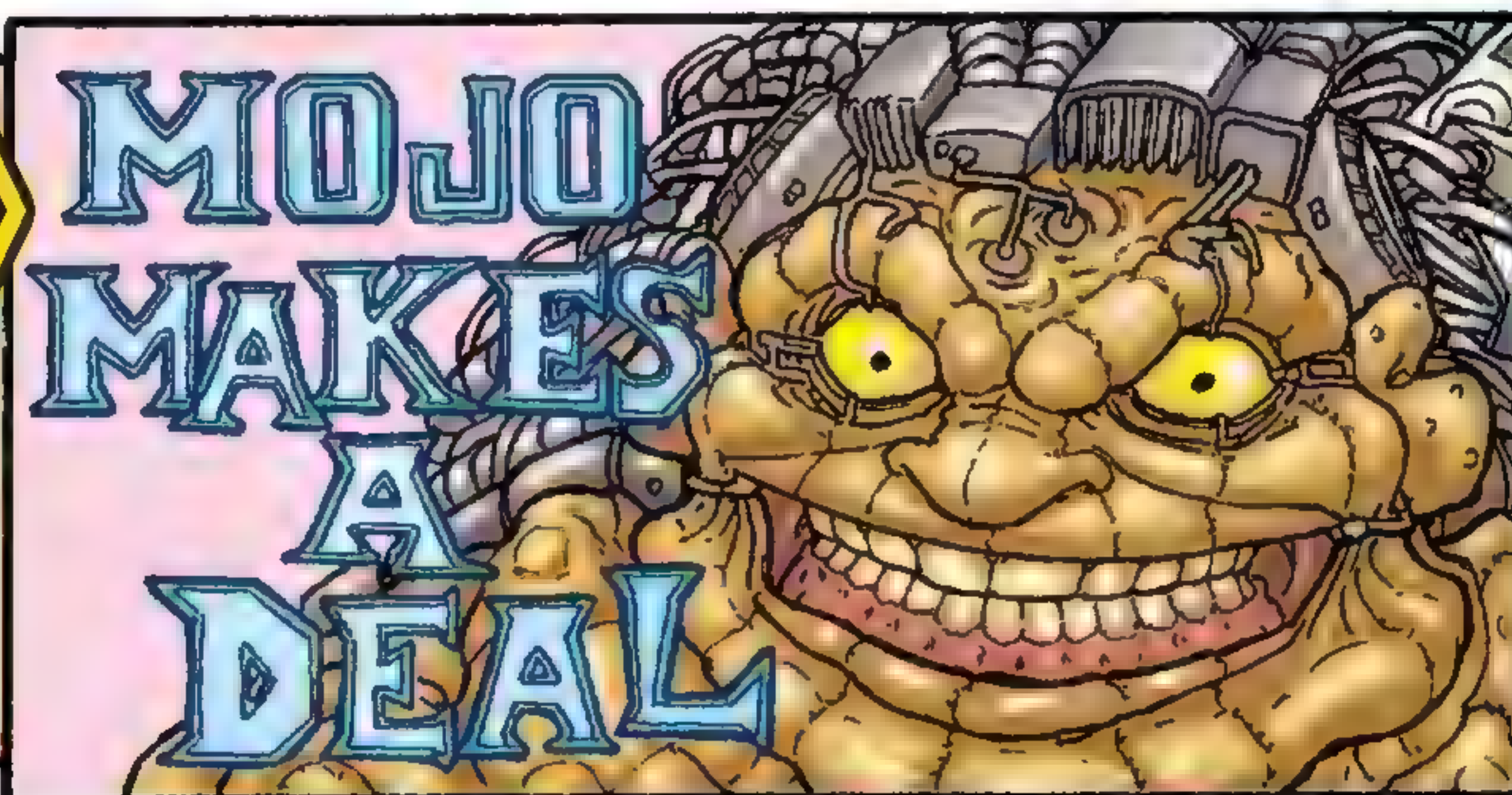


AND WHAT
IF WE DON'T
WANNA' DO
THIS?





BOBBY AND SAM IN
MOJOWORLD
WRITER:
JONATHAN HICKMAN
ARTIST:
NICK PITARRA
COLORS:
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THIS IS HOW CONTRACTS ARE NEGOTIATED IN MOJOWORLD.

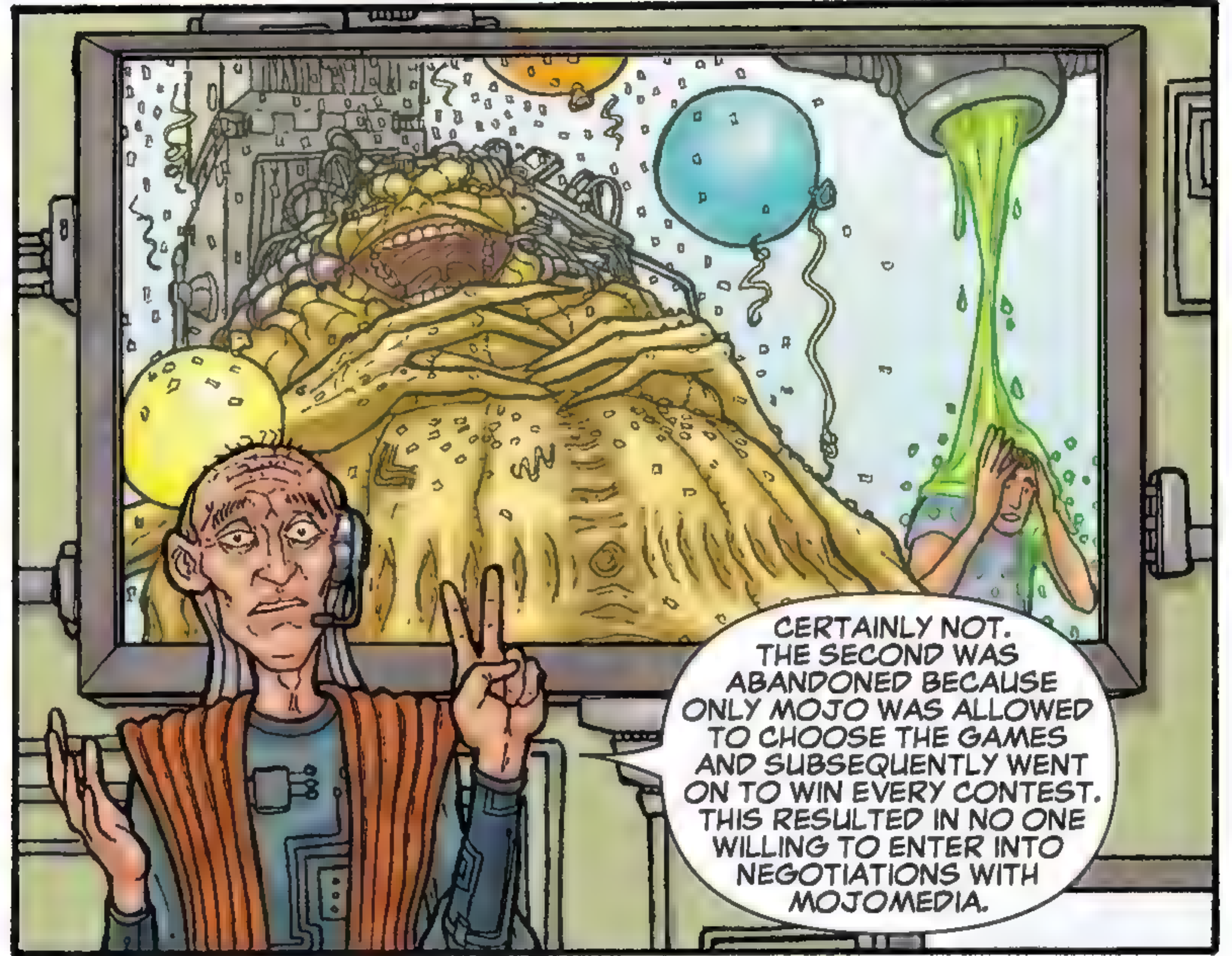
IN THE SPIRIT OF FULL DISCLOSURE, WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY BEGIN TO CONDUCT ALL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS VIA TELEVISED GAMESHOW.



THIS IS IN FACT OUR THIRD REVISION TO THE GAMESHOW FORMAT AS IN THE FIRST, THE CONTESTANTS BATTLED TO THE DEATH FOR DEAL POINTS. THIS SEEMED VERY EXCITING BUT INEVITABLY LED TO THE VOIDING OF ALL CONTRACTS.



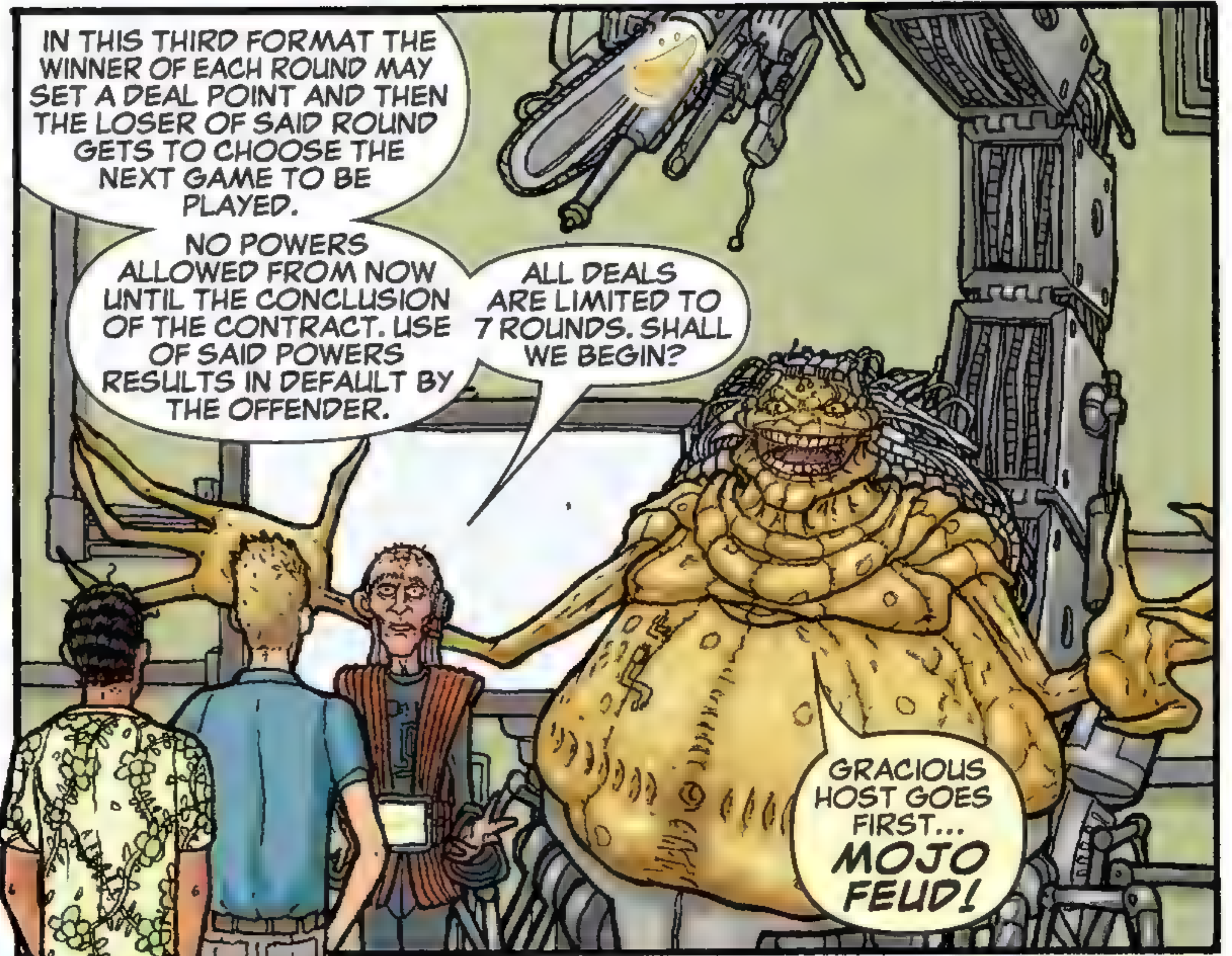
WELL, WE DON'T WANT THAT.



CERTAINLY NOT. THE SECOND WAS ABANDONED BECAUSE ONLY MOJO WAS ALLOWED TO CHOOSE THE GAMES AND SUBSEQUENTLY WENT ON TO WIN EVERY CONTEST. THIS RESULTED IN NO ONE WILLING TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOJOMEDIA.



DOES SEEM UNFAIR.

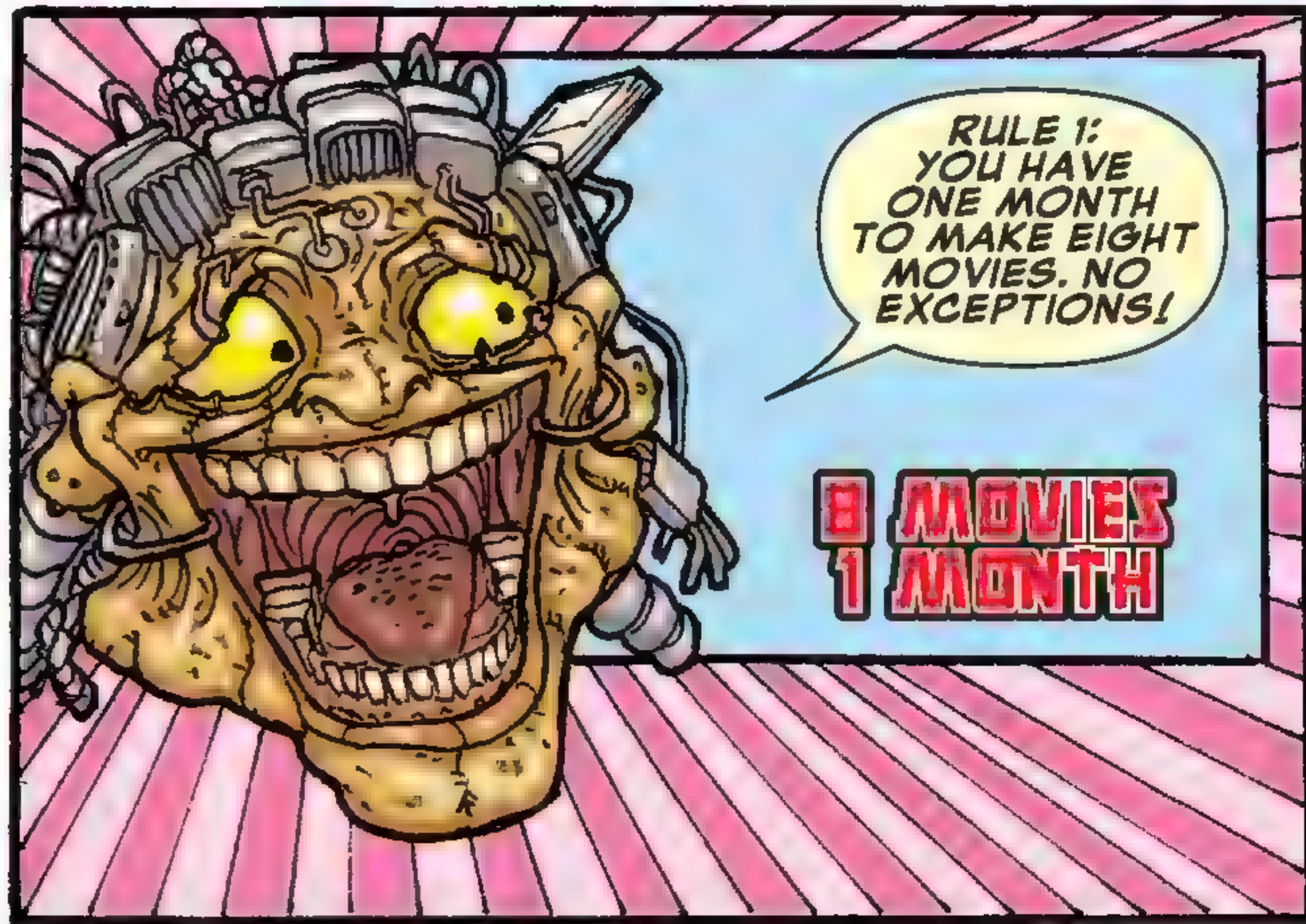
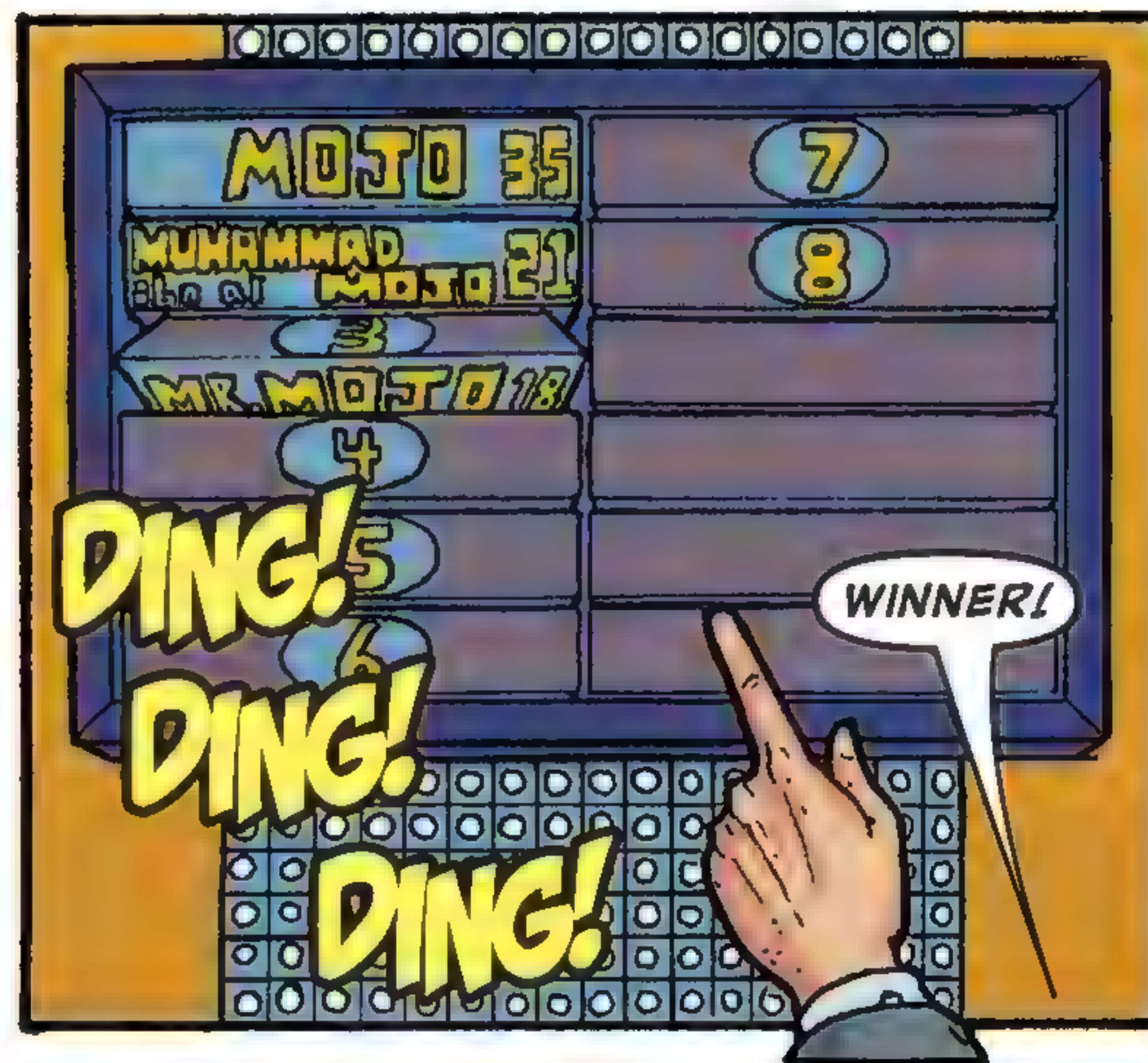
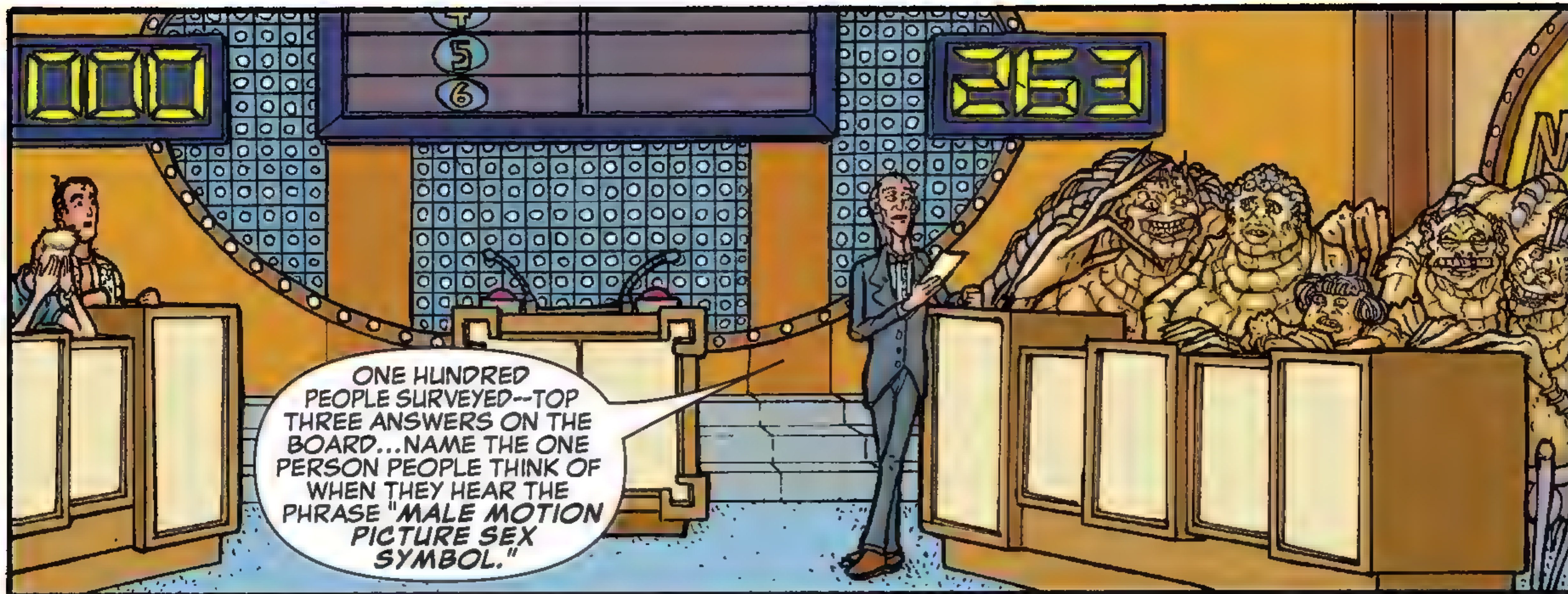


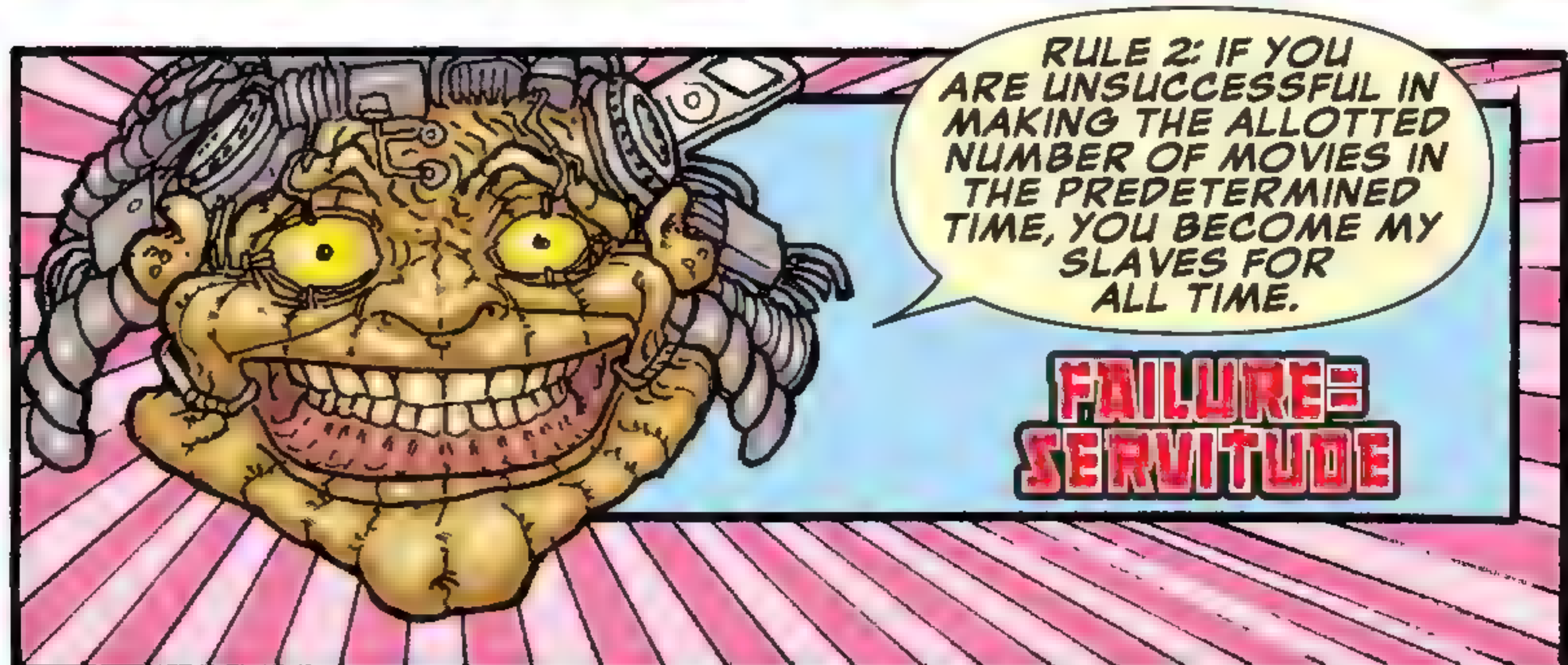
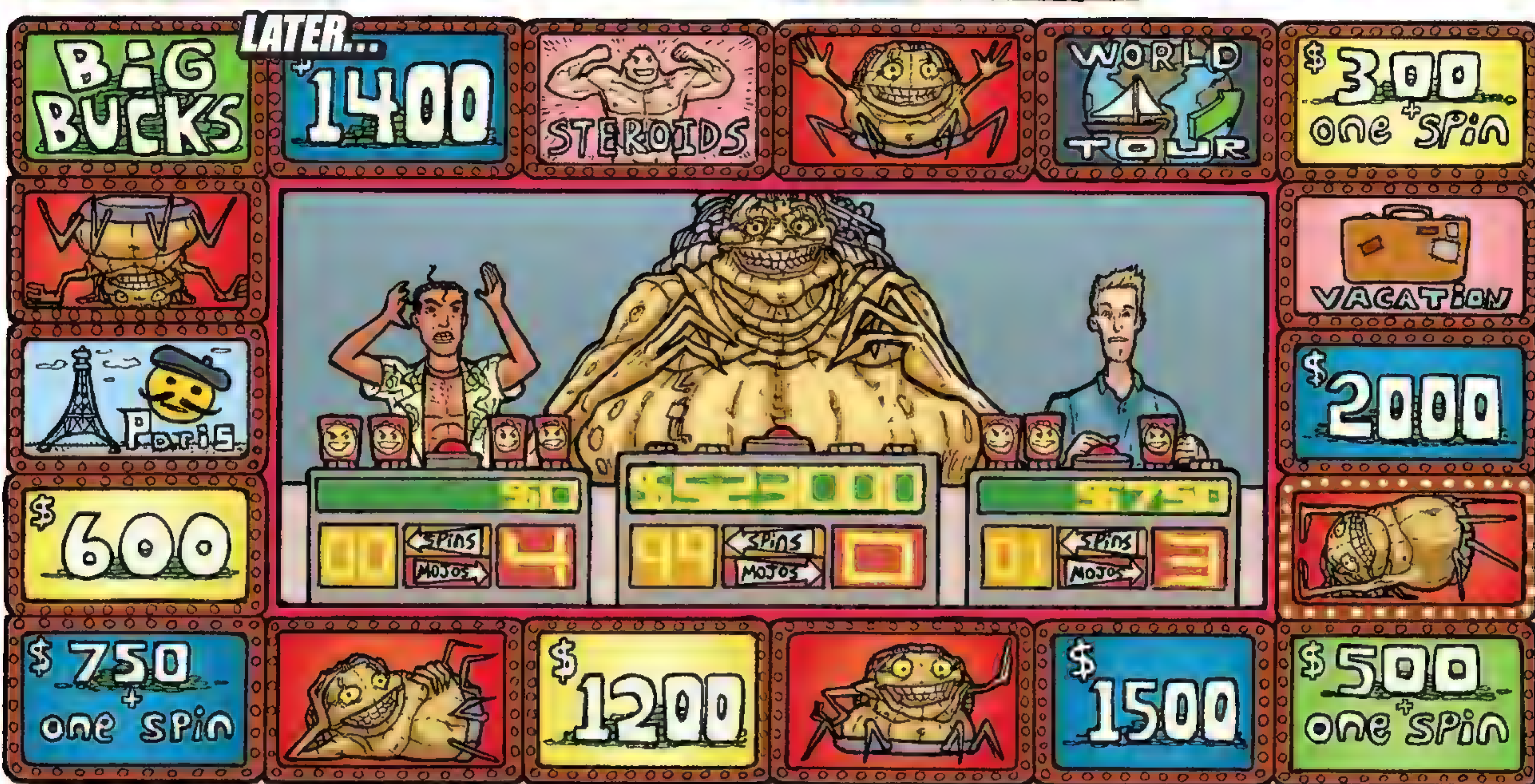
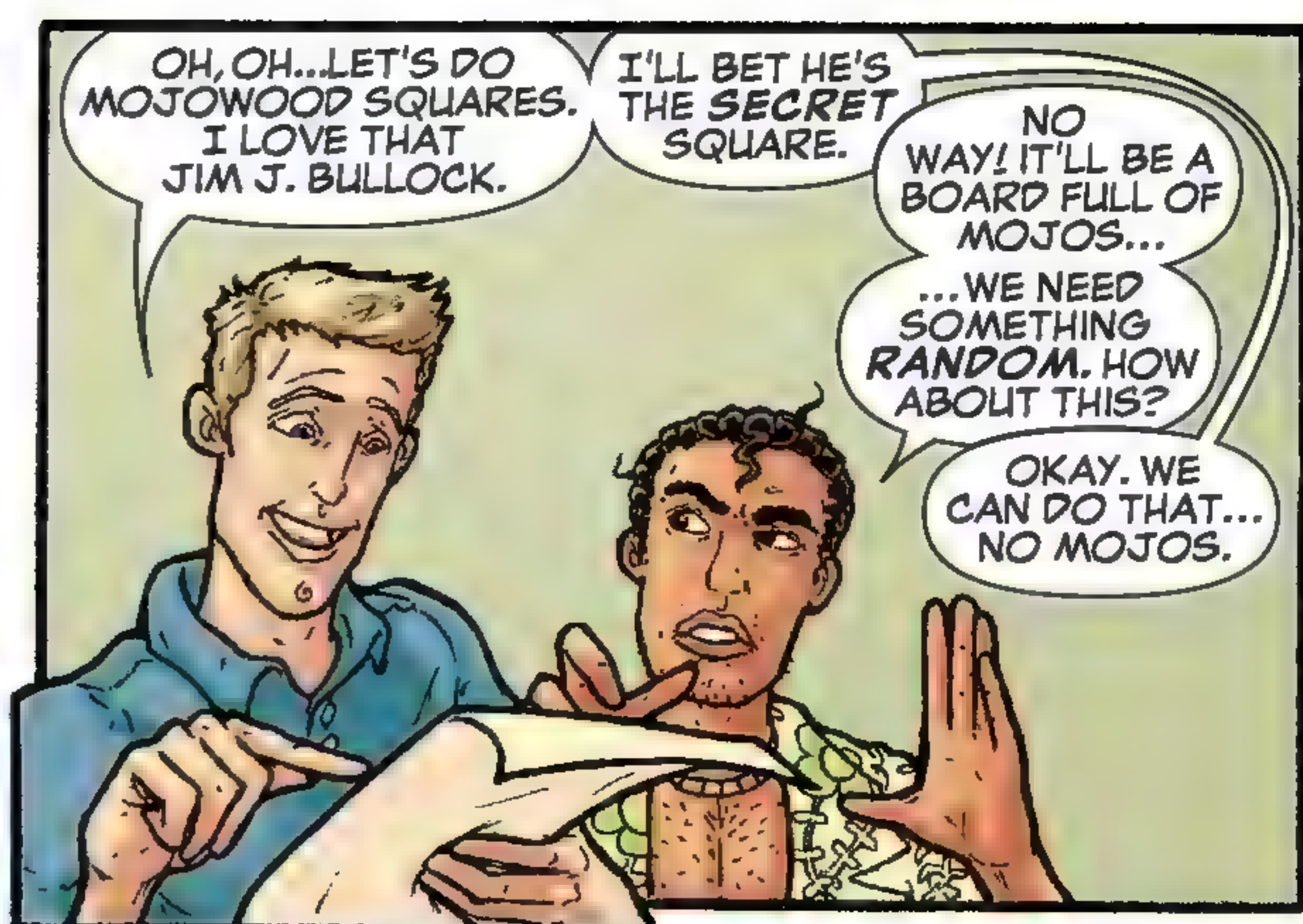
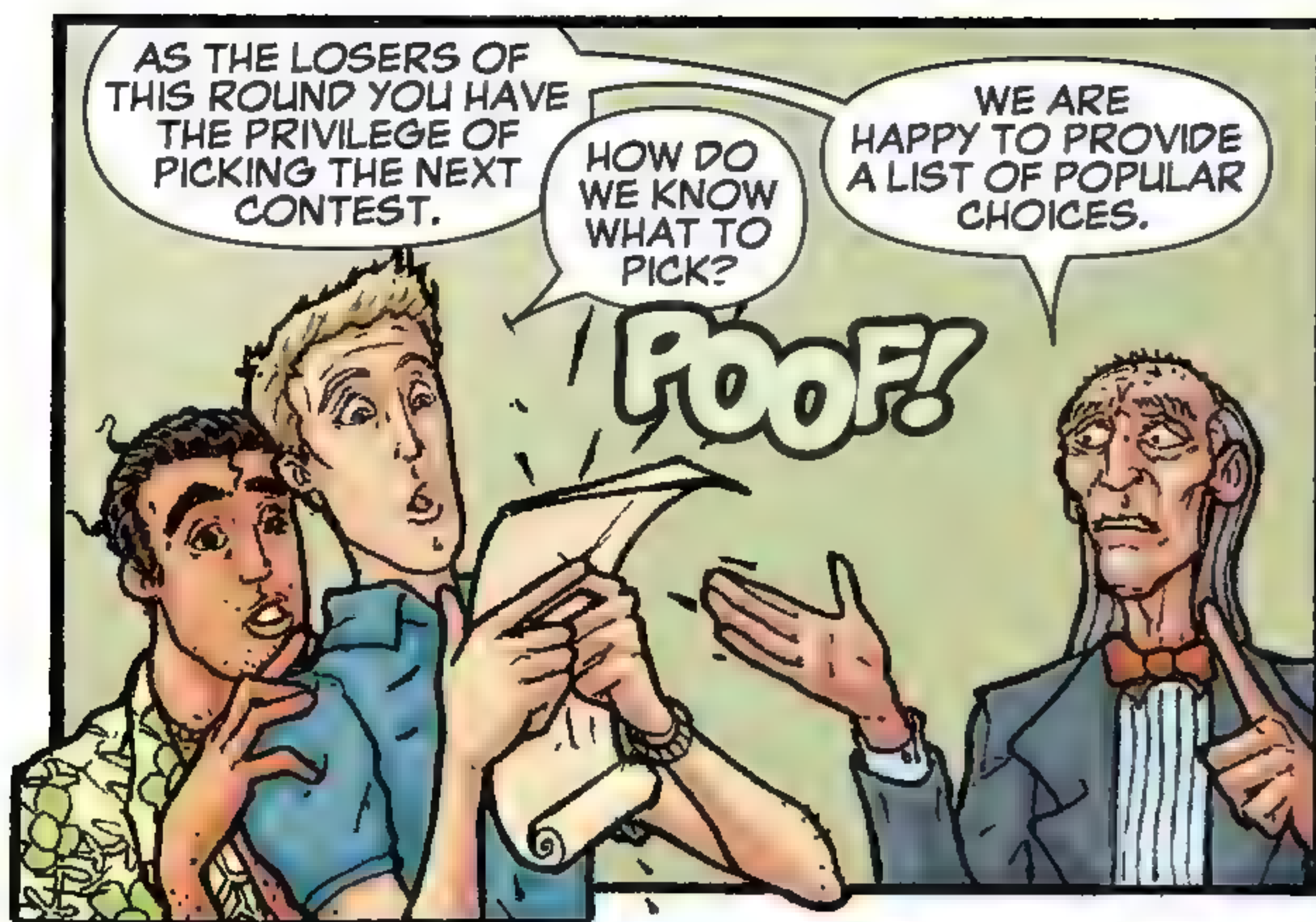
IN THIS THIRD FORMAT THE WINNER OF EACH ROUND MAY SET A DEAL POINT AND THEN THE LOSER OF SAID ROUND GETS TO CHOOSE THE NEXT GAME TO BE PLAYED.

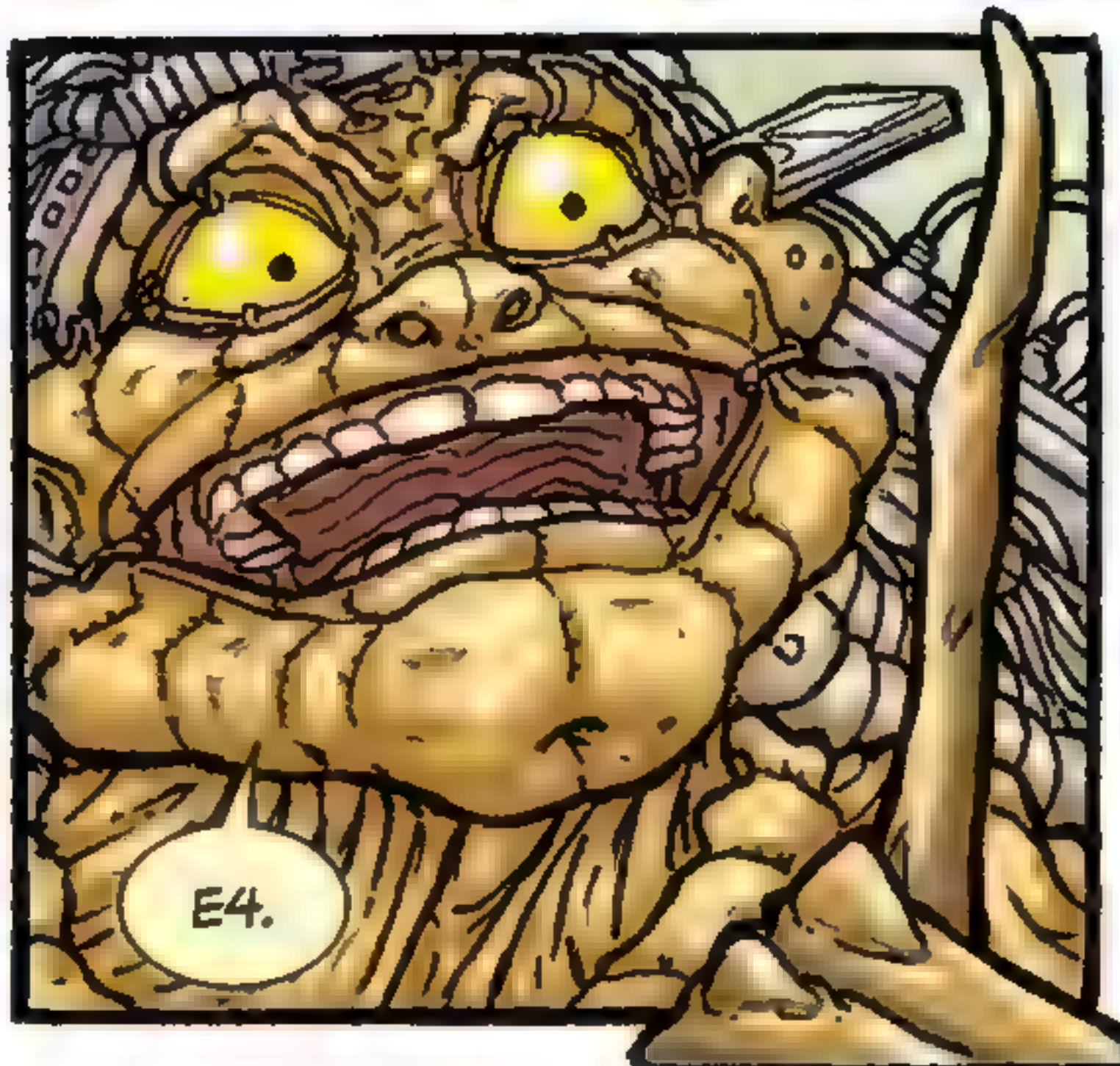
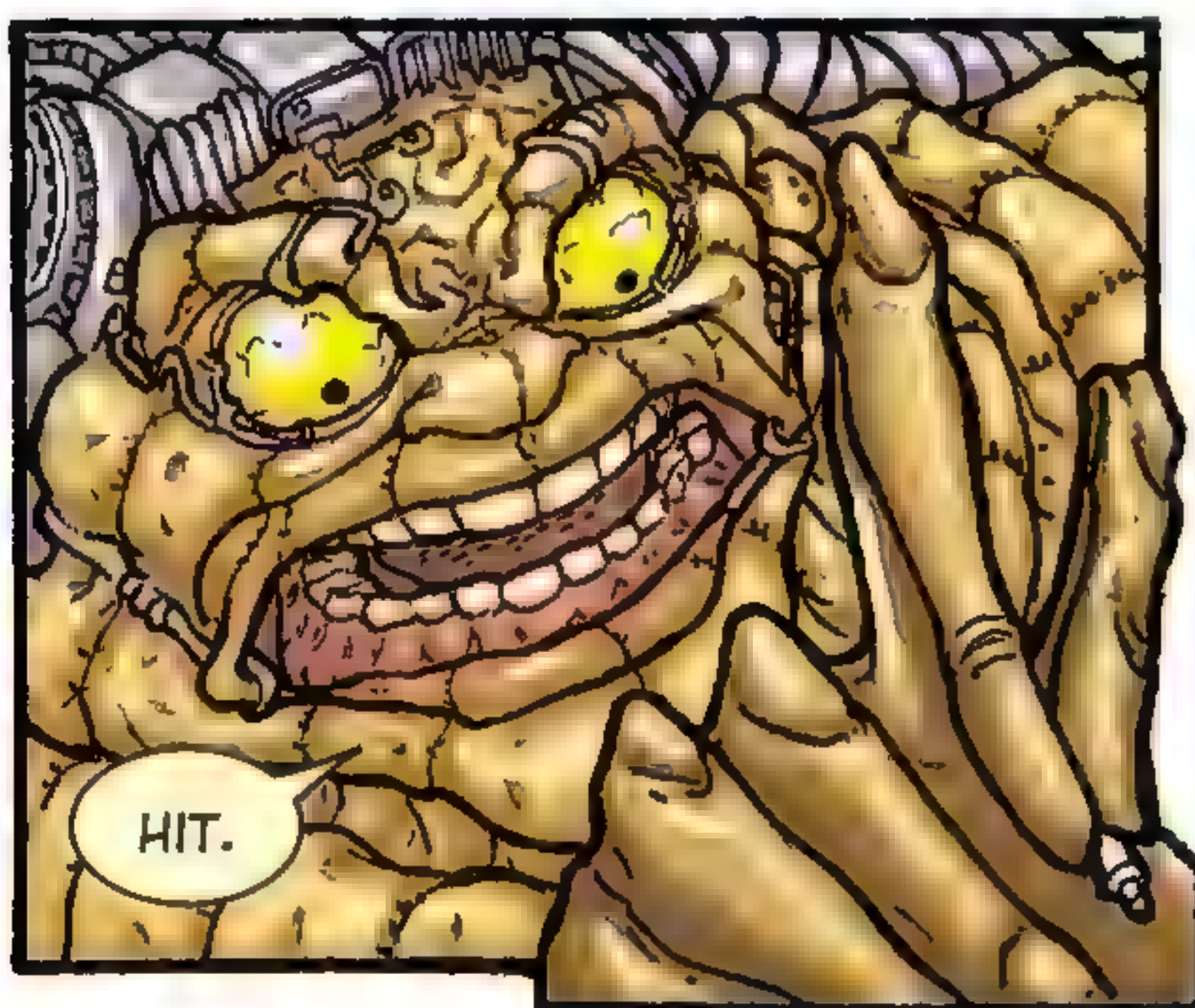
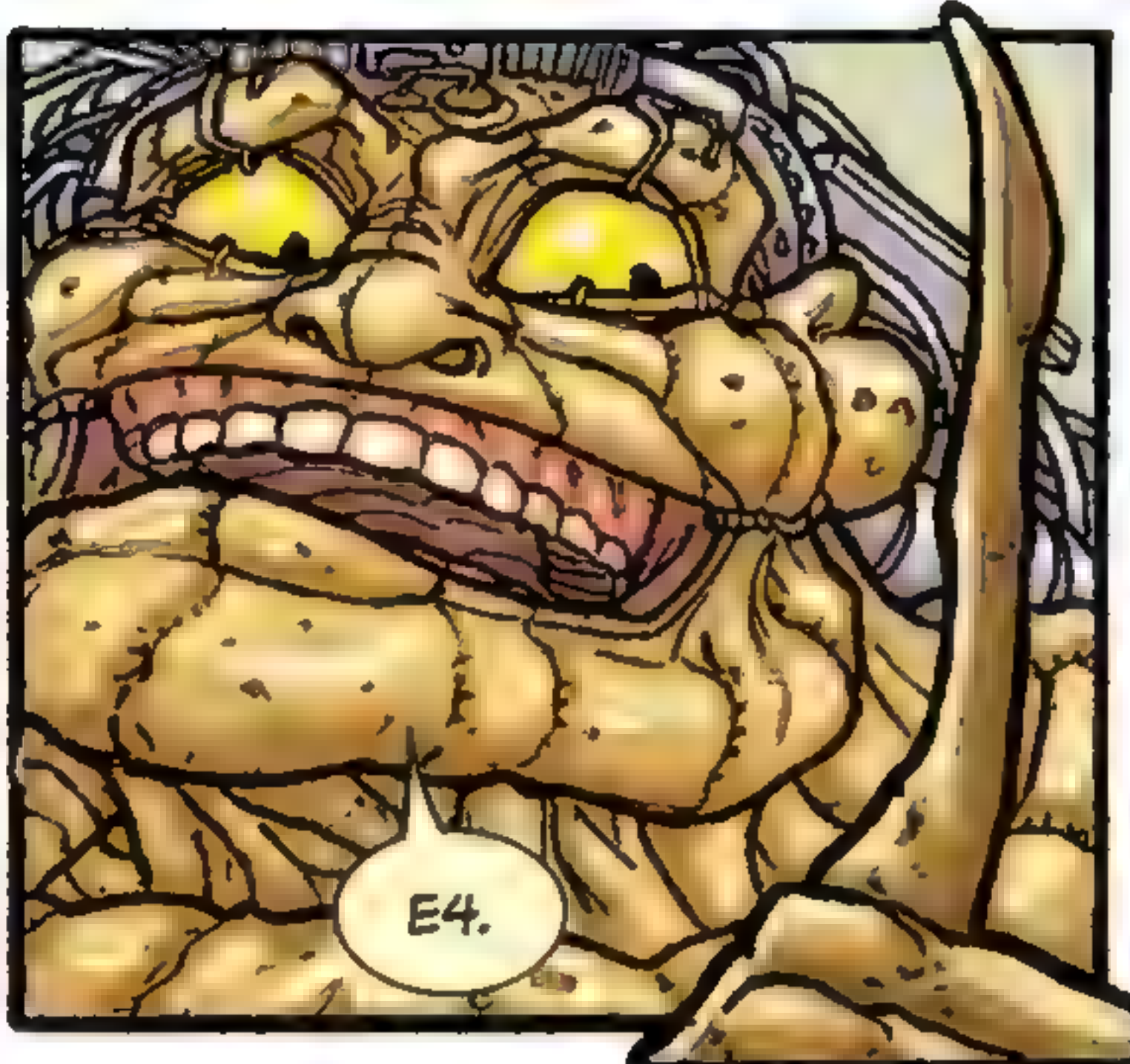
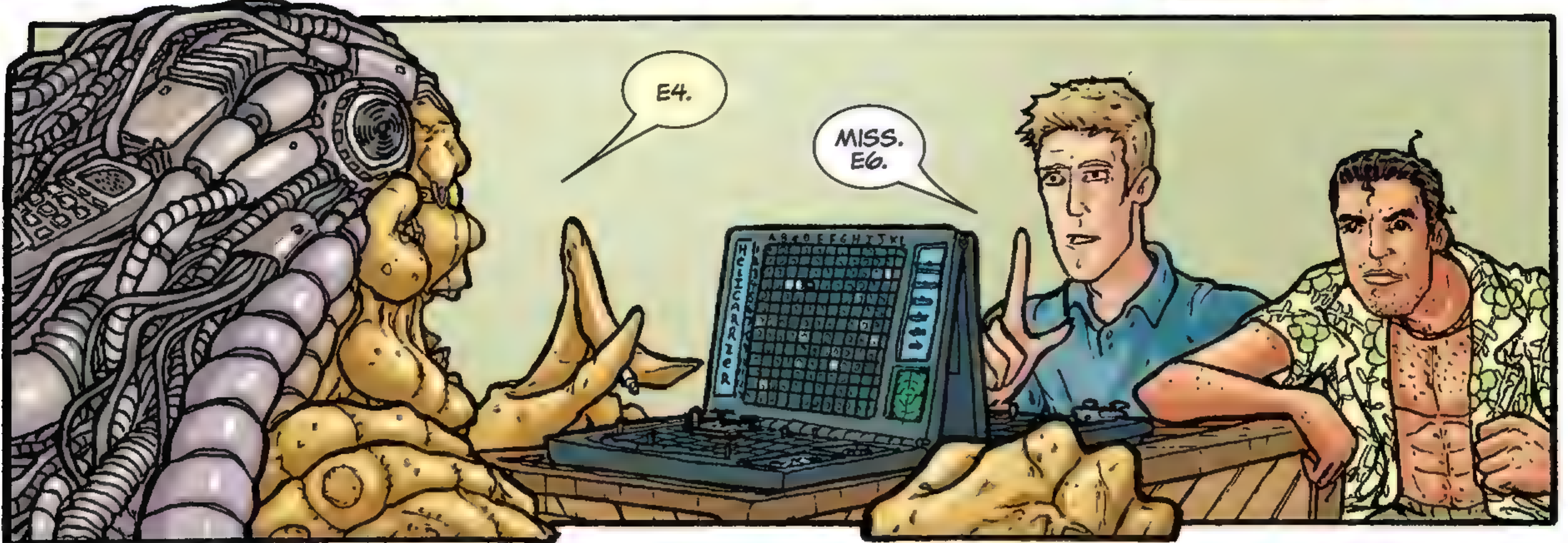
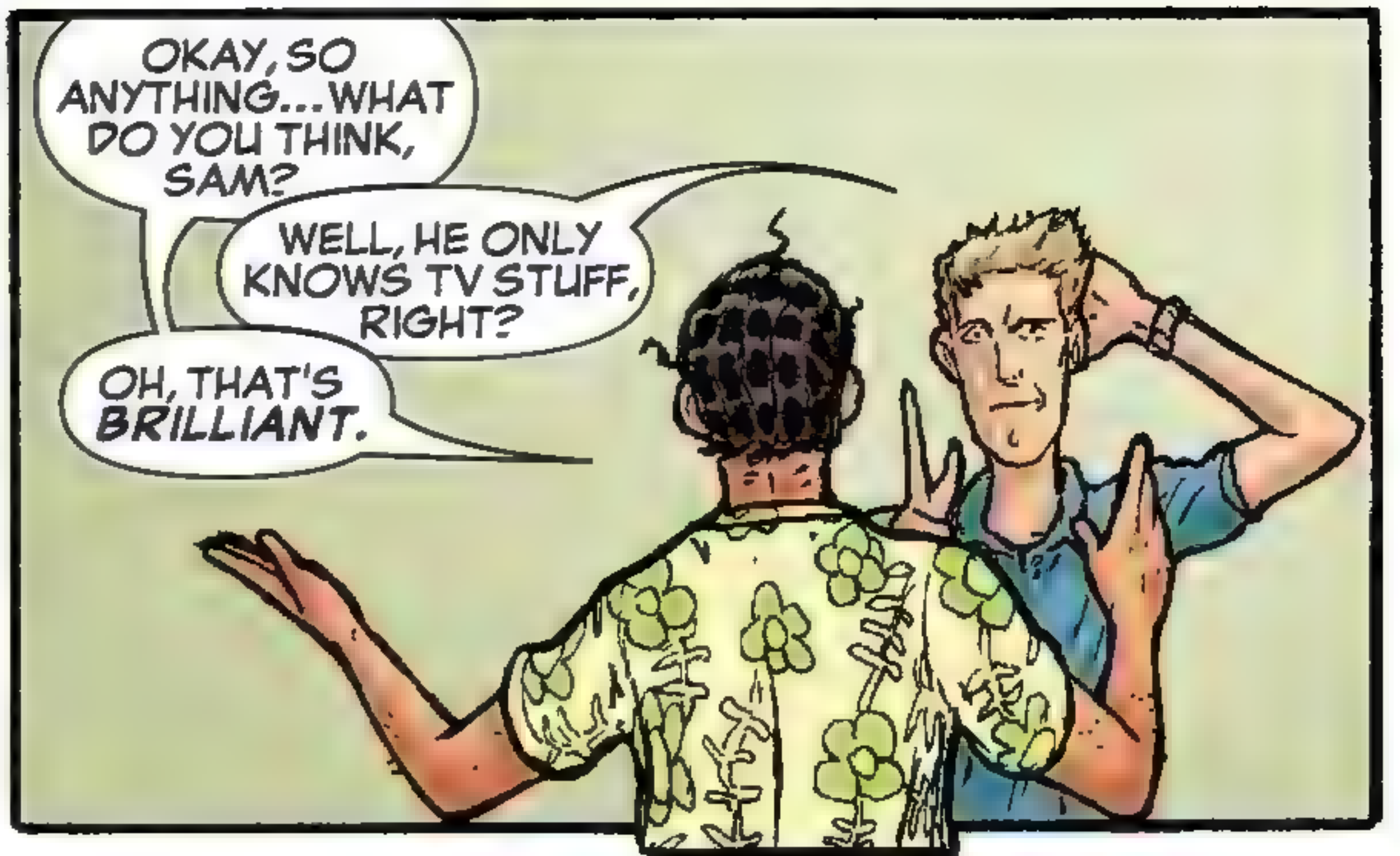
NO POWERS ALLOWED FROM NOW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONTRACT. USE OF SAID POWERS RESULTS IN DEFAULT BY THE OFFENDER.

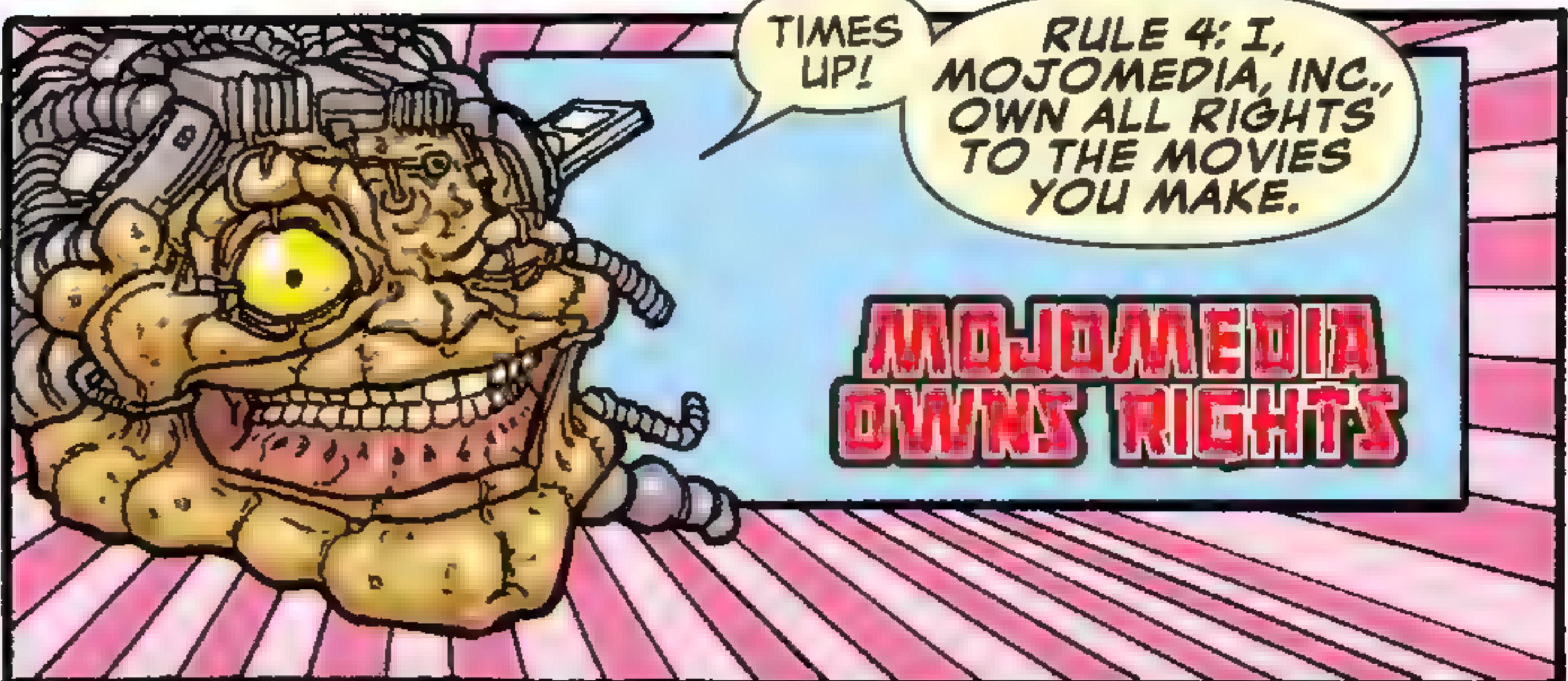
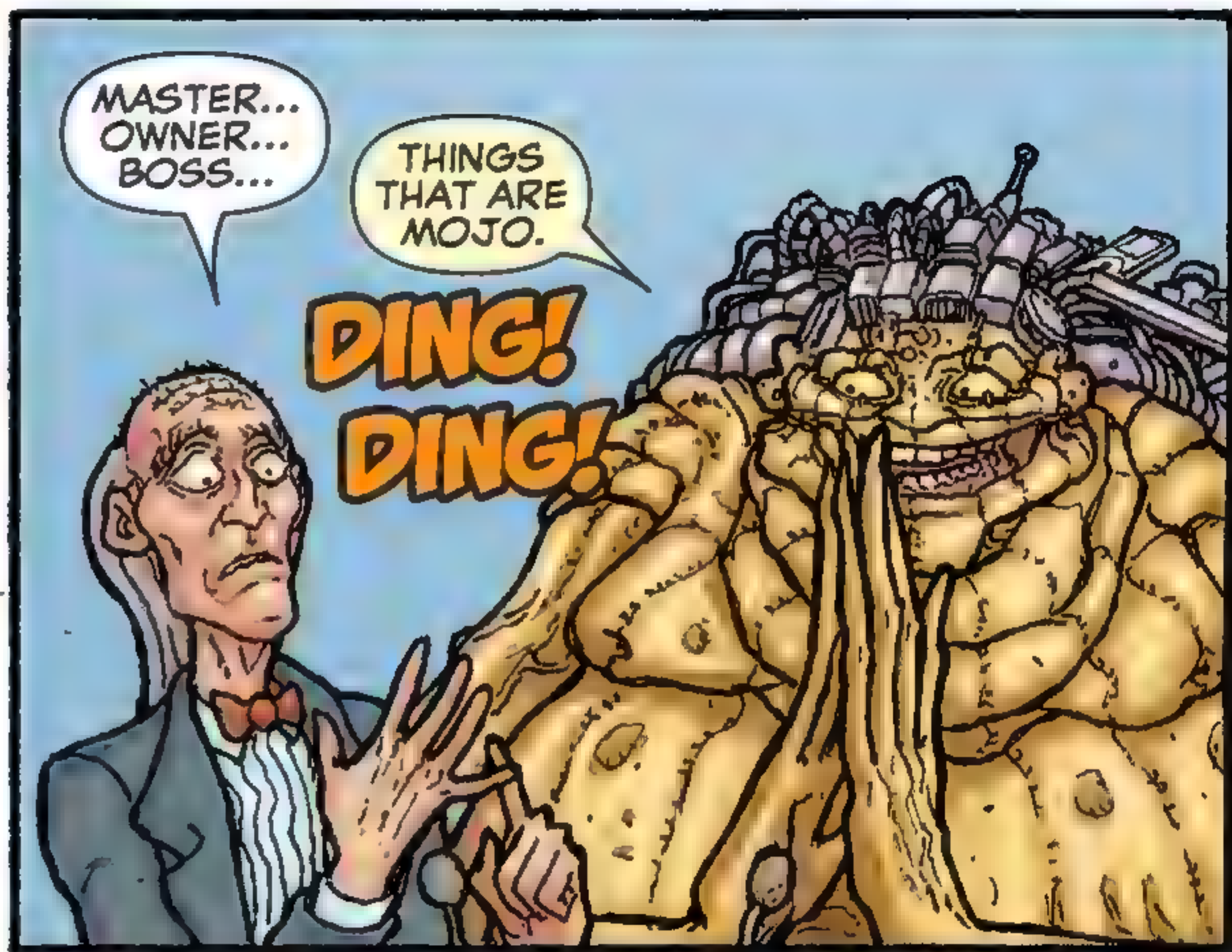
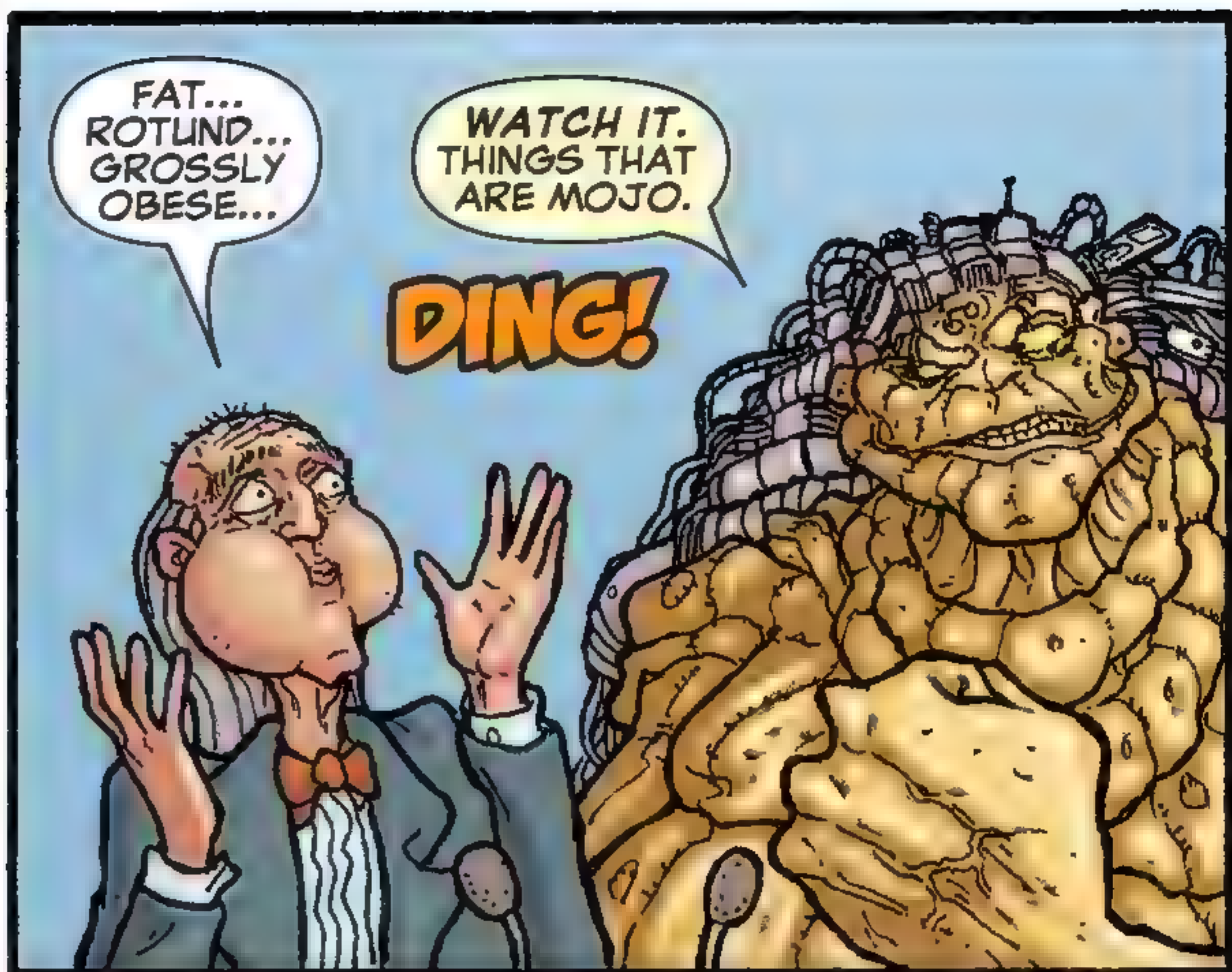
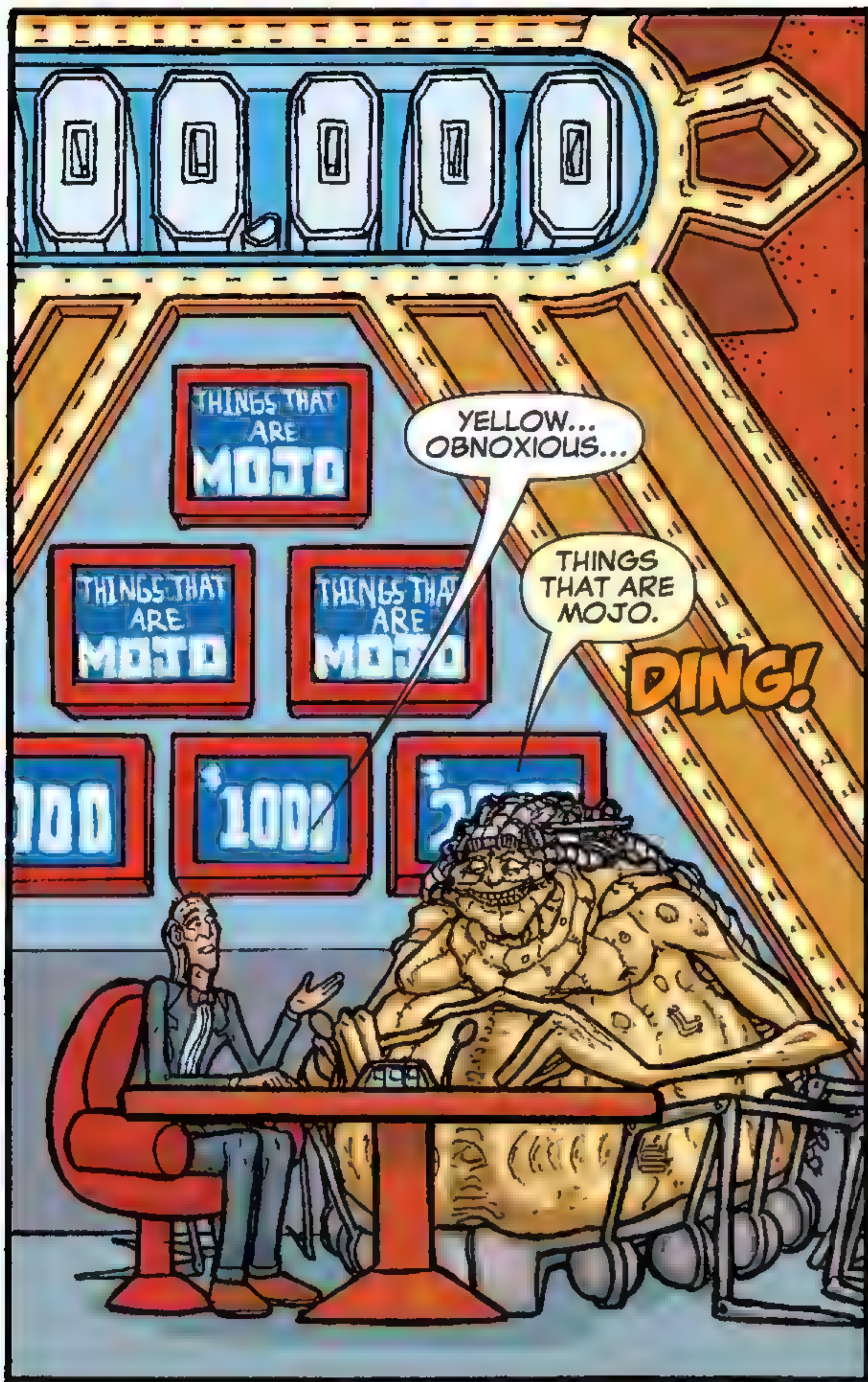
ALL DEALS ARE LIMITED TO 7 ROUNDS. SHALL WE BEGIN?

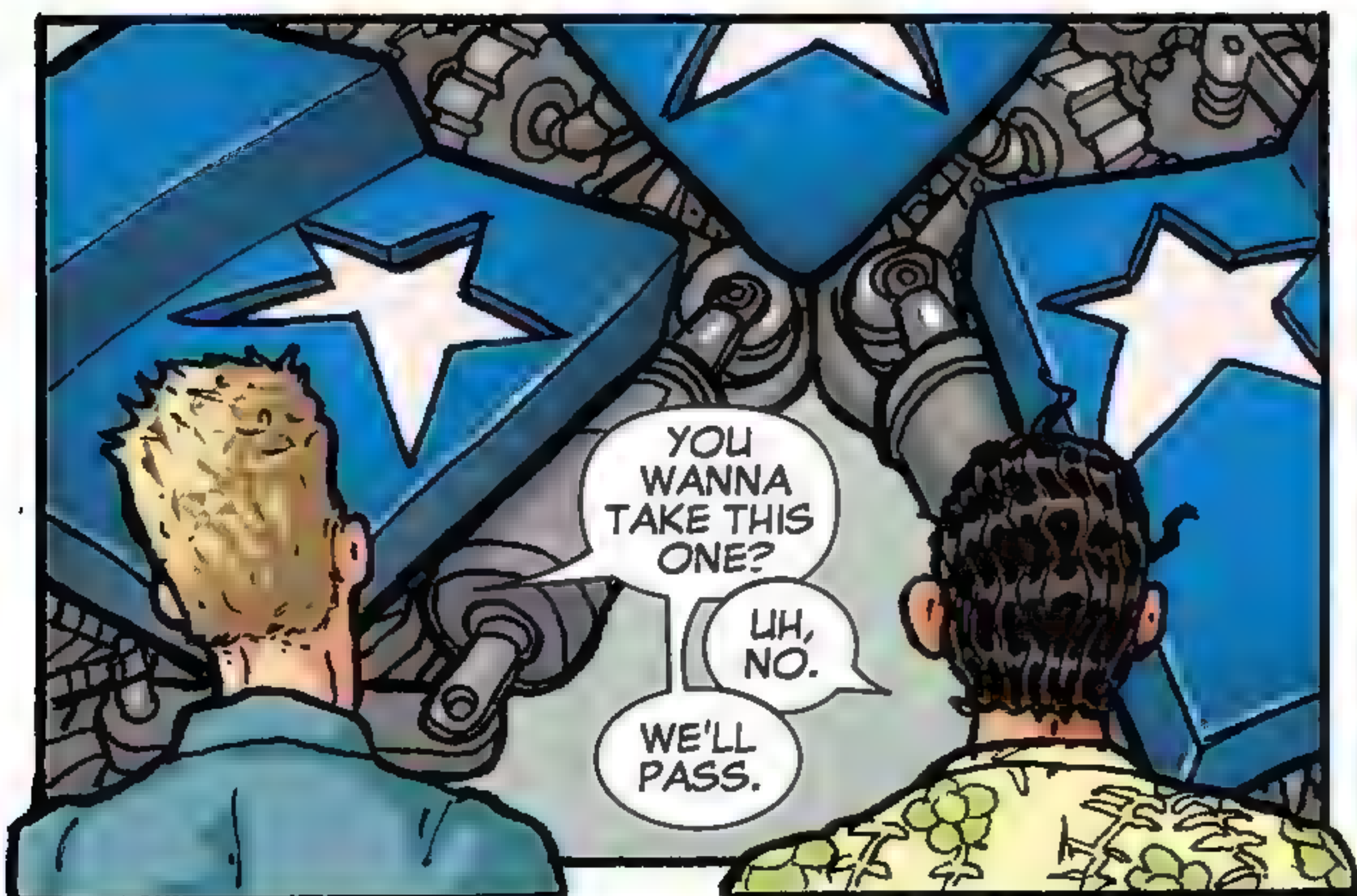
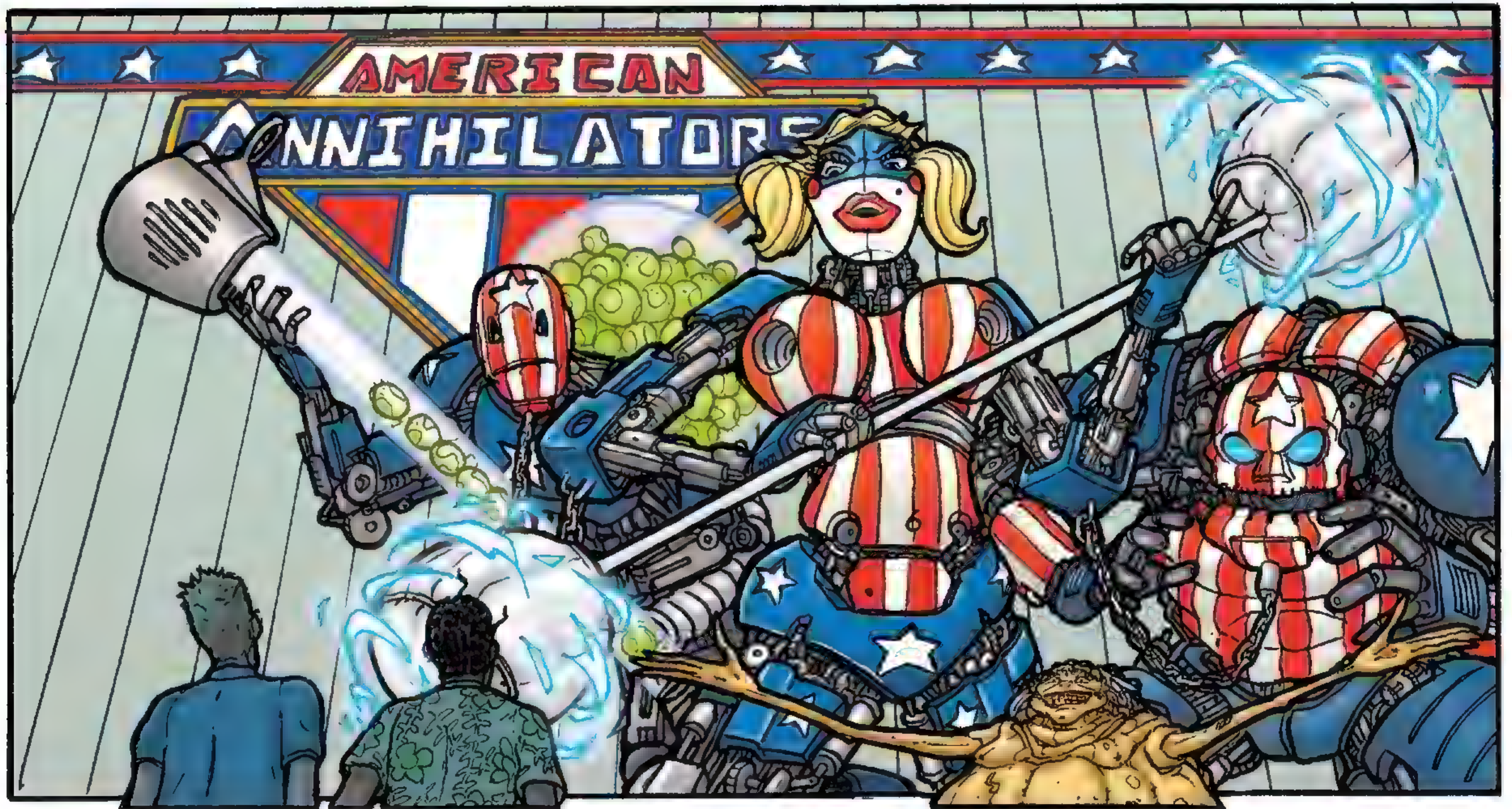
GRACIOUS HOST GOES FIRST...
MOJO FEUD!

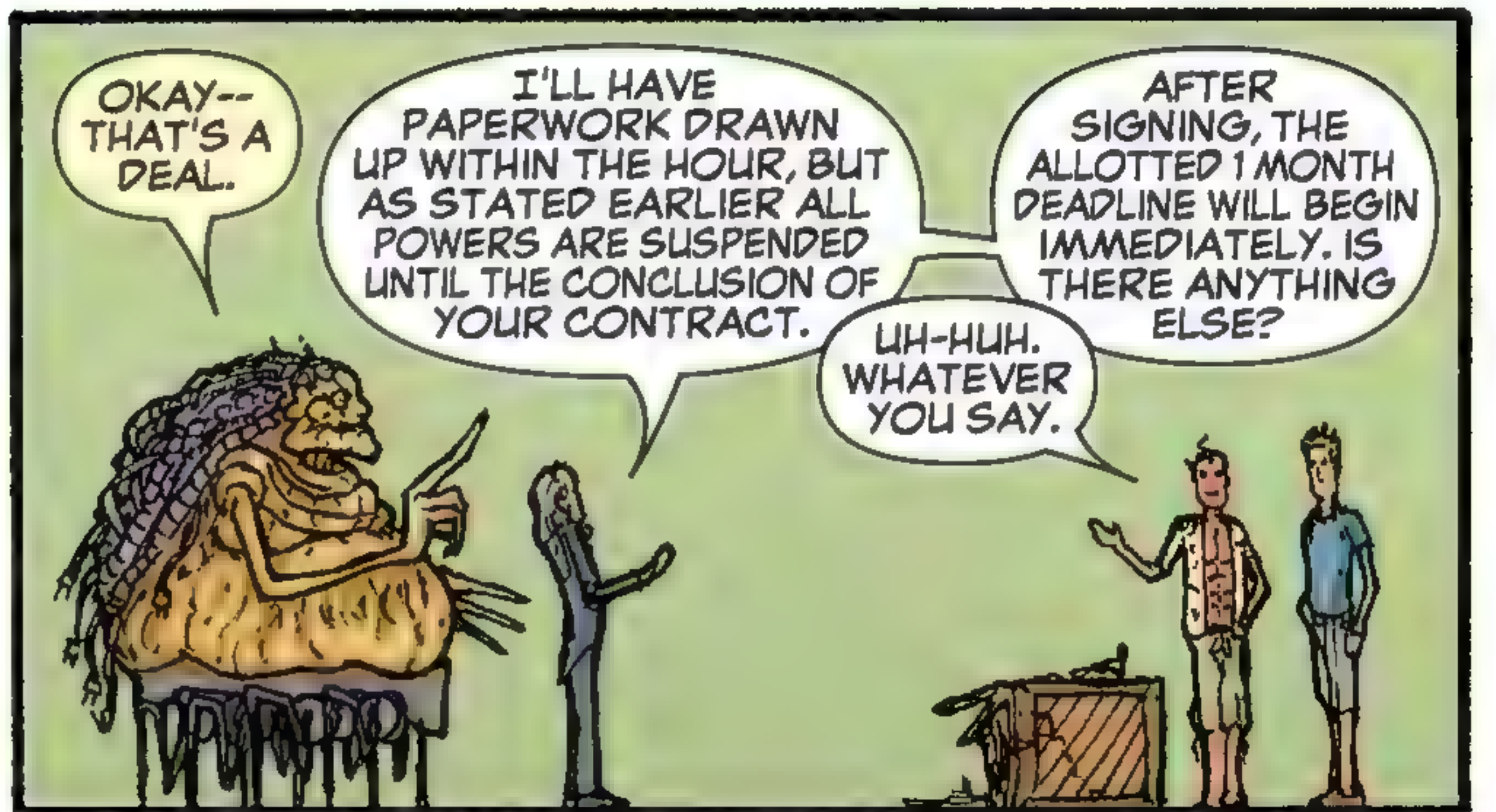
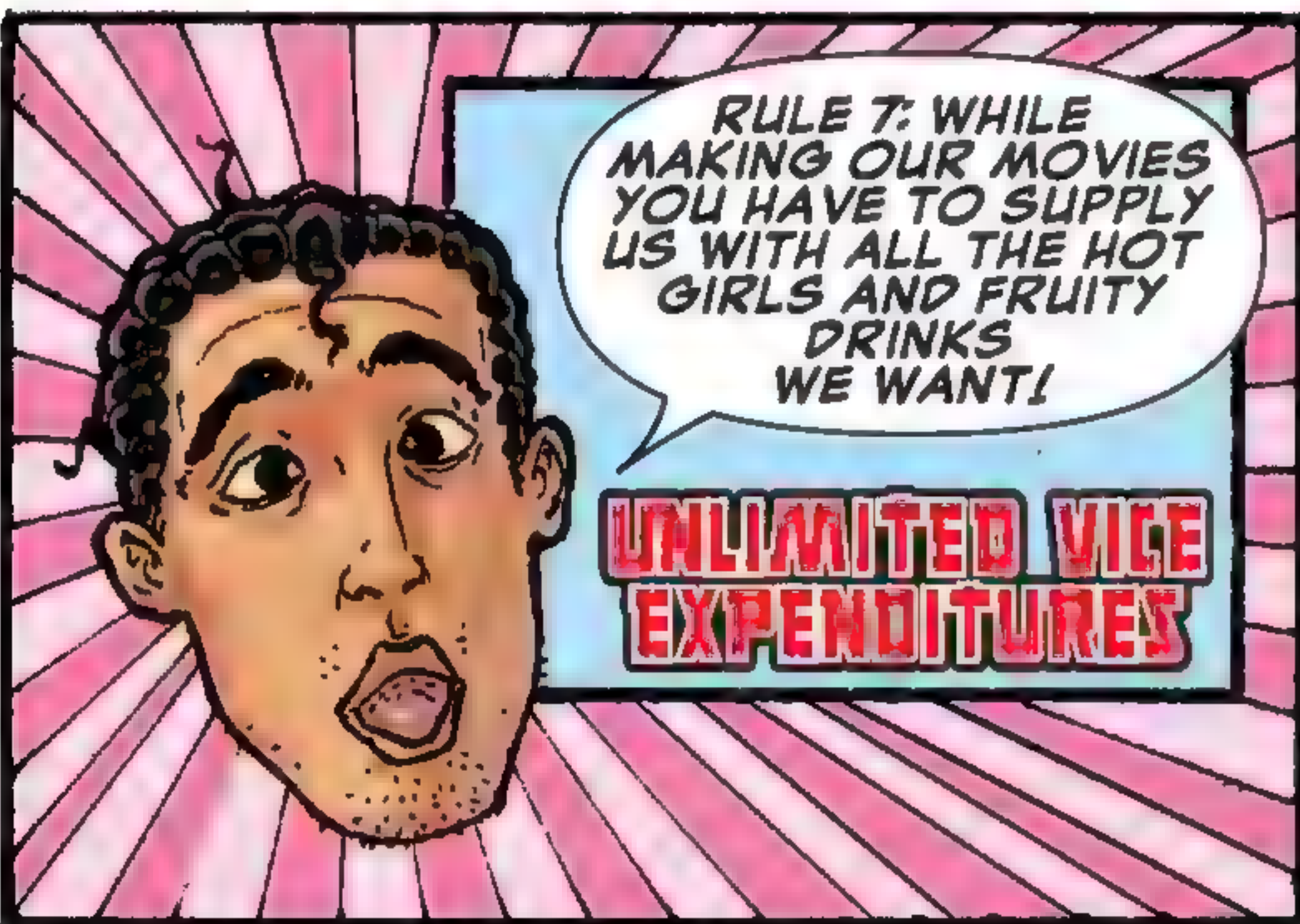
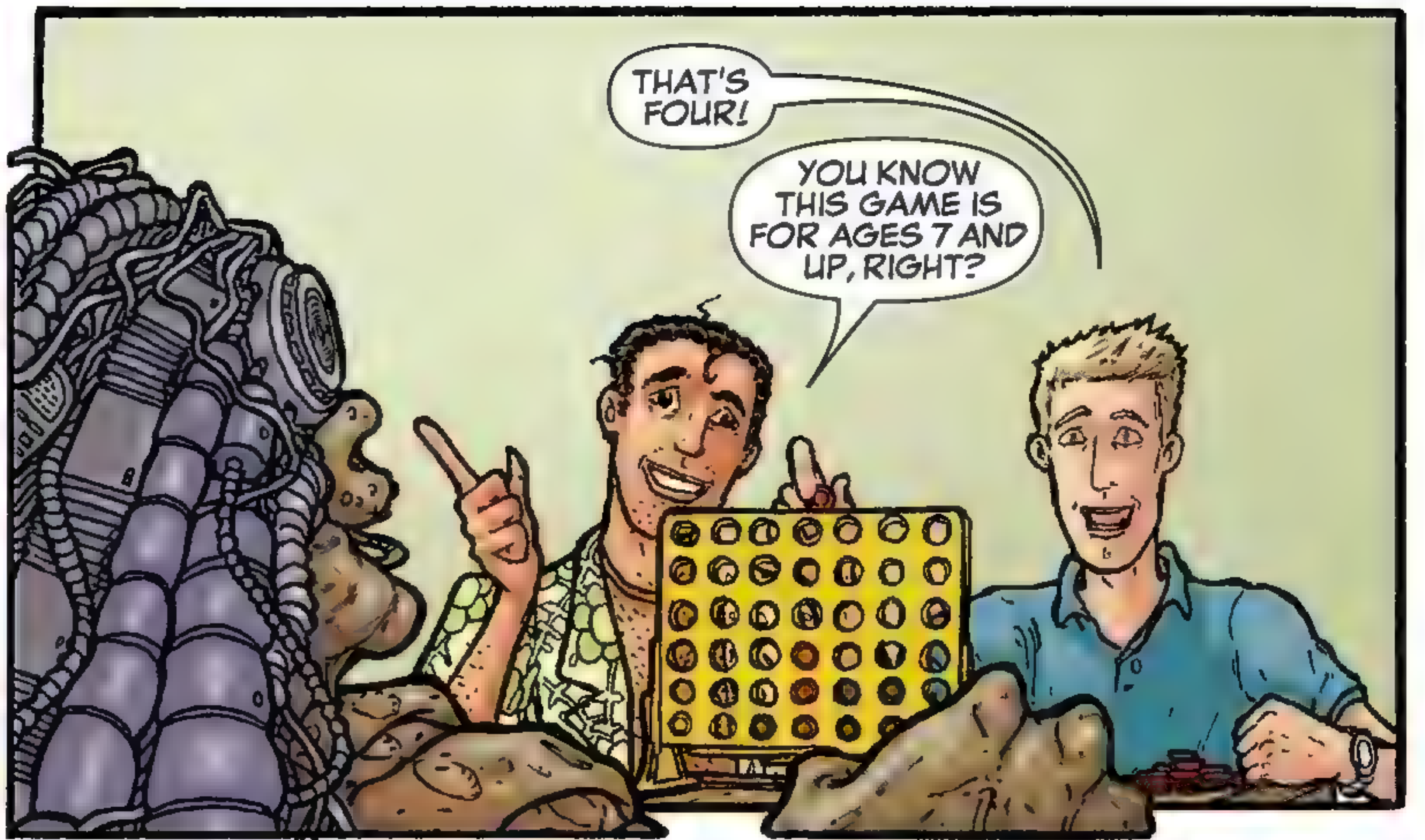
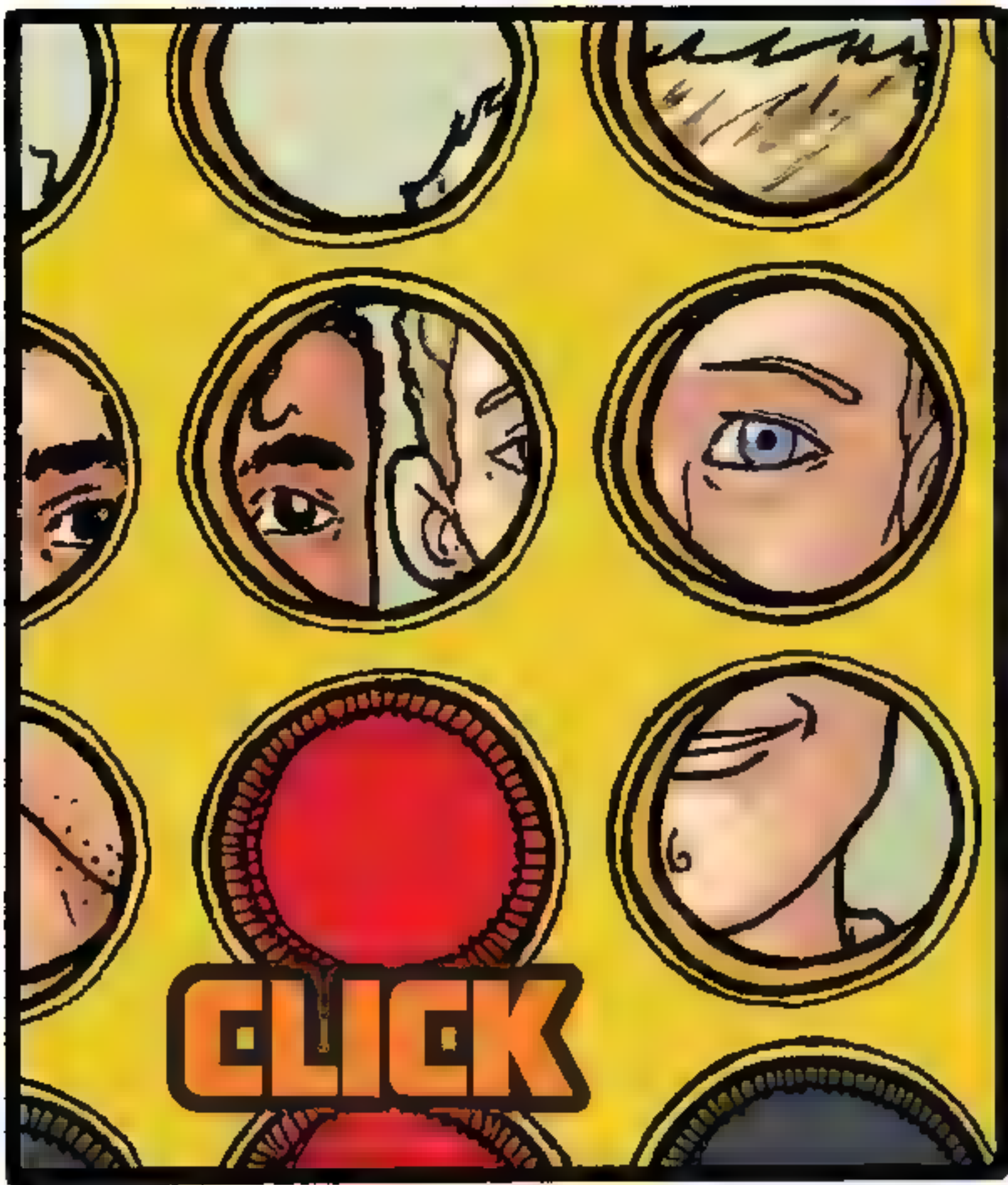


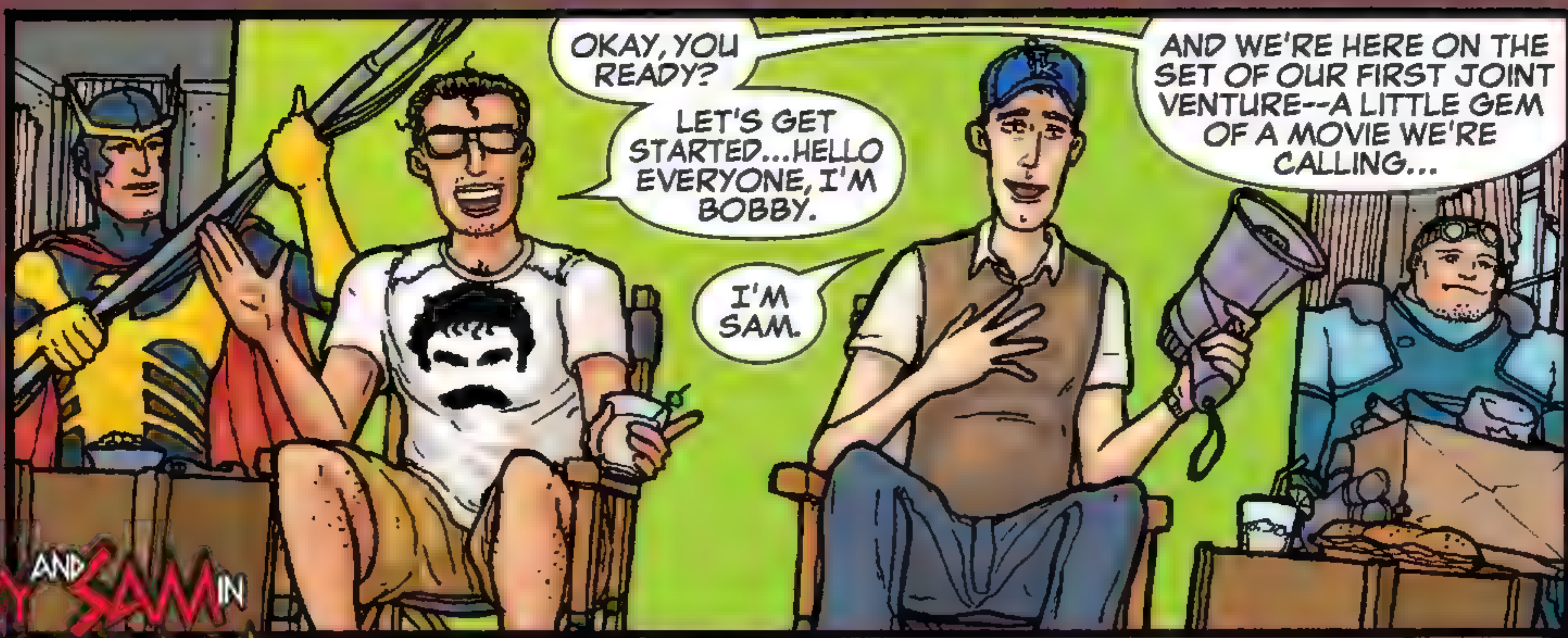








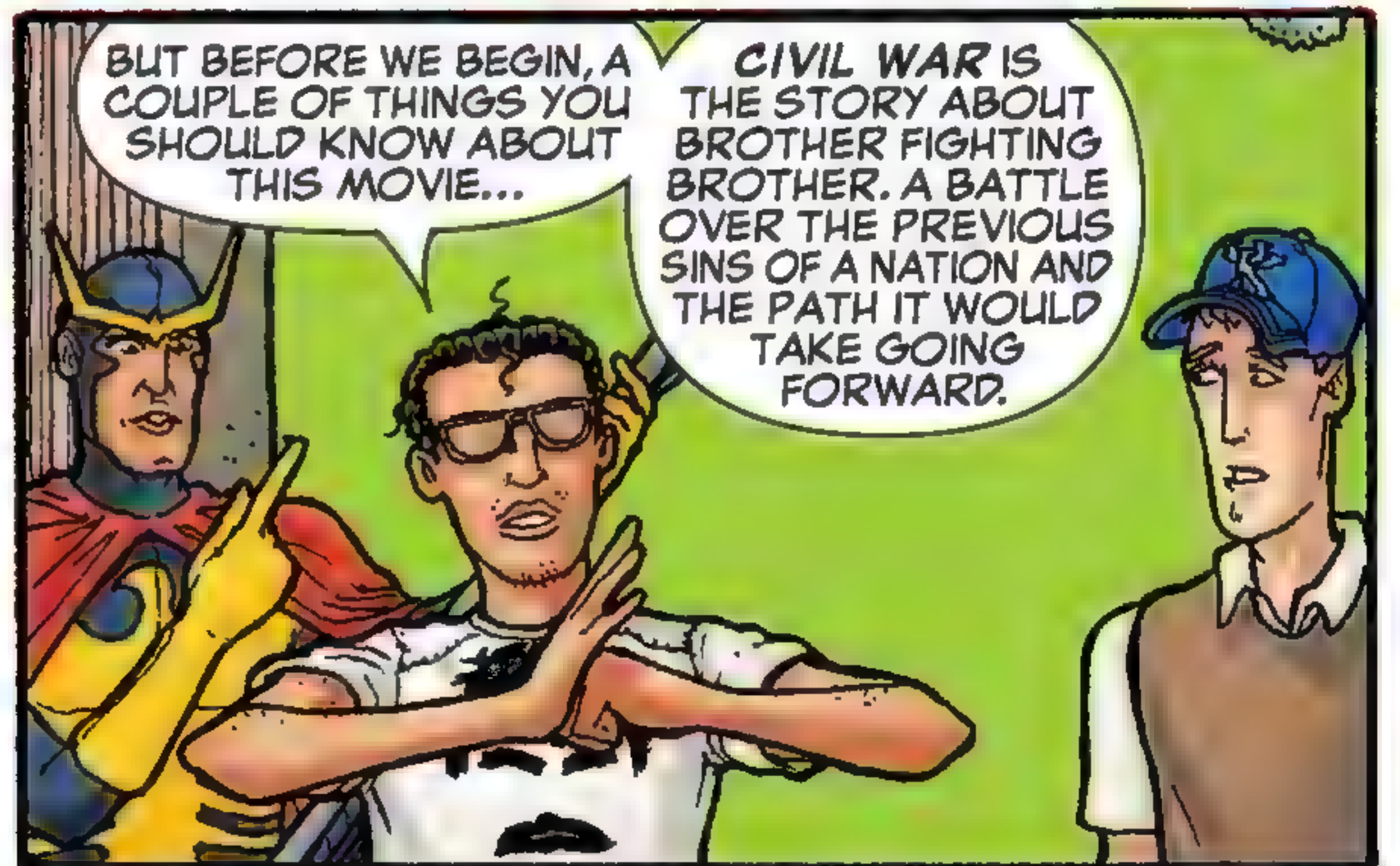
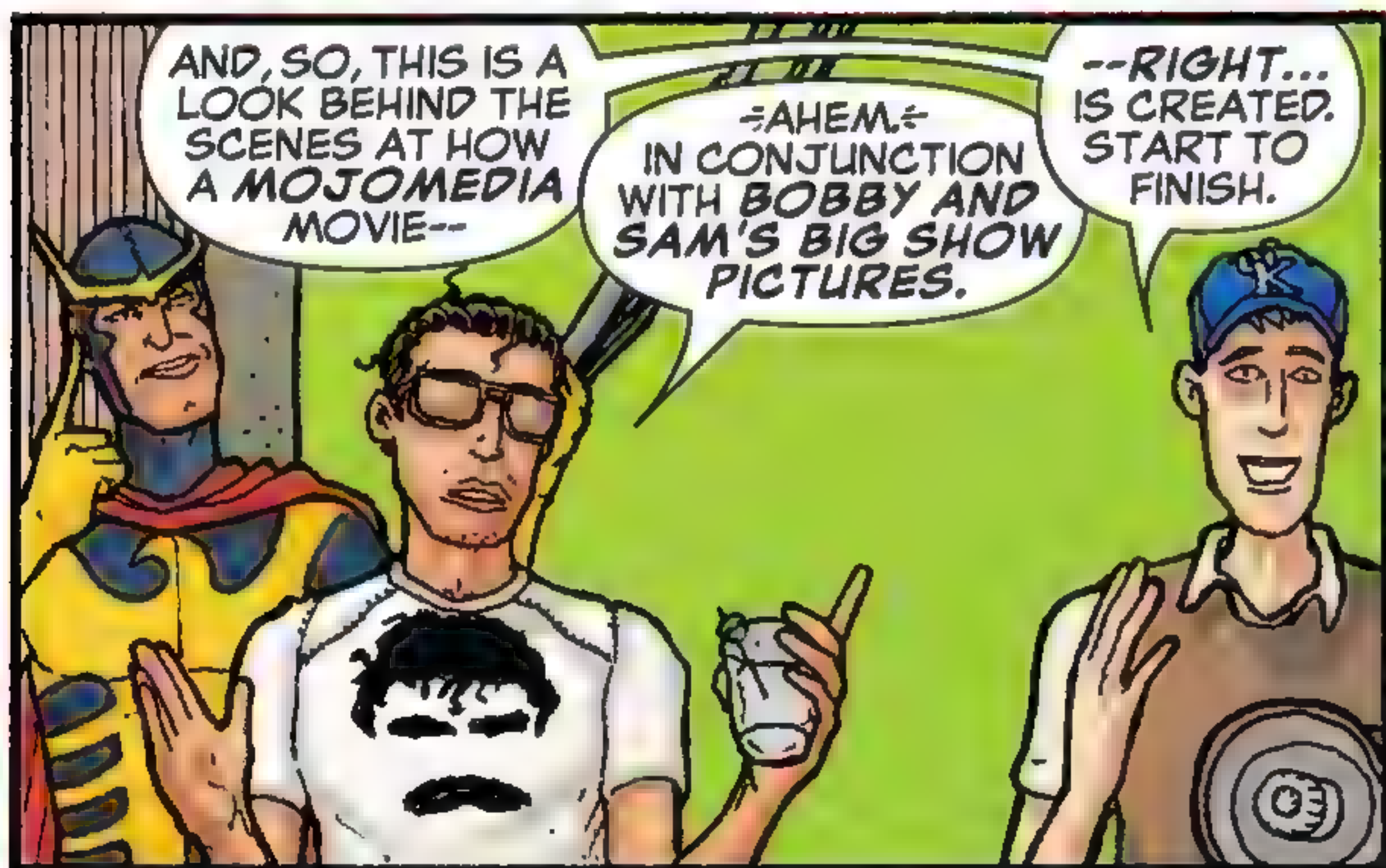




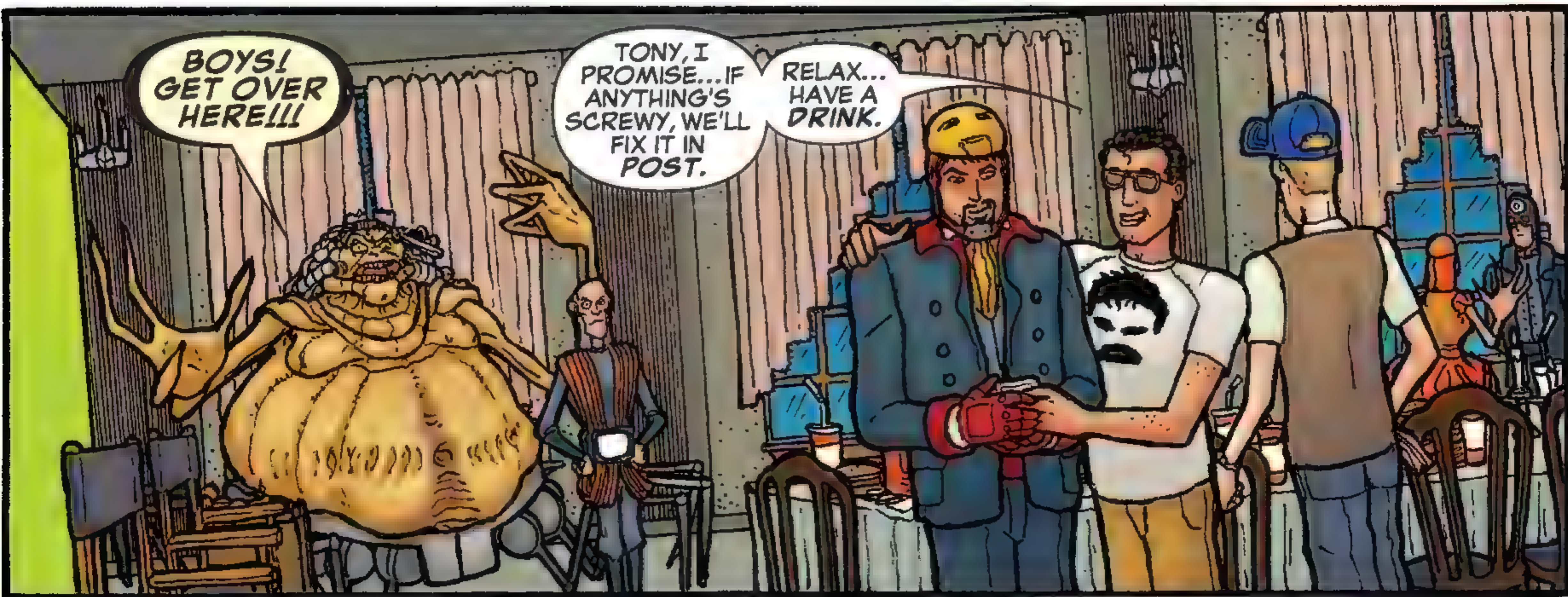
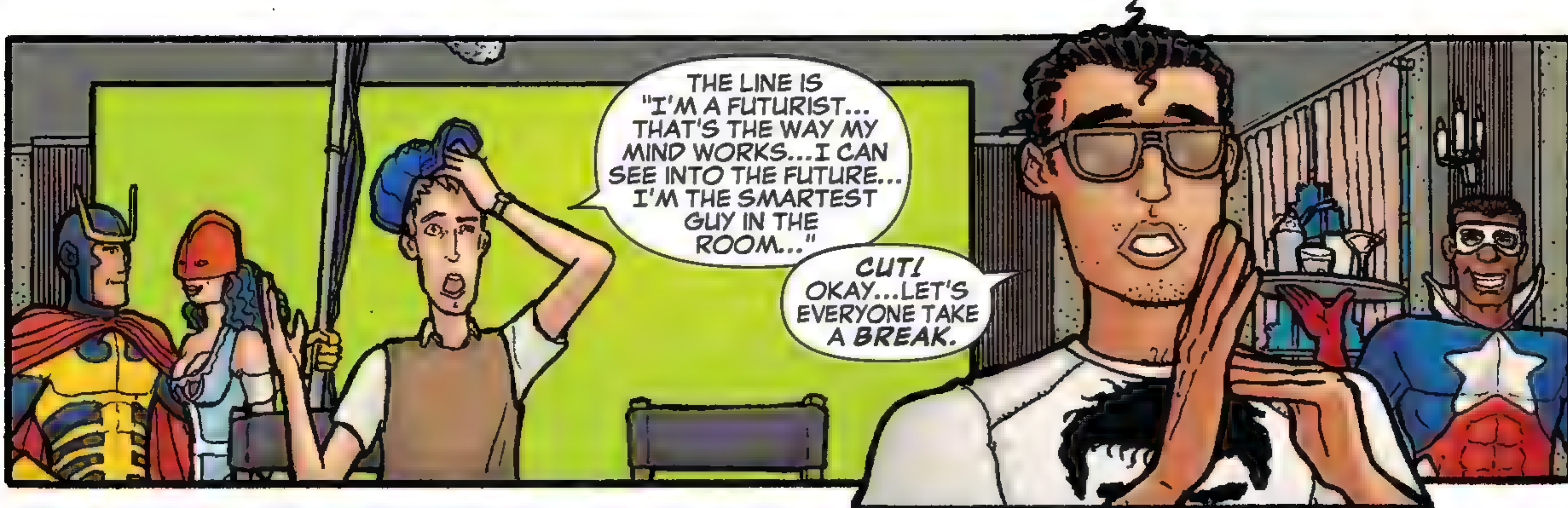
BOBBY AND SAM IN MOJOWORLD

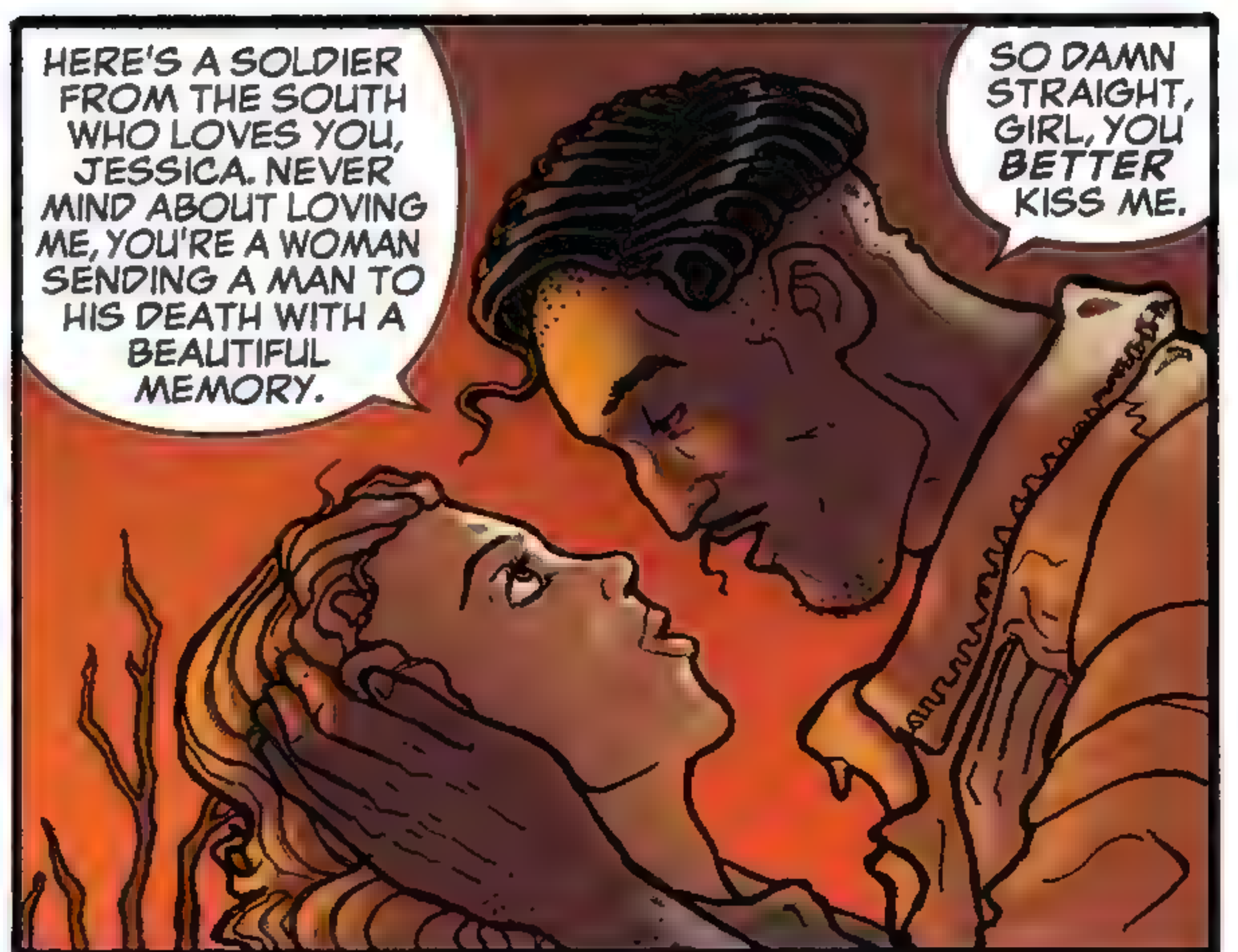
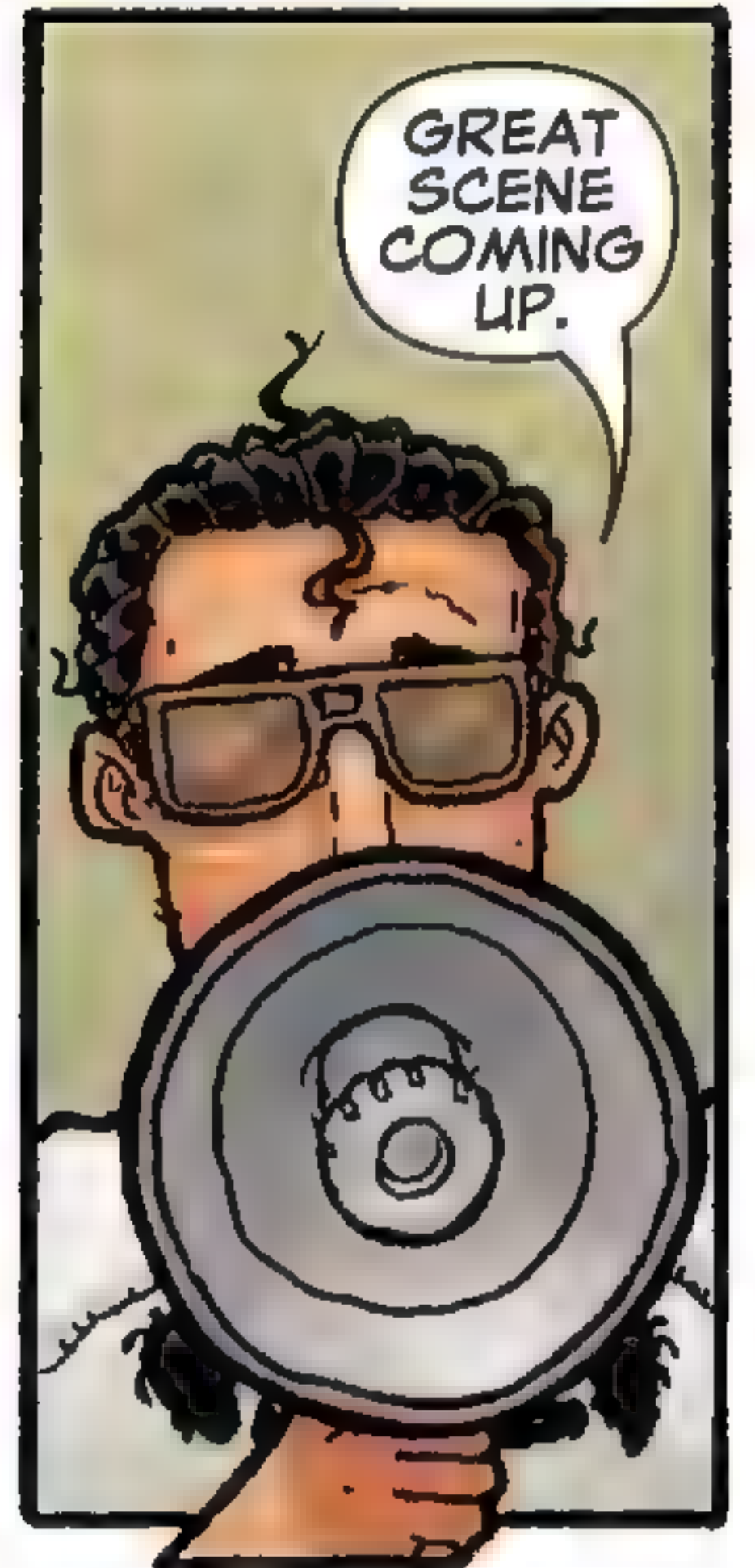
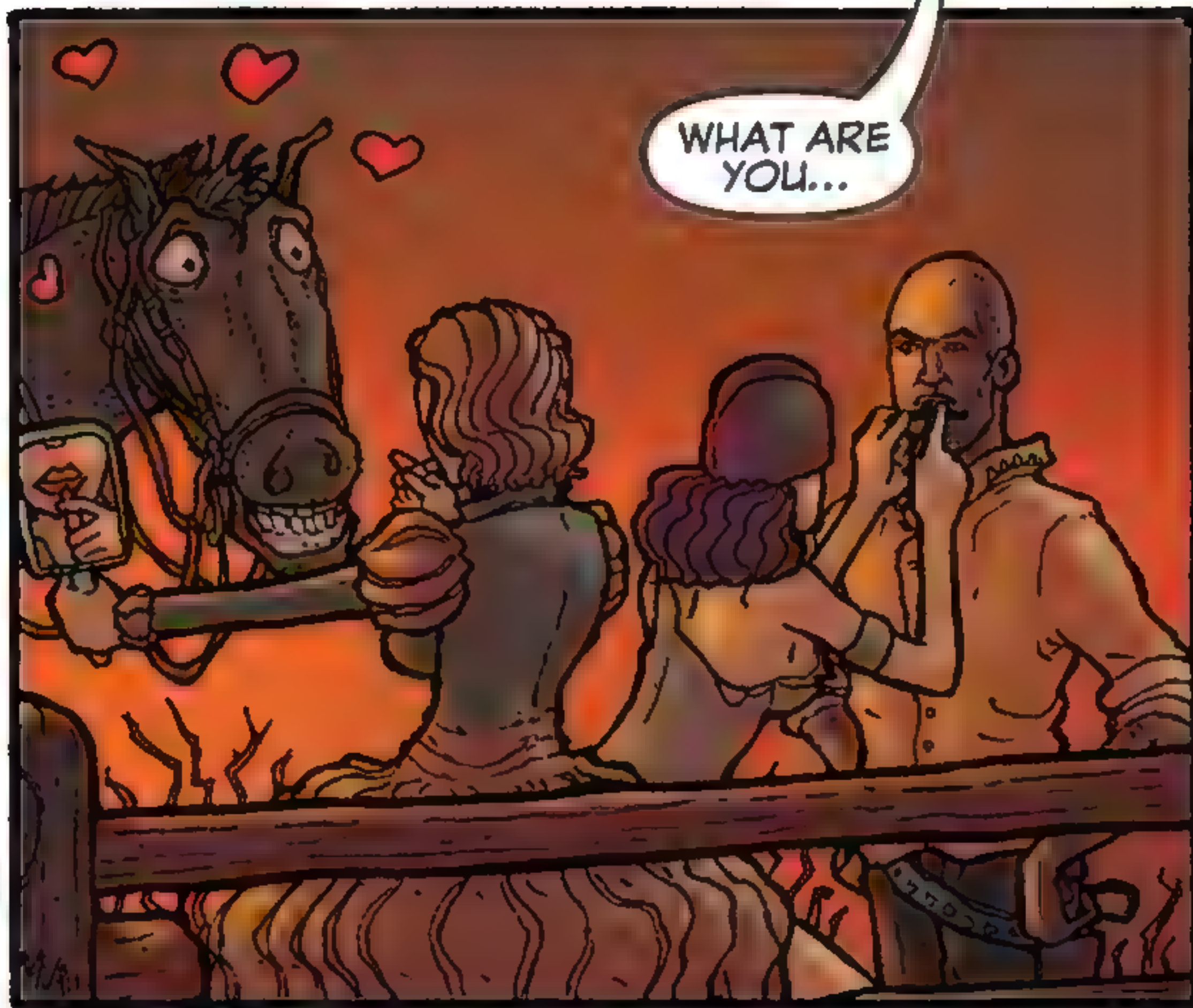


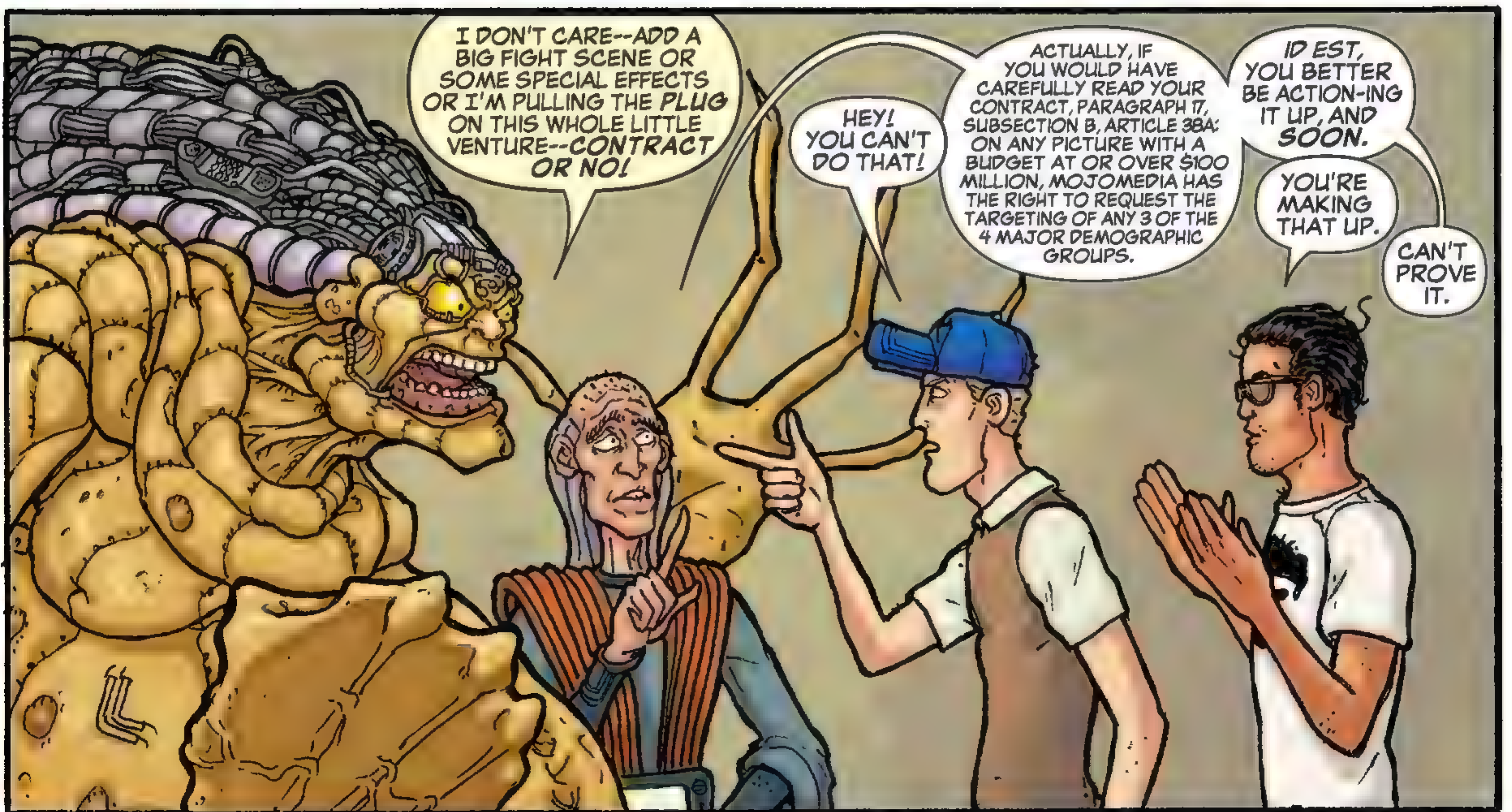
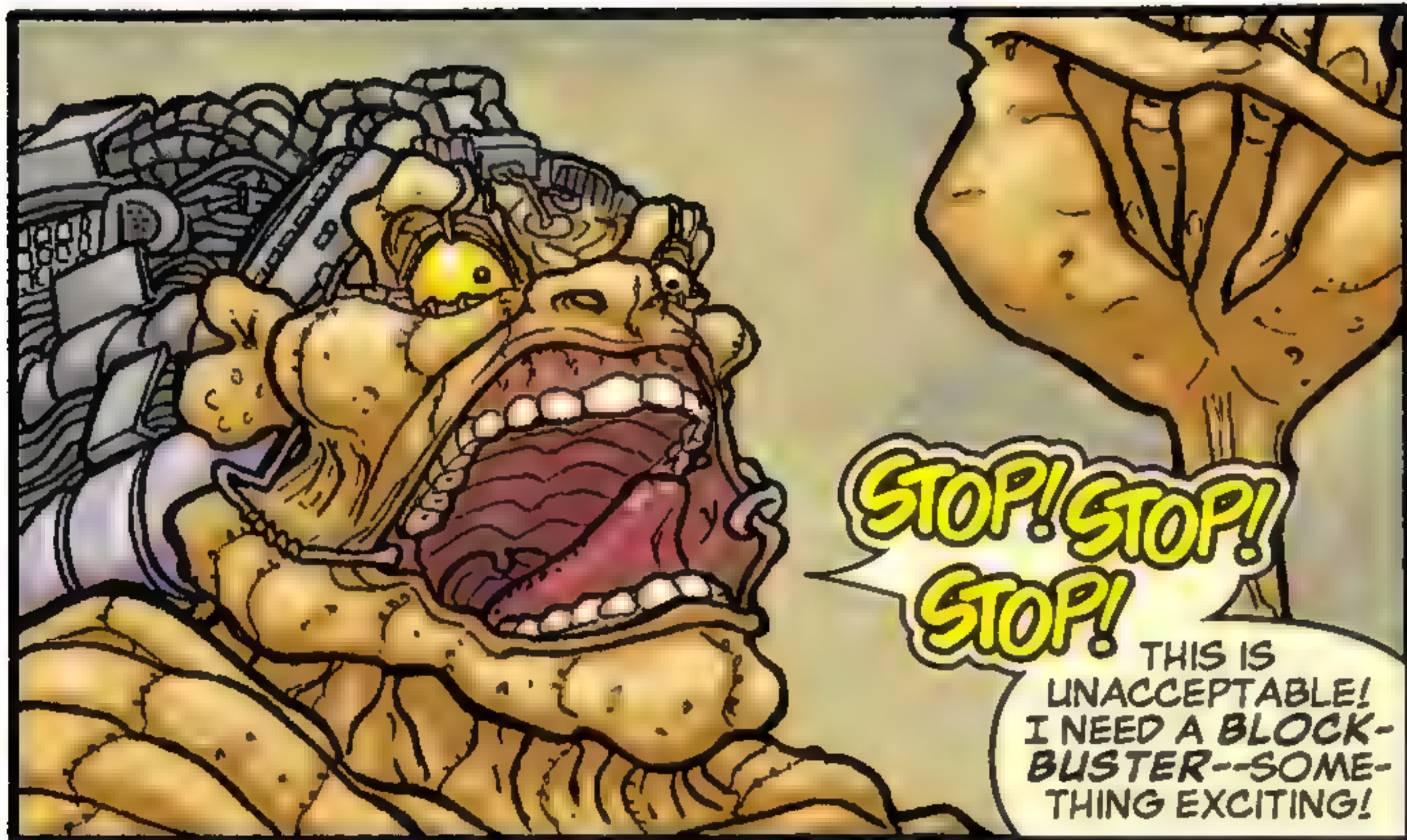
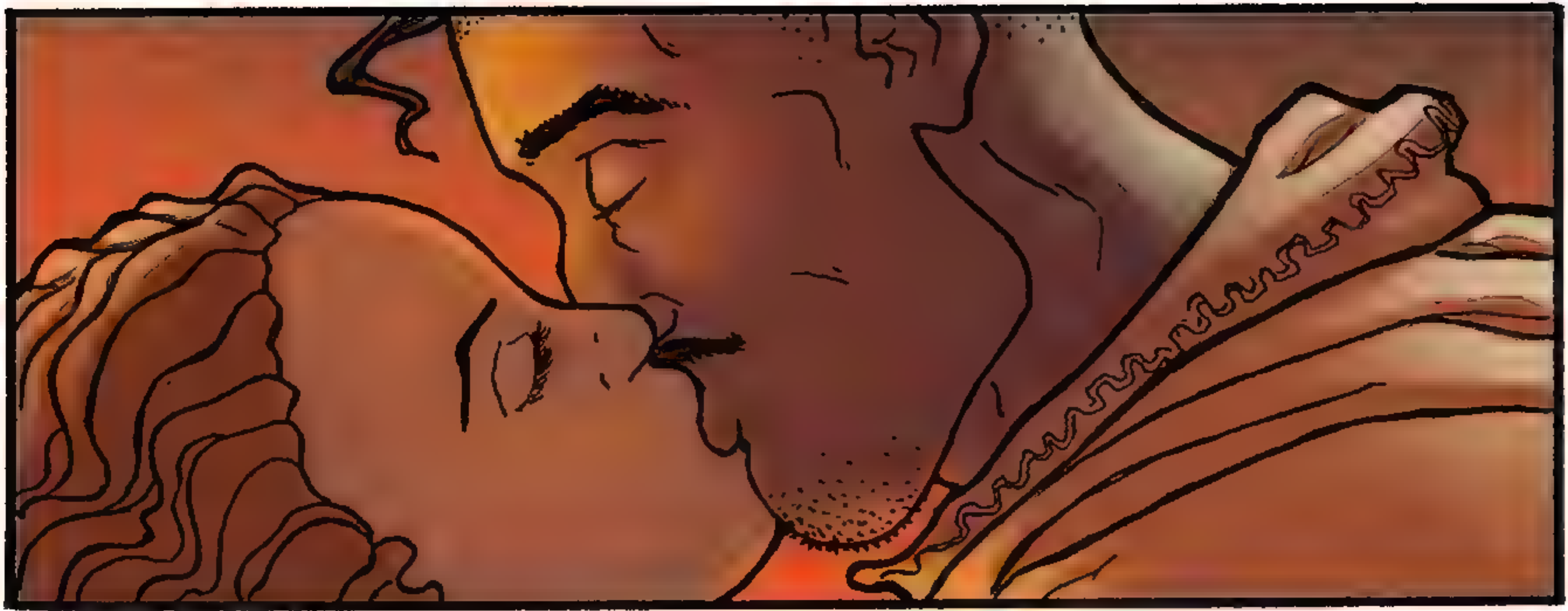
WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN ARTIST: NICK PITARRA COLORS: NATHAN FAIRBAIRN LETTERS: DAVE SHARPE
EDITOR: HORWITZ CON. EDITORS: BOOSE AND BARBER EIC: JOE QUESADA PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE











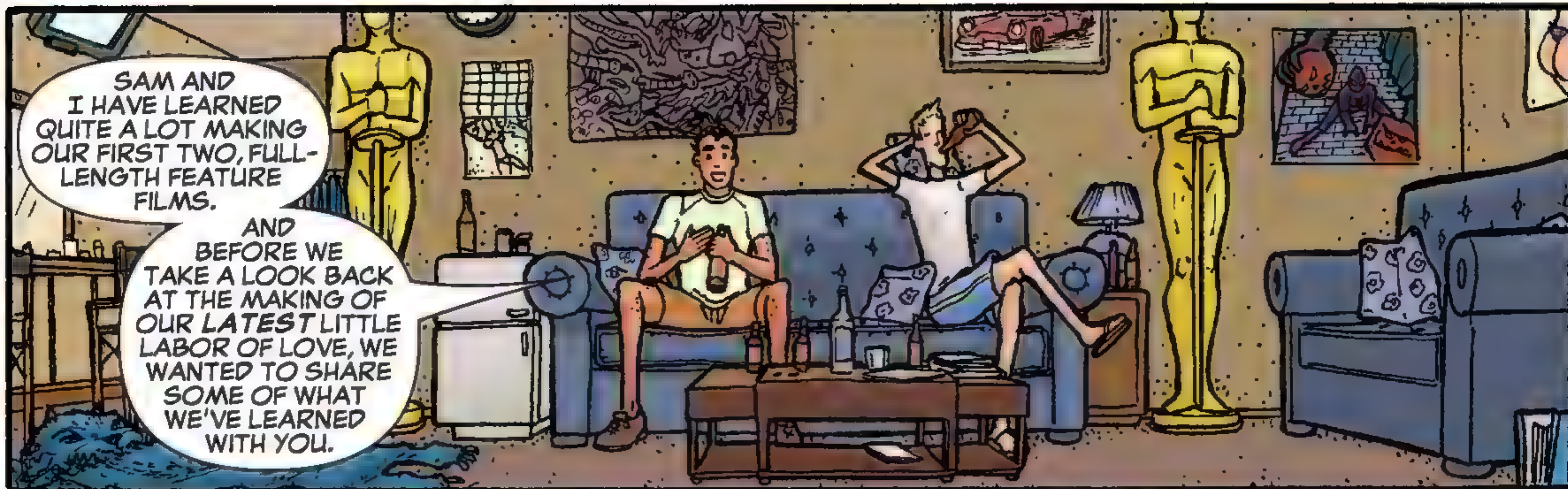


YEEEGGS!!!

LIVE AUDIENCE TESTING TO DAILIES SHOWS THAT WE'RE BLOWING OUT THE YOUNG ADULT DEMO AND LONELY MALES AGED 26-42 STILL LIVING AT HOME WITH THEIR PARENTS.

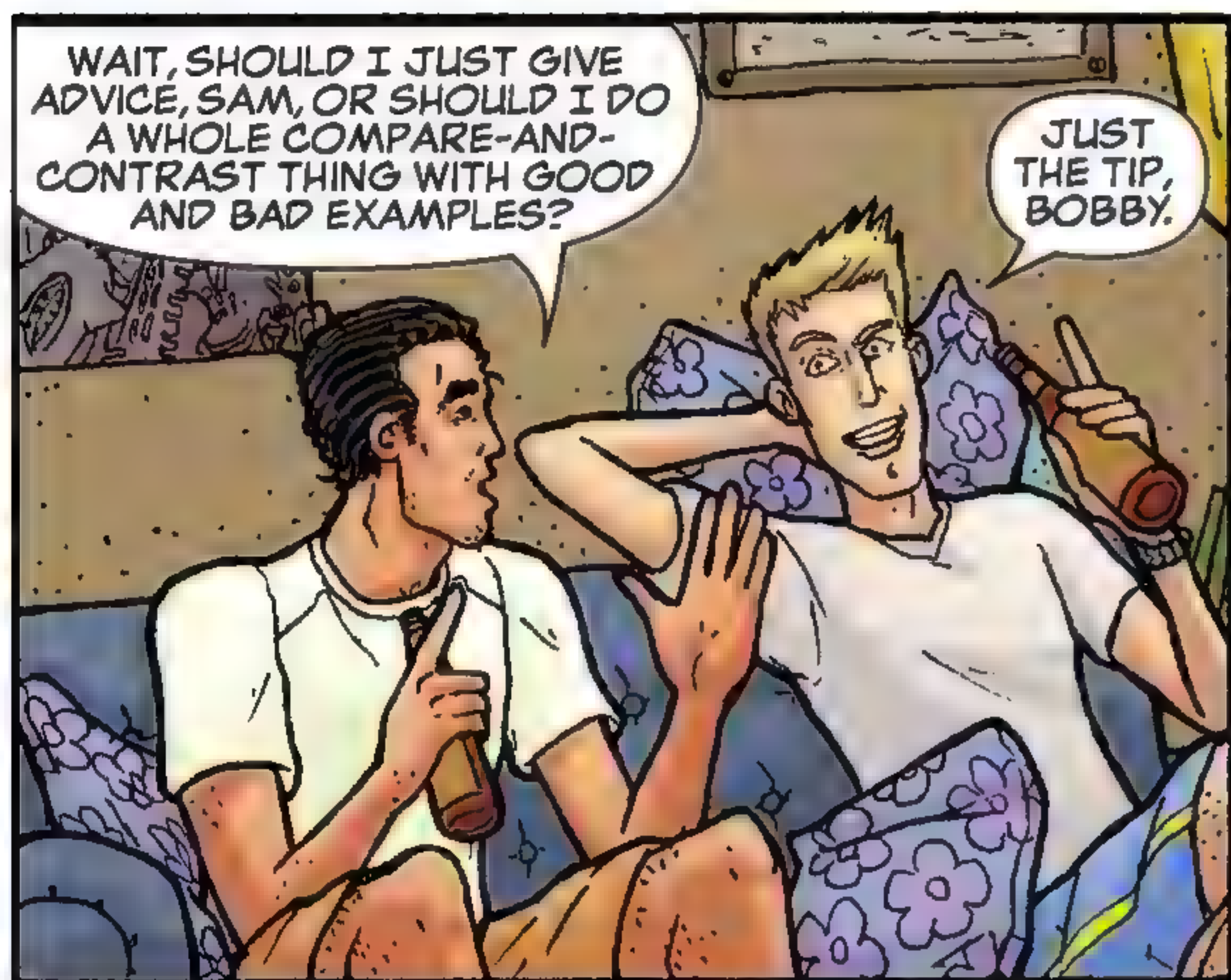
IT'S A GOLDMINE, SIR. WE SHOULD DO THIS EVERY SUMMER.

I SMELL SEQUEL!



SAM AND I HAVE LEARNED QUITE A LOT MAKING OUR FIRST TWO, FULL-LENGTH FEATURE FILMS.

AND BEFORE WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE MAKING OF OUR LATEST LITTLE LABOR OF LOVE, WE WANTED TO SHARE SOME OF WHAT WE'VE LEARNED WITH YOU.



WAIT, SHOULD I JUST GIVE ADVICE, SAM, OR SHOULD I DO A WHOLE COMPARE-AND-CONTRAST THING WITH GOOD AND BAD EXAMPLES?

JUST THE TIP, BOBBY.



COOL. SO LISTEN, THE BIG THING WE LEARNED IS, IT'S OKAY TO WRITE YOURSELF INTO A SCRIPT OR CAST YOURSELF IN A PROMINENT ROLE...

...SURE YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK IT OVER A BIT--

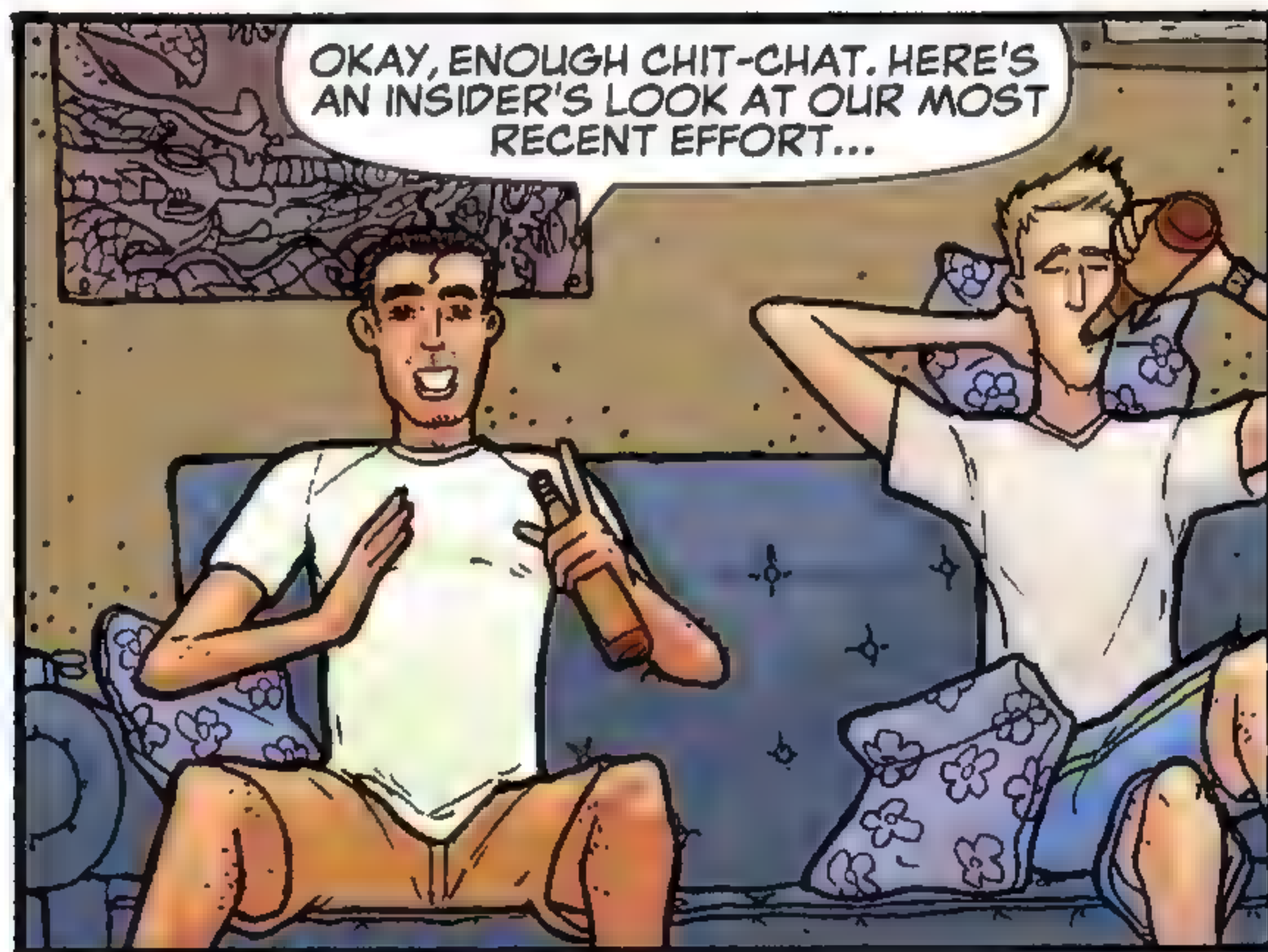
JUST FOR A SECOND.



--BUT, IN THE END, WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE SELF-INDULGENCE FOR THE SAKE OF ART?

WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO TRY IT OUT.

JUST TO SEE HOW IT FEELS.



OKAY, ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT. HERE'S AN INSIDER'S LOOK AT OUR MOST RECENT EFFORT...

BOBBY AND SAM IN **MOJOWORLD**

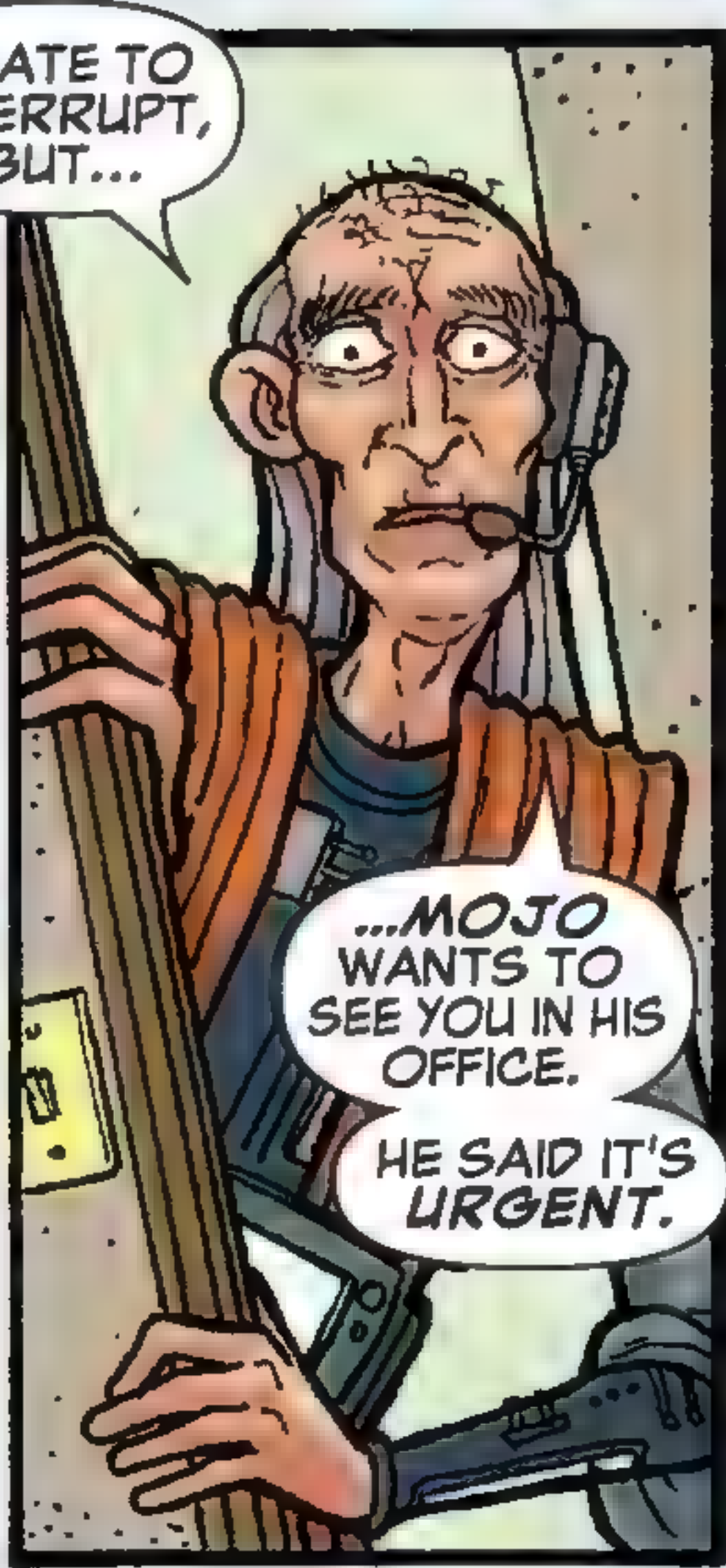
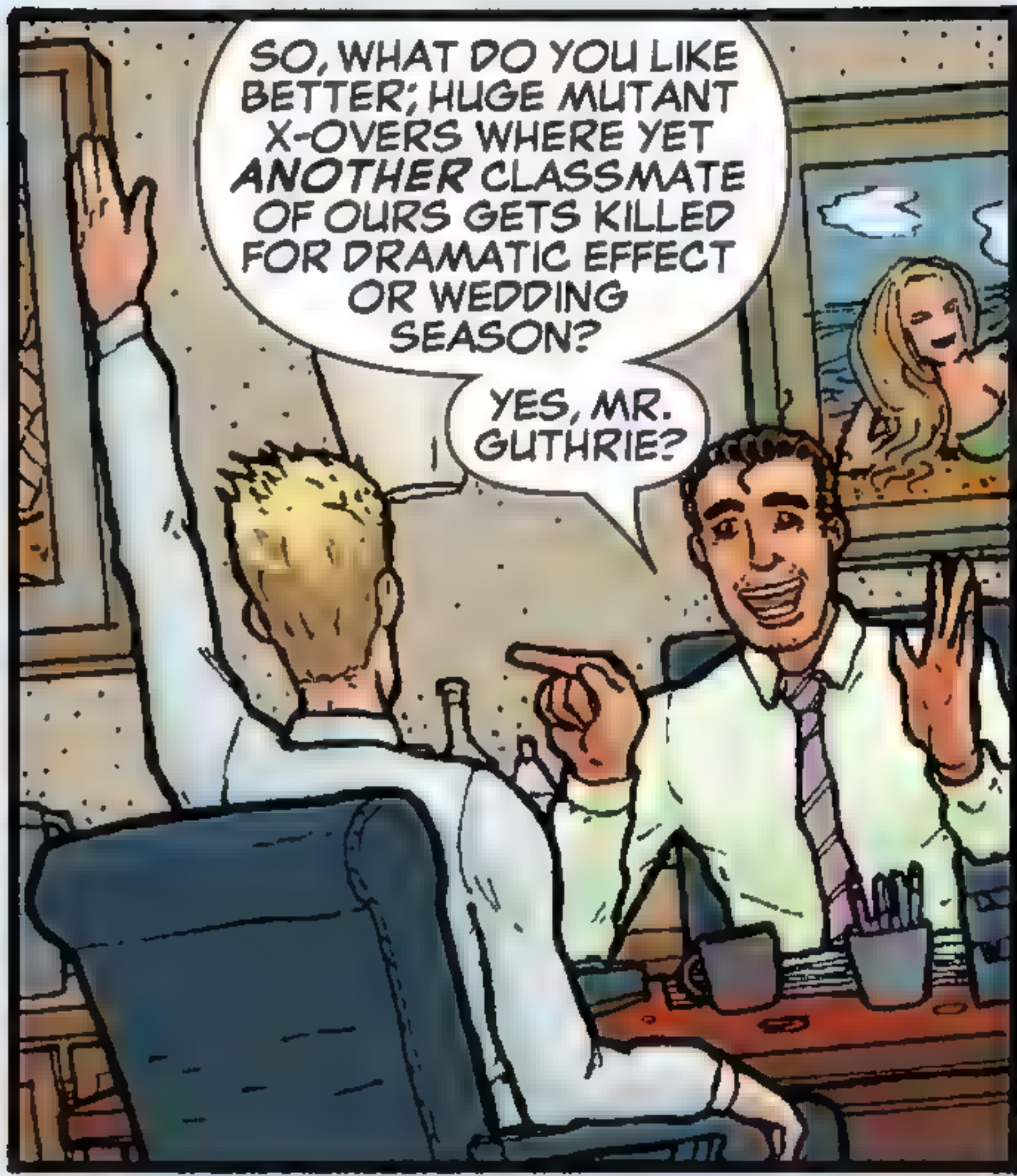
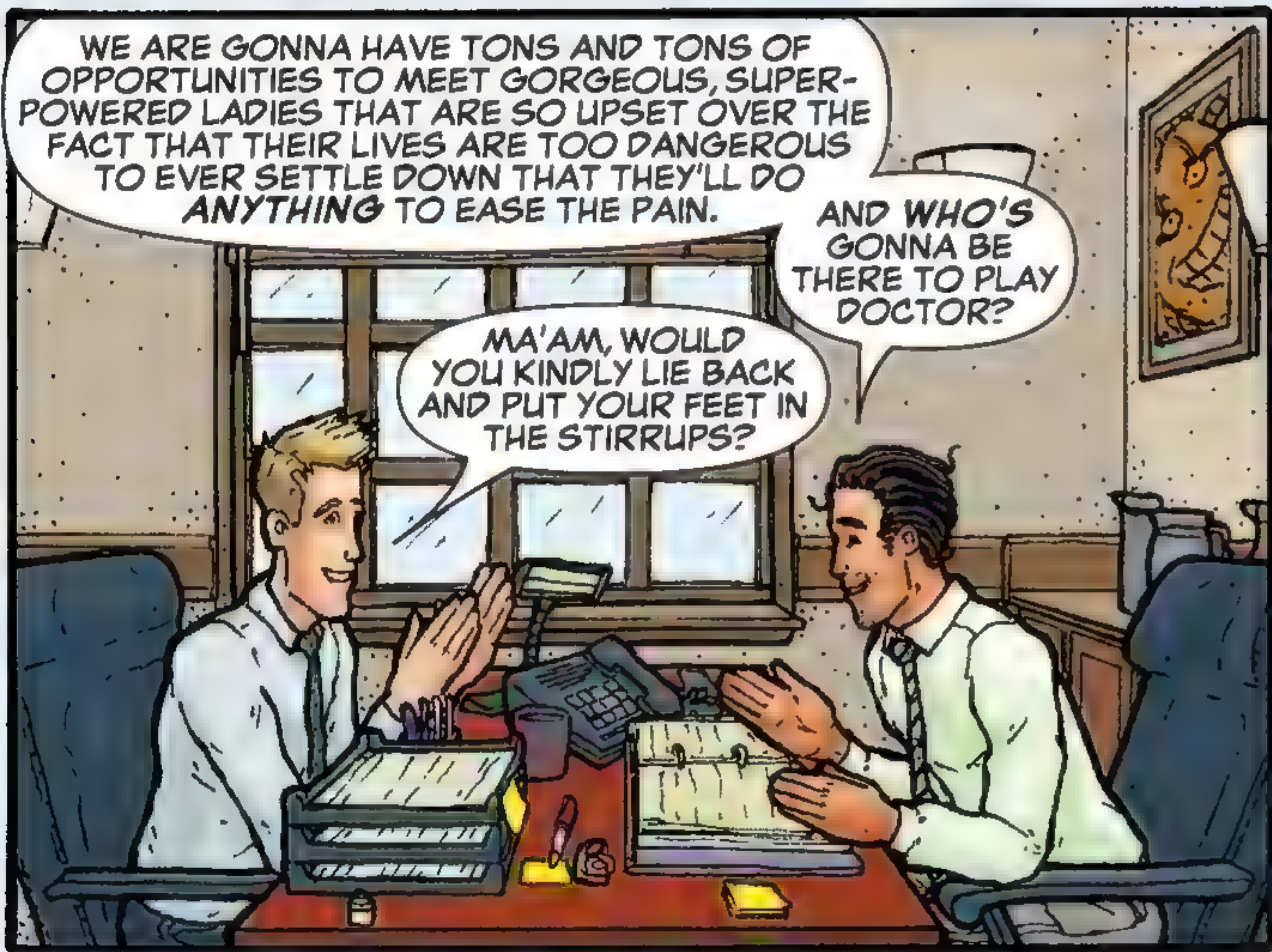
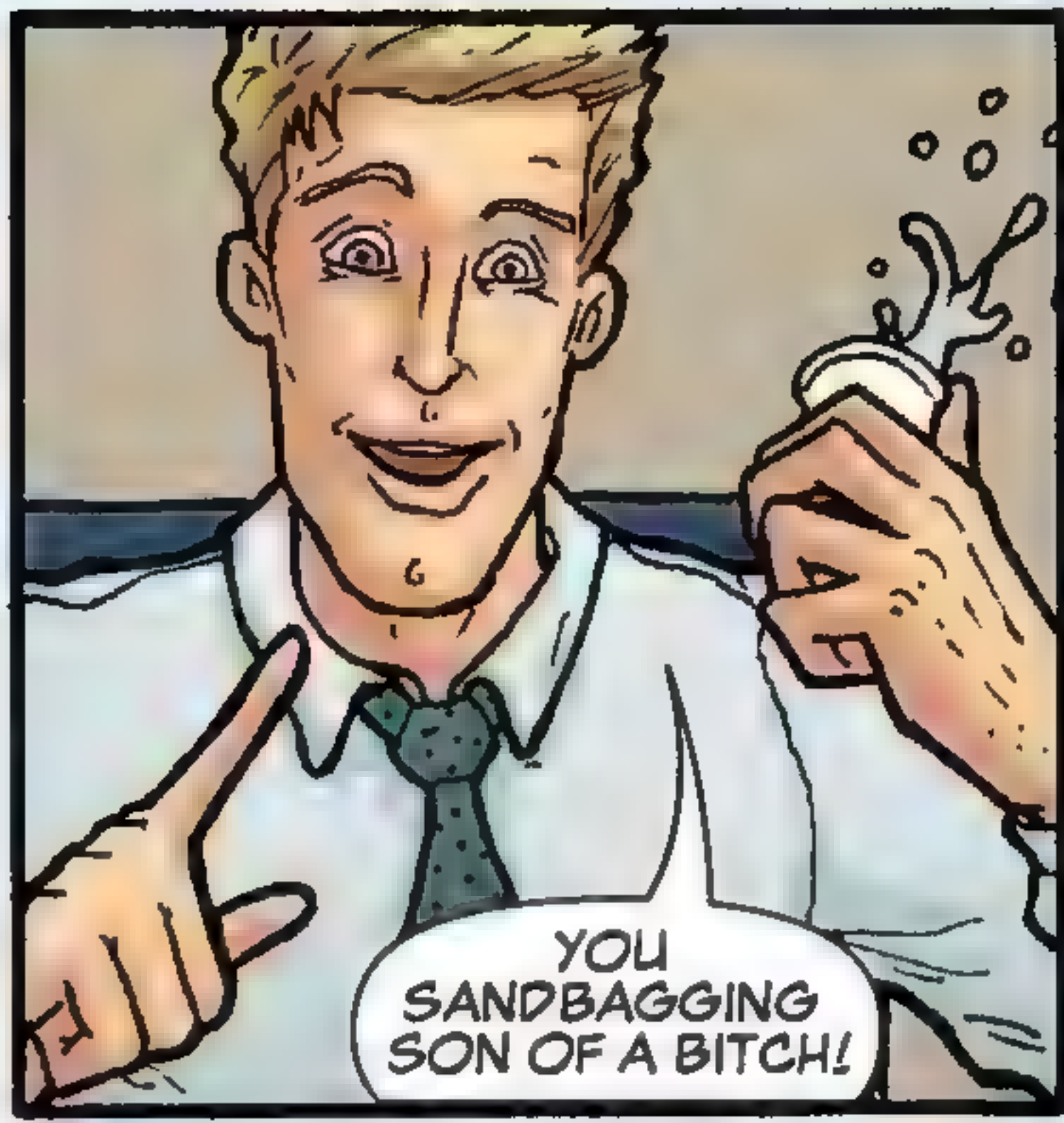
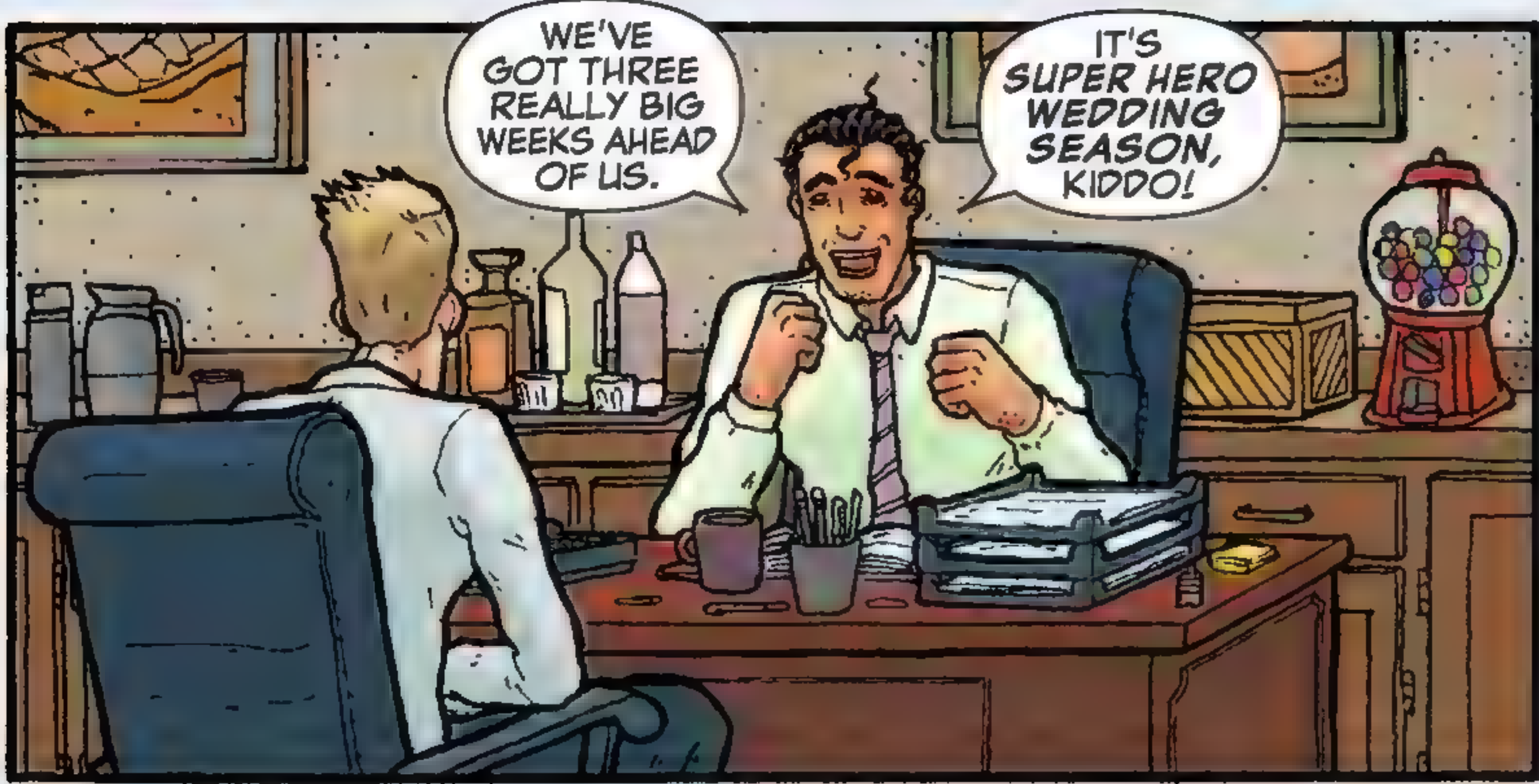
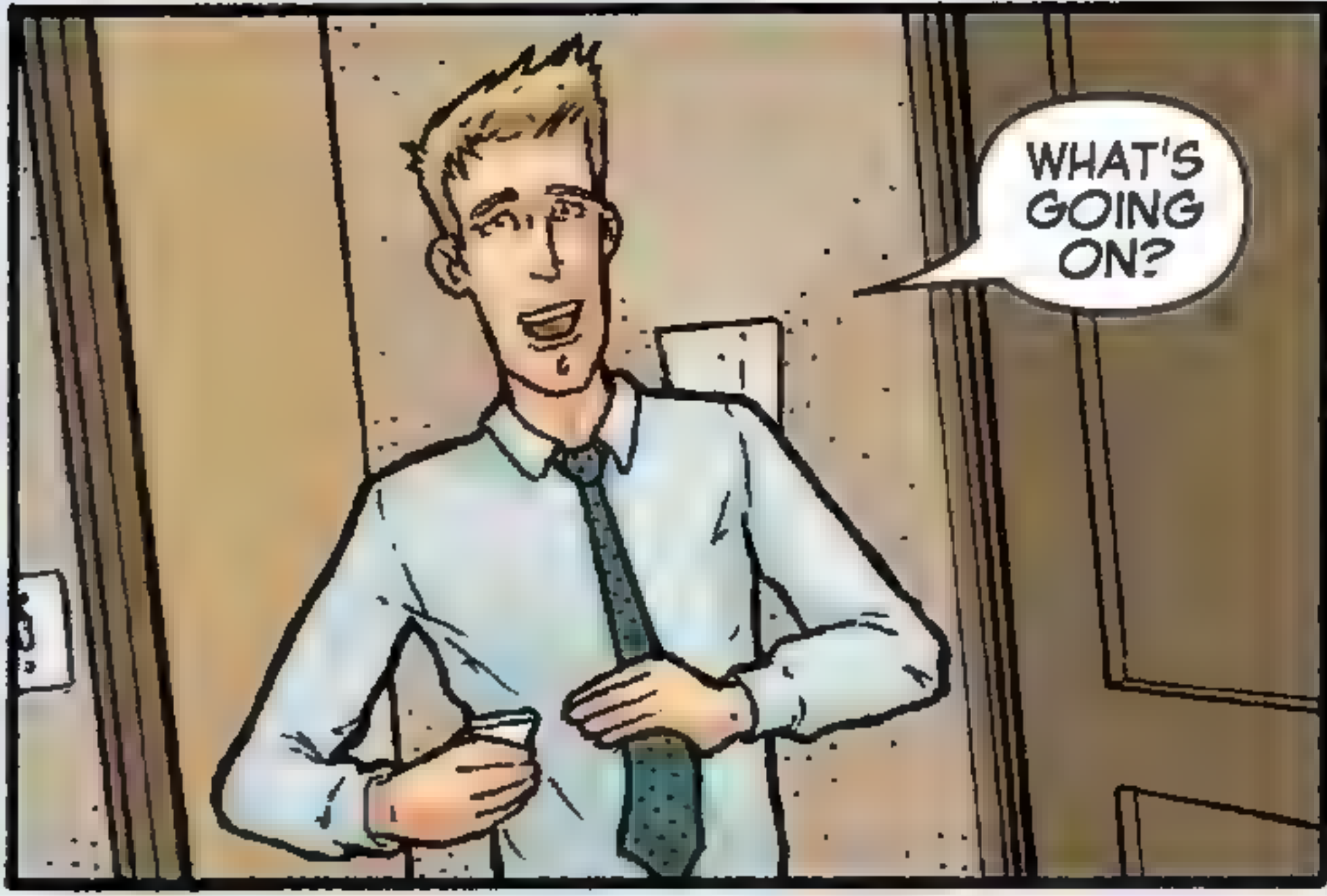
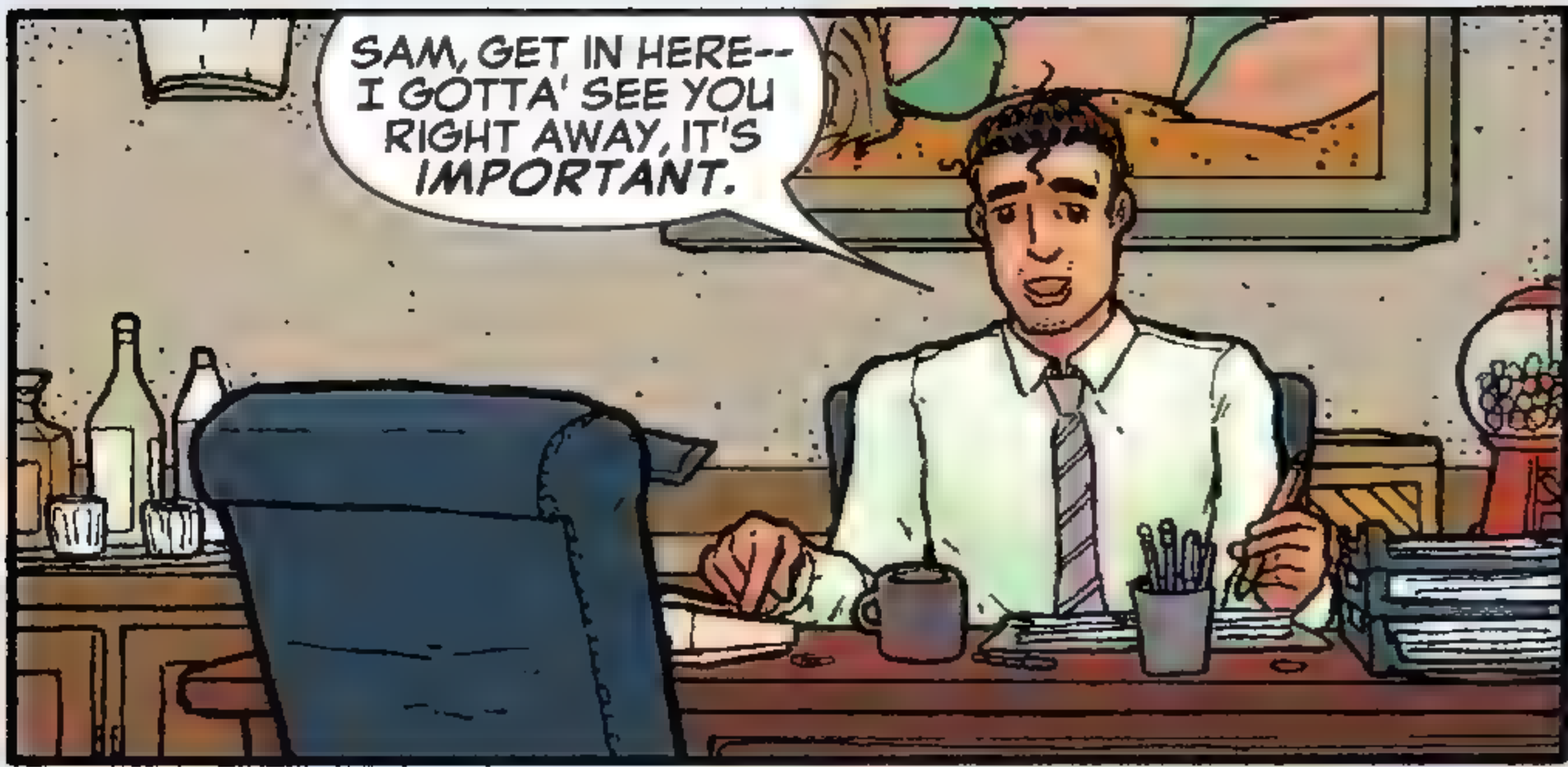
CHAPTER - FOUR

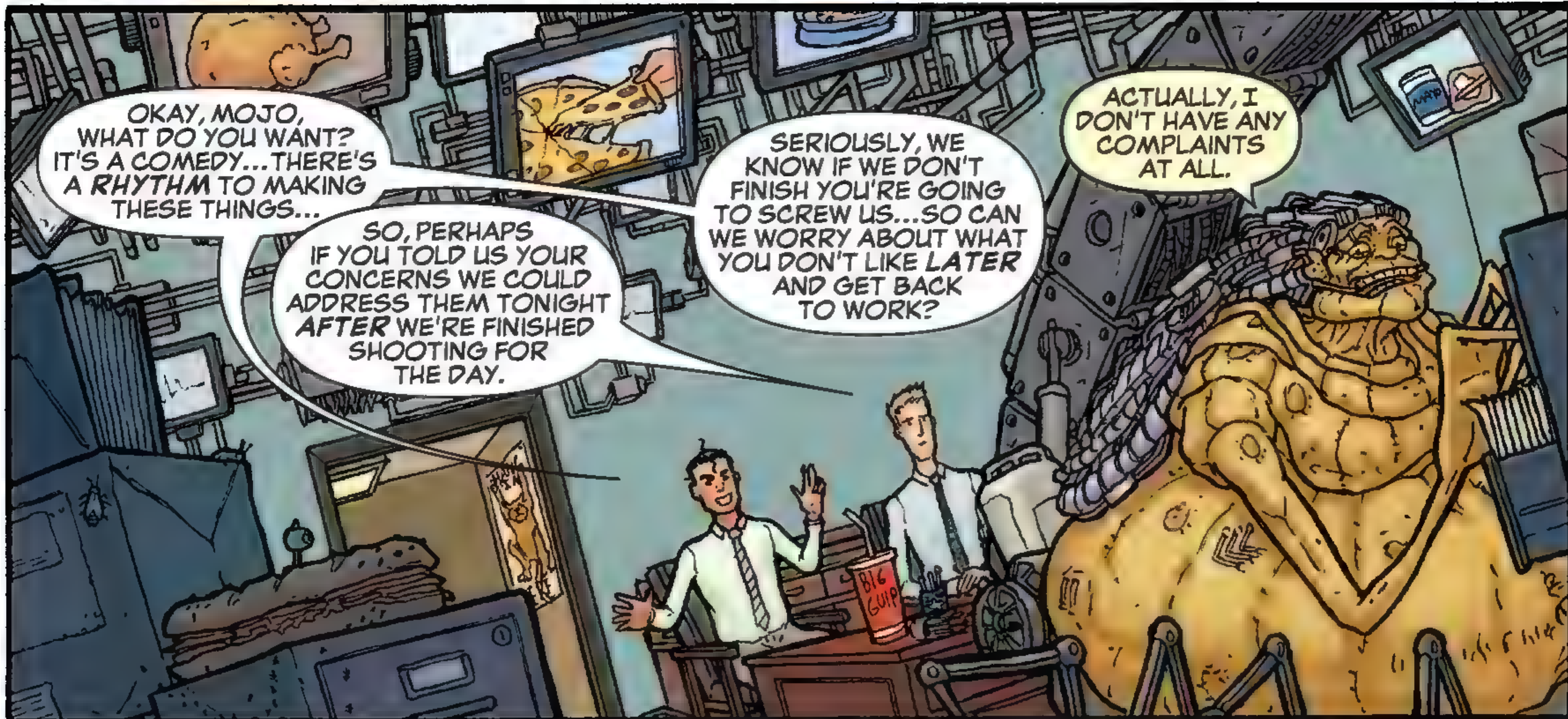
CRASHING WEDDINGS



WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN
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LETTERS: DAVE SHARPE
ASSISTANT EDITOR: MICHAEL HORWITZ
CONSULTING EDITORS: BARBER & BARBER
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PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
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OKAY, MOJO, WHAT DO YOU WANT? IT'S A COMEDY...THERE'S A RHYTHM TO MAKING THESE THINGS...

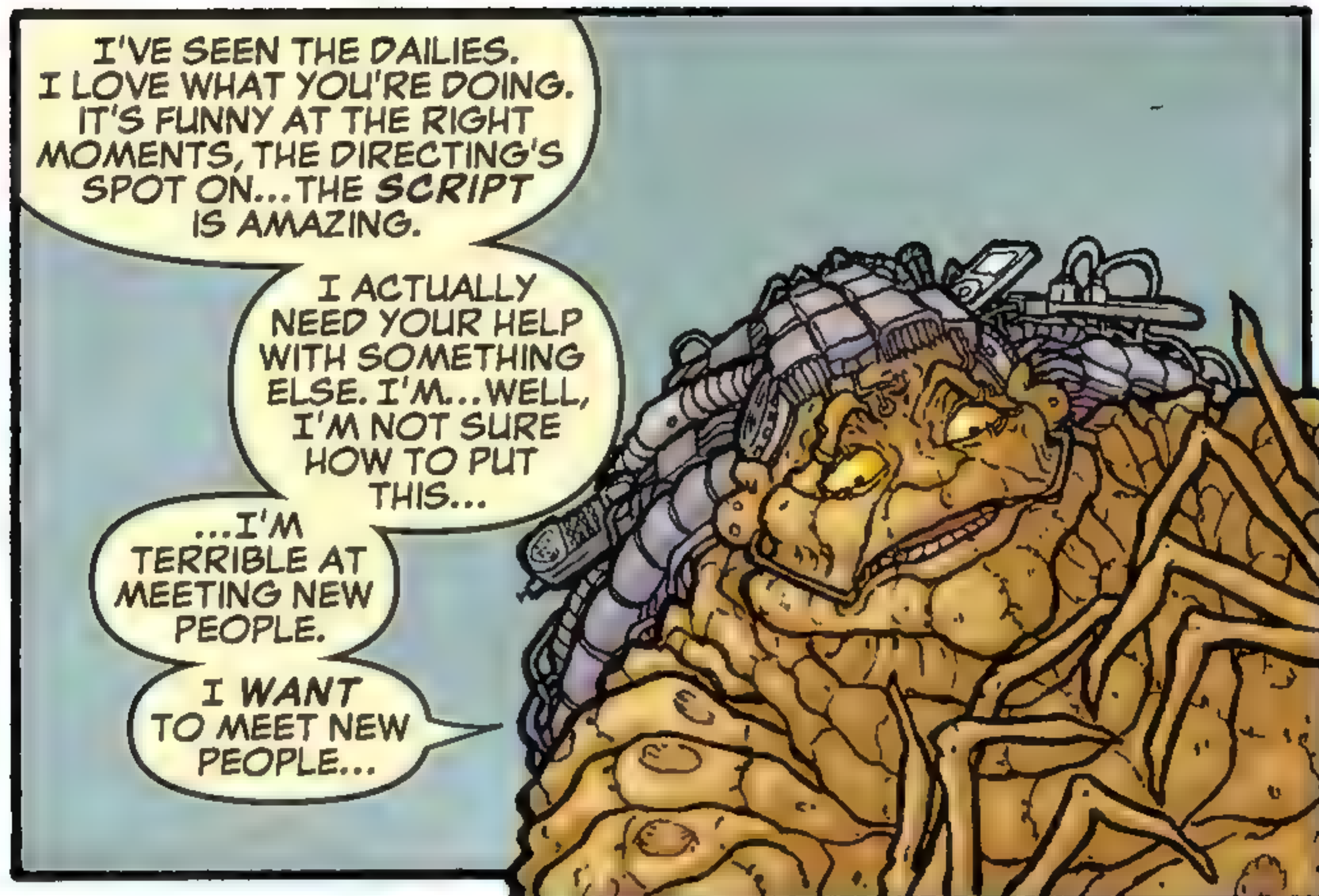
SO, PERHAPS IF YOU TOLD US YOUR CONCERNS WE COULD ADDRESS THEM TONIGHT AFTER WE'RE FINISHED SHOOTING FOR THE DAY.

SERIOUSLY, WE KNOW IF WE DON'T FINISH YOU'RE GOING TO SCREW US...SO CAN WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE LATER AND GET BACK TO WORK?

ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS AT ALL.



REALLY?



I'VE SEEN THE DAILIES. I LOVE WHAT YOU'RE DOING. IT'S FUNNY AT THE RIGHT MOMENTS, THE DIRECTING'S SPOT ON...THE SCRIPT IS AMAZING.

I ACTUALLY NEED YOUR HELP WITH SOMETHING ELSE. I'M...WELL, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT THIS...

...I'M TERRIBLE AT MEETING NEW PEOPLE.

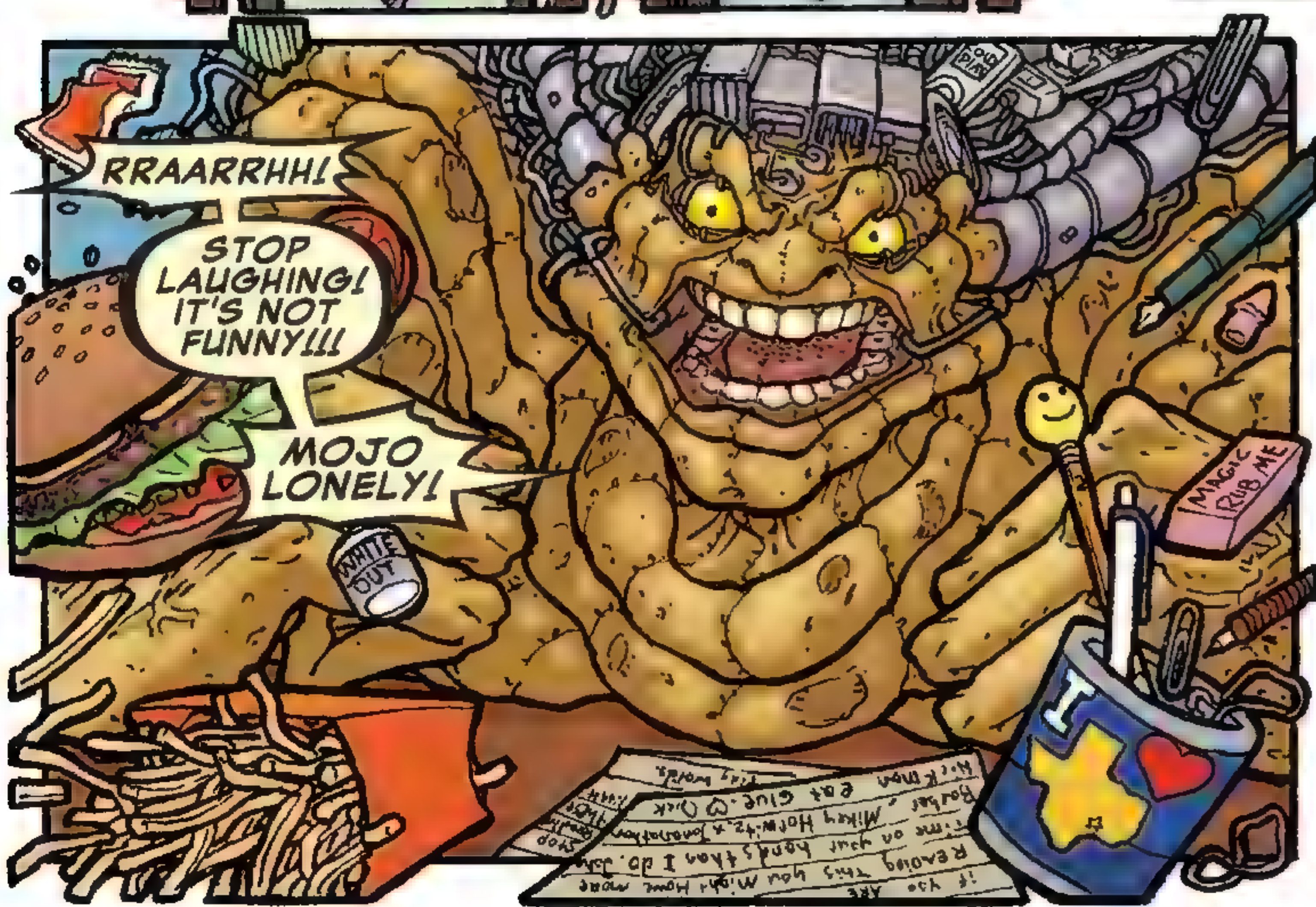
I WANT TO MEET NEW PEOPLE...



...I WANT TO %&@#! A GIRL.



HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!



RRAARRHH!

STOP LAUGHING! IT'S NOT FUNNY!!!

MOJO LONELY!



OKAY, OKAY...RELAX. I'M SURE THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO.

BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST...IF YOU REALLY WANT HELP, YOU'VE GOT TO AGREE TO DO EXACTLY WHAT WE SAY. DEAL?

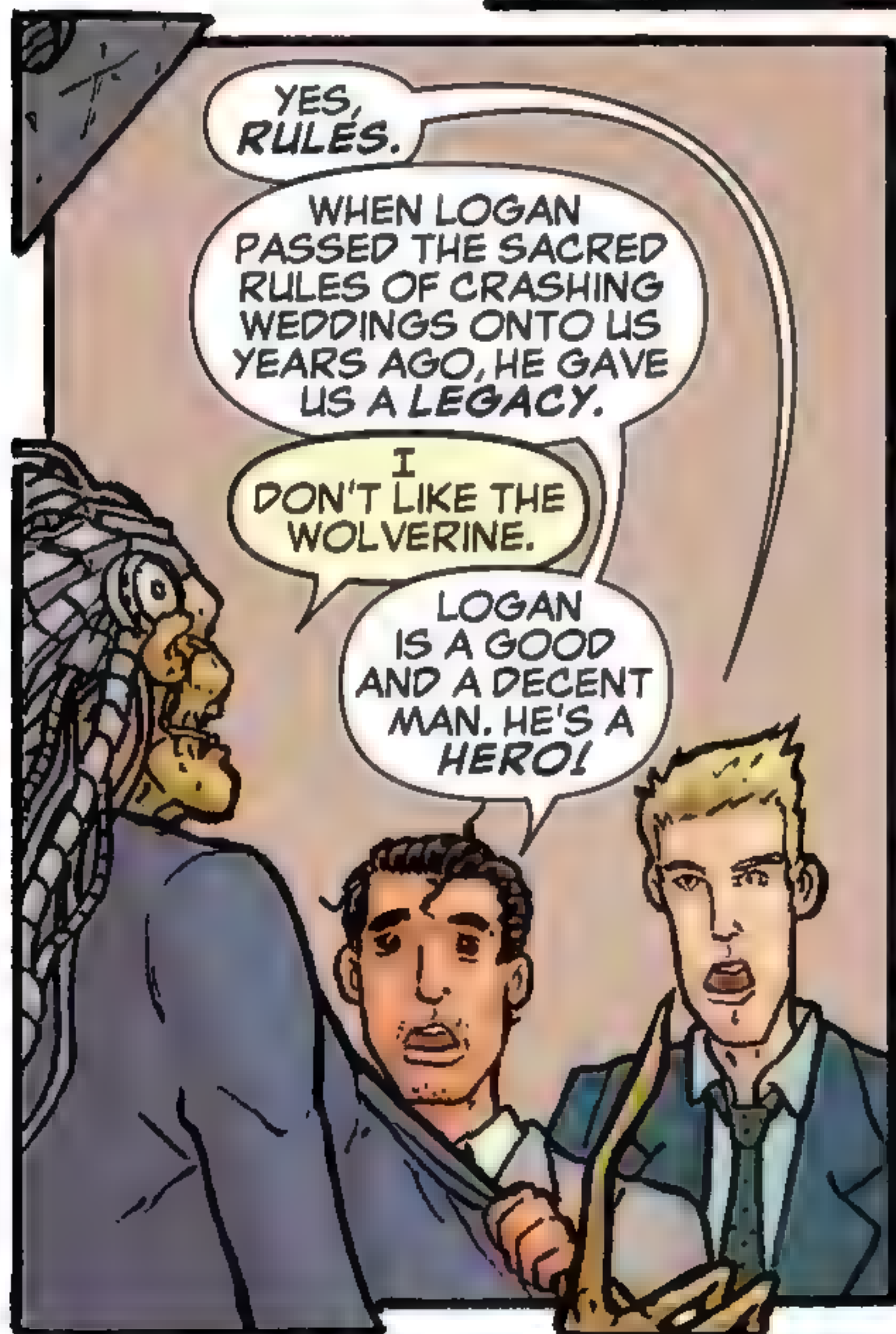


DEAL.



OKAY
MOJO, THERE
ARE GUIDELINES--
RULES--TO BEING
SUCCESSFUL AT THIS
AND IT'S IMPORTANT
THAT YOU KNOW
THEM.

RULES?



YES,
RULES.

WHEN LOGAN
PASSED THE SACRED
RULES OF CRASHING
WEDDINGS ONTO US
YEARS AGO, HE GAVE
US A LEGACY.

I
DON'T LIKE THE
WOLVERINE.

LOGAN
IS A GOOD
AND A DECENT
MAN. HE'S A
HERO!



MA! HEY,
MA! I WANT
SOME
BEER!

BURPPP!



OKAY,
SO THE
RULES...

AND PAY
ATTENTION,
BECAUSE
THERE'S A
LOT OF
THEM.

YOU
MAY WANT
TO TAKE
NOTES.

AHM.
RULE #97: TO
SCORE, KEEP IT
SIMPLE.

PLEASE DON'T
QUOTE THE RULES
TO ME... RULE #85:
BE A MAN, NOT A
MORLOCK!

BUT IT'S A
GOOD POINT.
HERE'S ONE RULE
THAT ALWAYS
WORKS...



THIS IS A NUMBERS GAME. YOU NEED TO MEET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE HOPES THAT YOU GET LUCKY WITH ONE OF THEM.



BUT I WANT SOMETHING SPECIAL.



I WANT SOMETHING THAT LASTS FOREVER.

I WANT TO MEET THAT ONE PERFECT PERSON WHO I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE.

I WANT CELESTIAL ALIGNMENT AND POETRY. ROSES AND AIR SUPPLY...

...IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

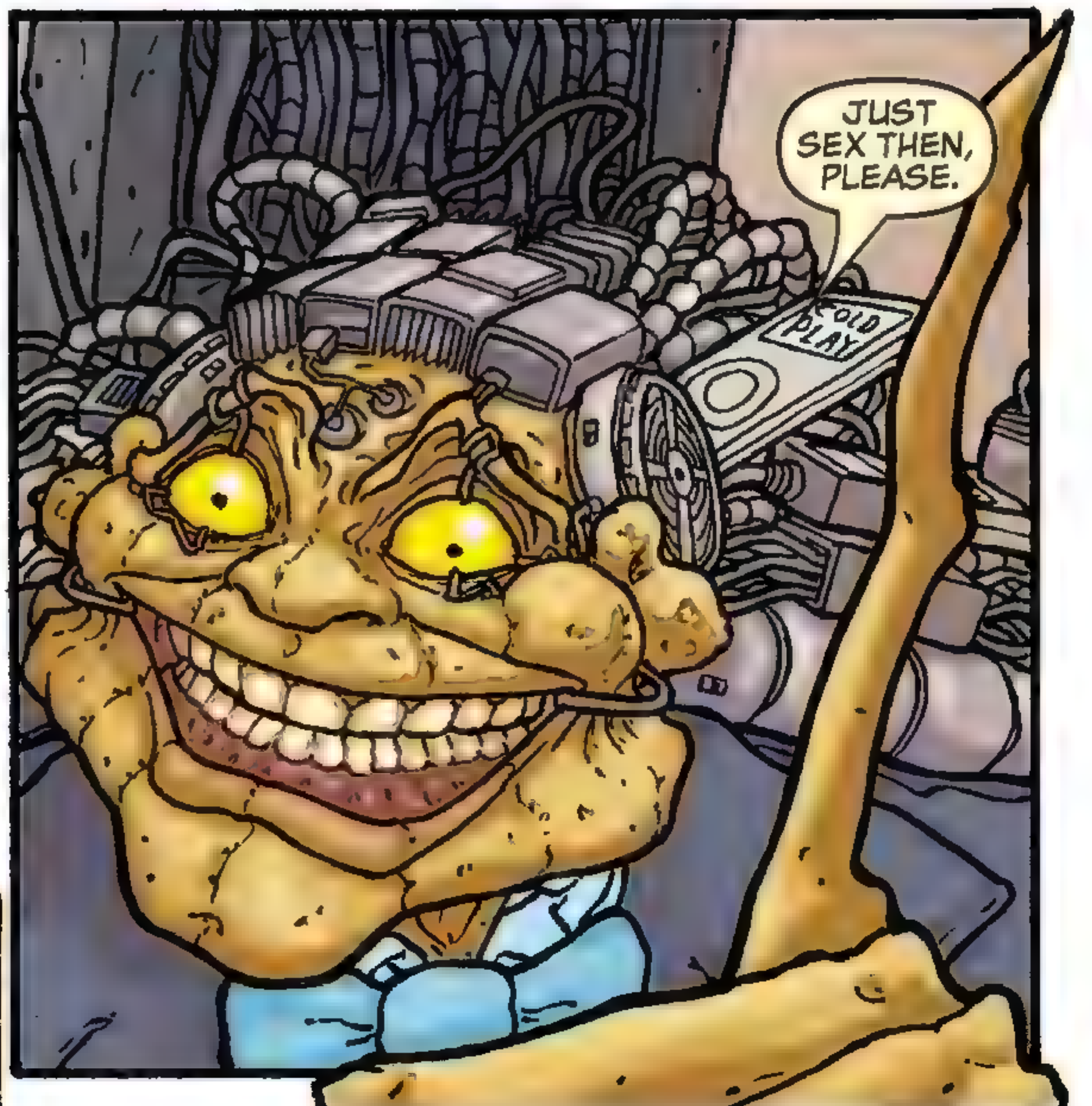


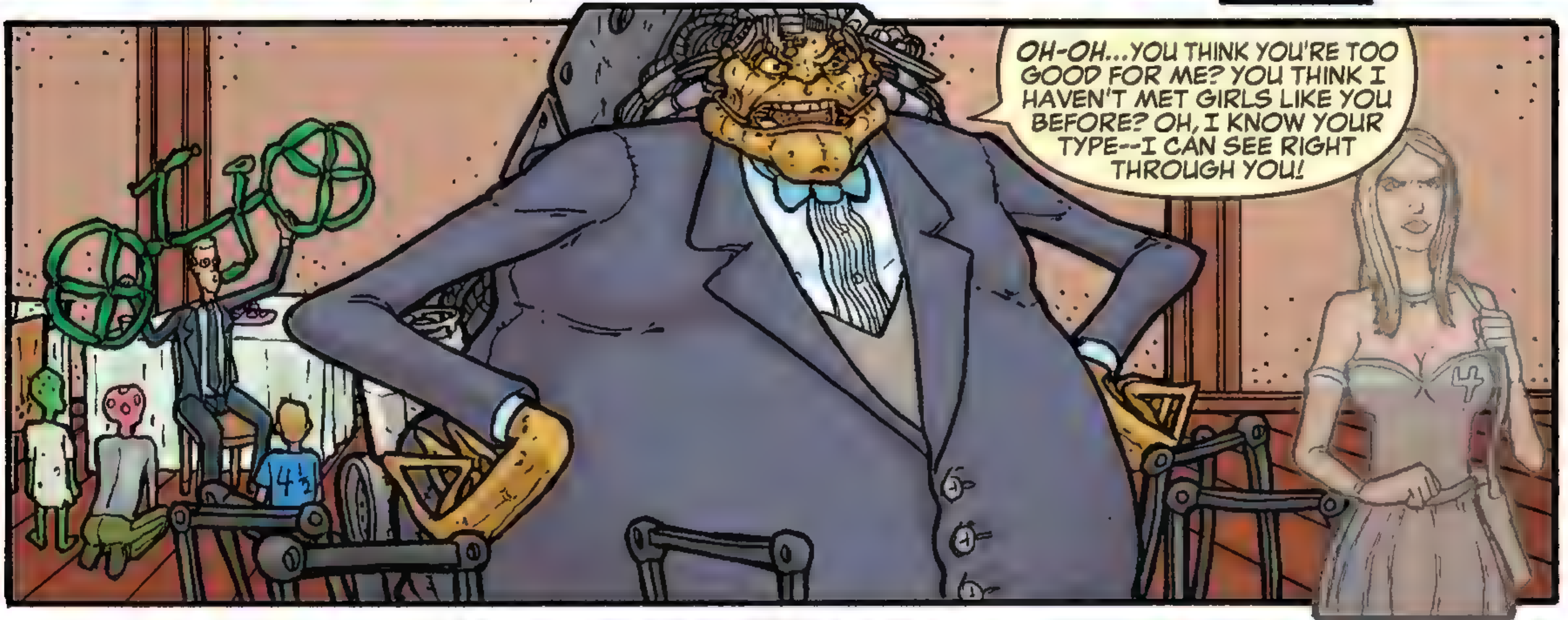
YOU'RE A DISGUSTING, BLOATED PIG OF A TYRANT WHO'S ENSLAVED AN ENTIRE WORLD AND THROWS CHILDISH TANTRUMS EVERY TIME YOU DON'T GET YOUR WAY.

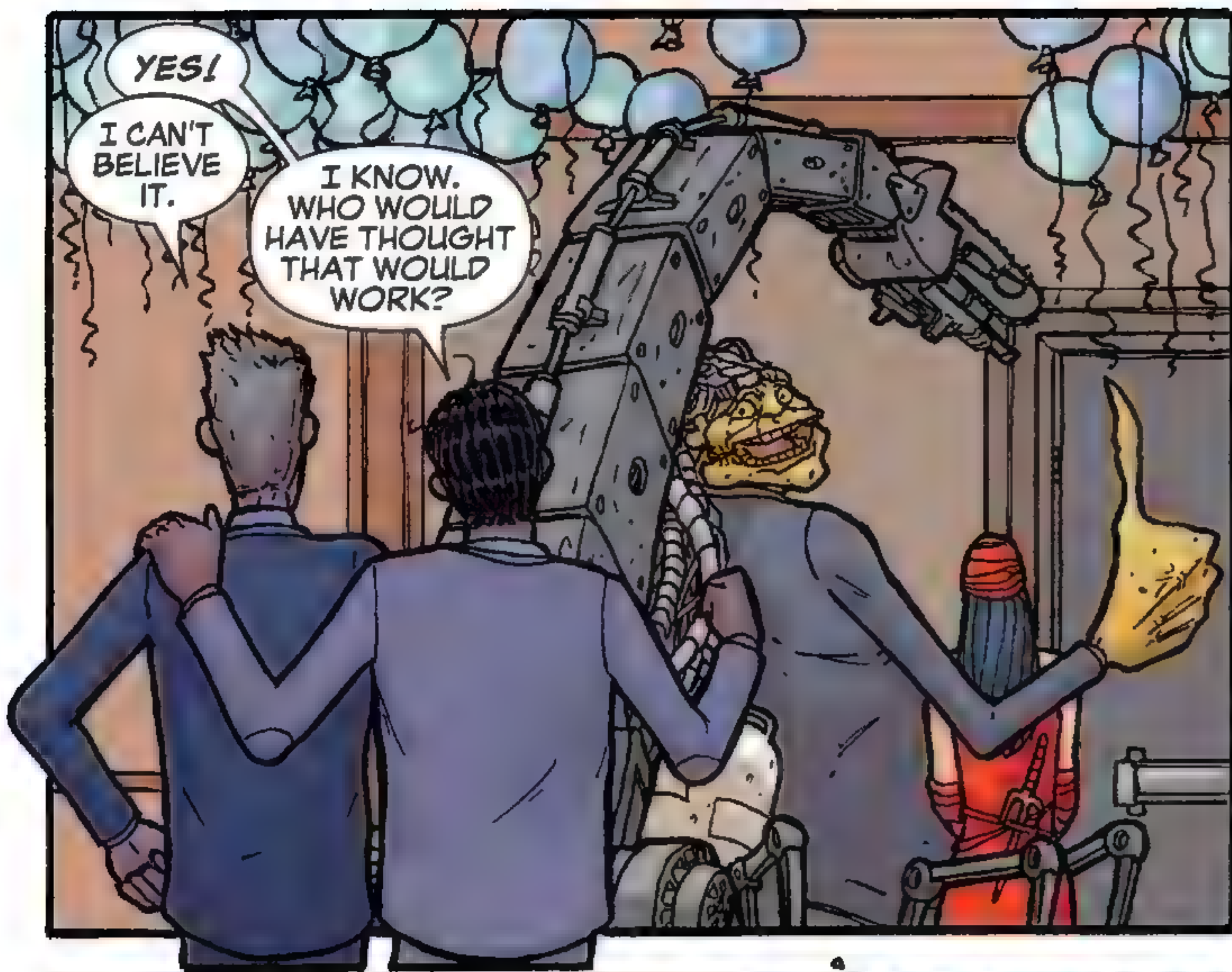
YOU'VE GOT NO CHANCE.



JUST SEX THEN, PLEASE.







YES!

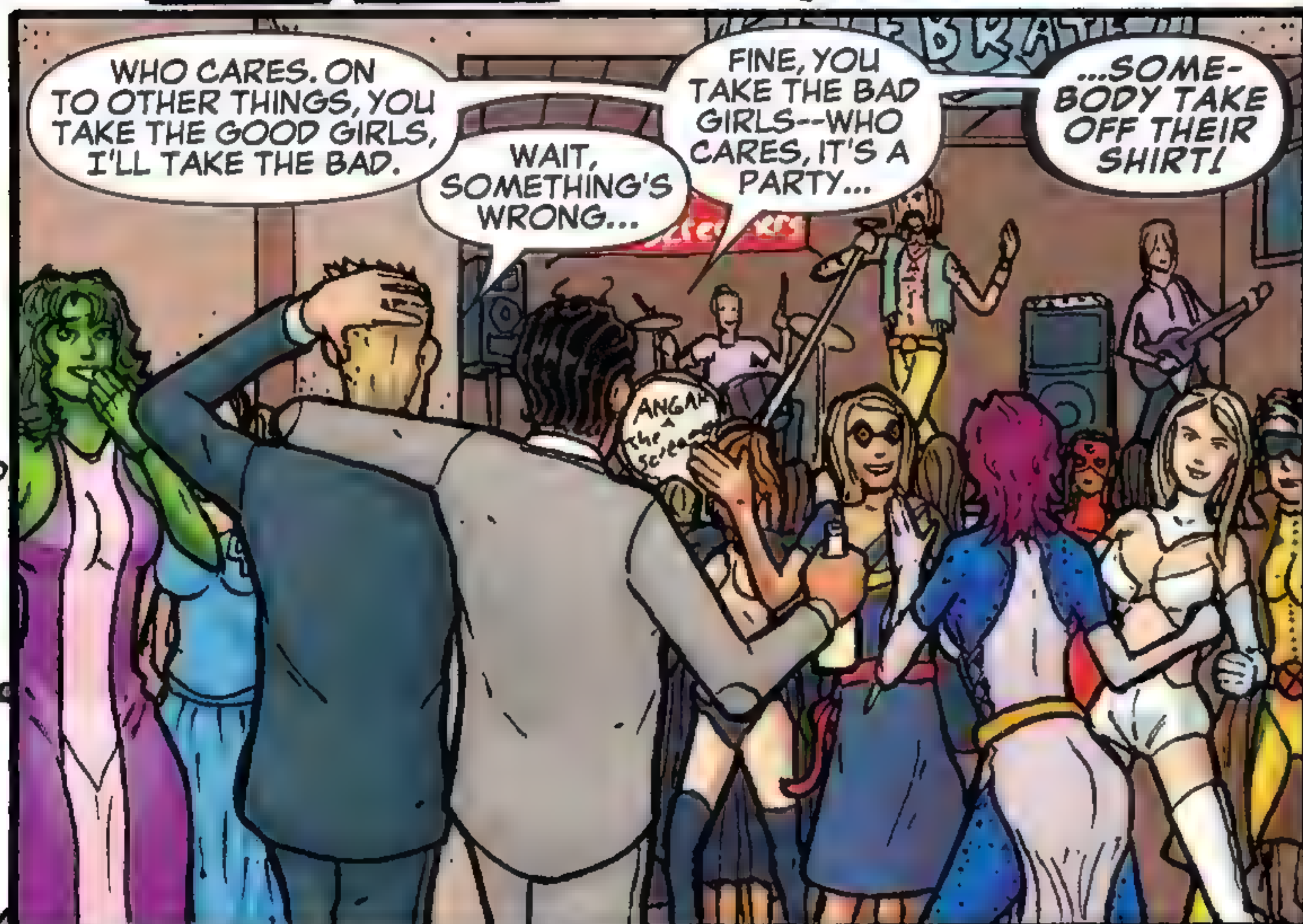
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

I KNOW. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WOULD WORK?



HOW MUCH DID YOU PAY HER?

COUPLE GRAND.



WHO CARES. ON TO OTHER THINGS, YOU TAKE THE GOOD GIRLS, I'LL TAKE THE BAD.

WAIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG...

FINE, YOU TAKE THE BAD GIRLS--WHO CARES, IT'S A PARTY...

...SOME-BODY TAKE OFF THEIR SHIRT!



NO, NOT THAT. YOU TOLD ELEKTRA THE MONEY WAS FOR SEX, RIGHT?

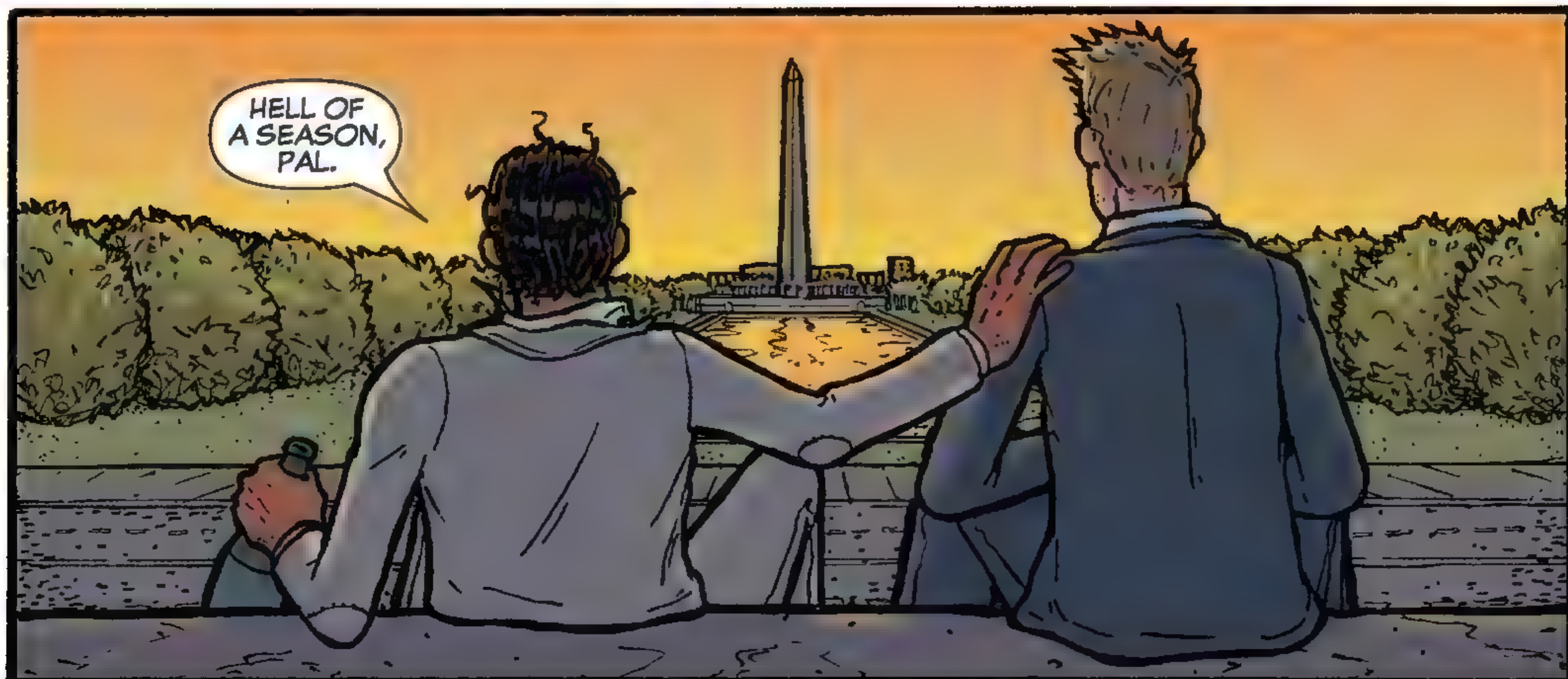
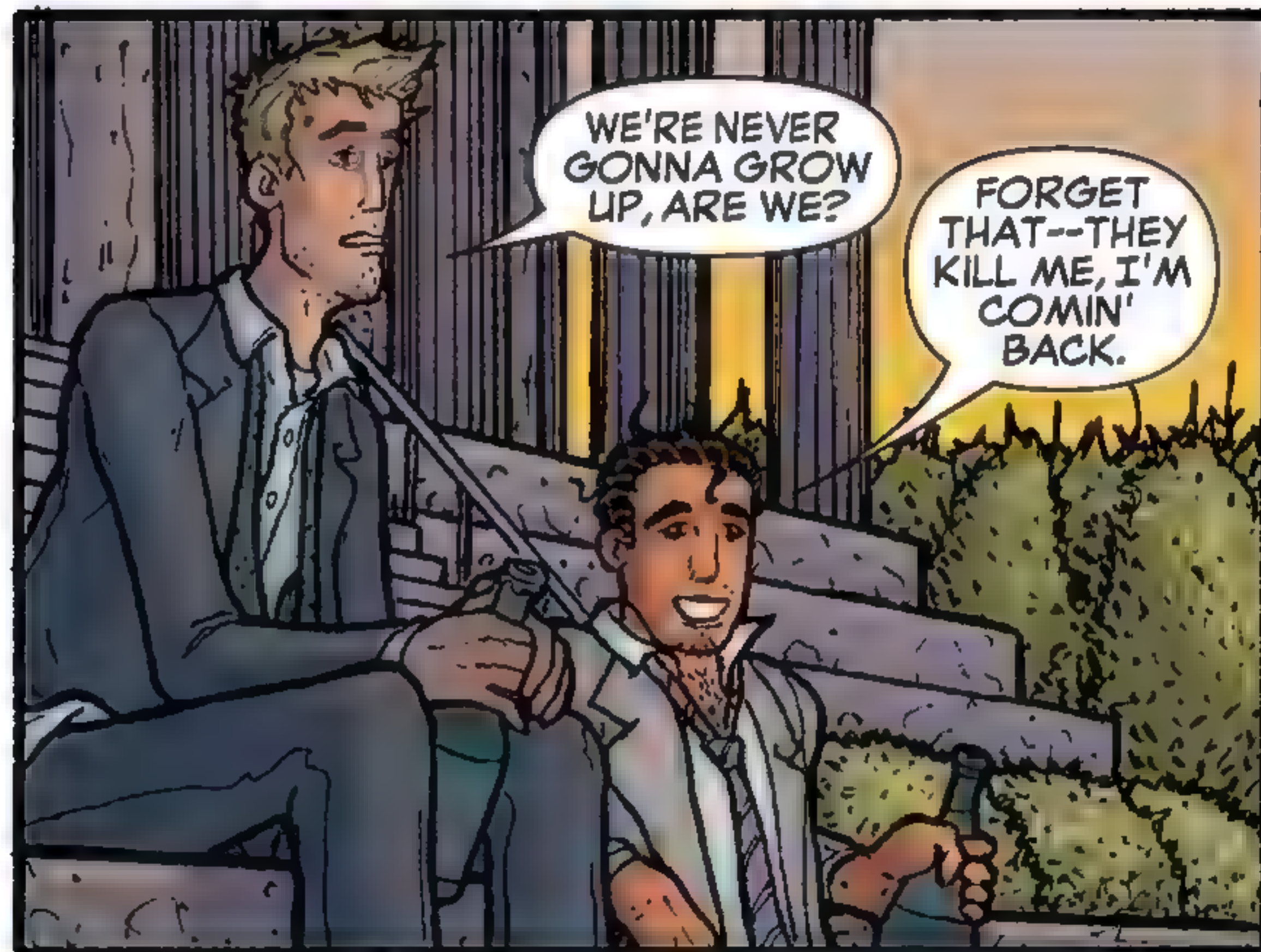
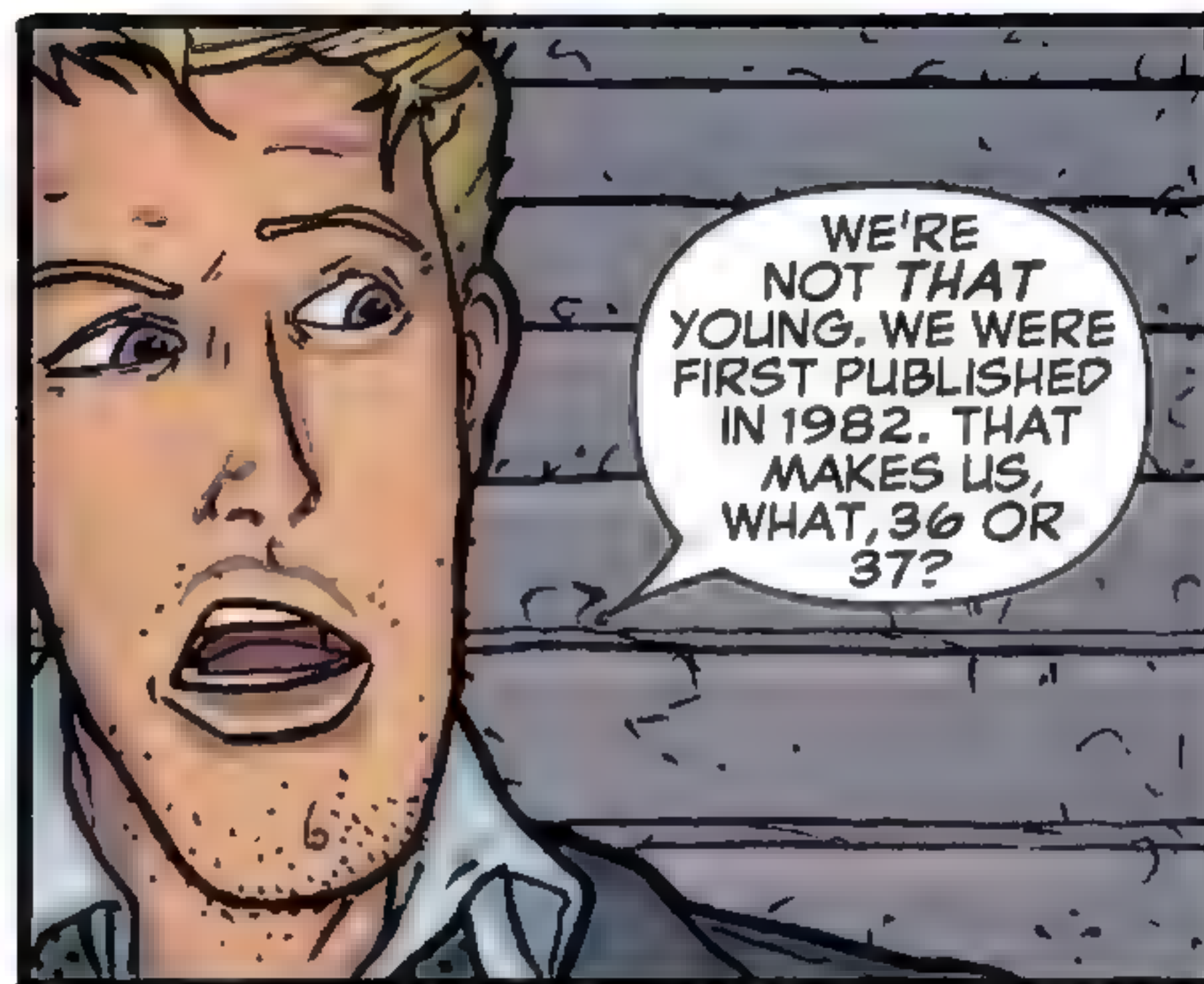
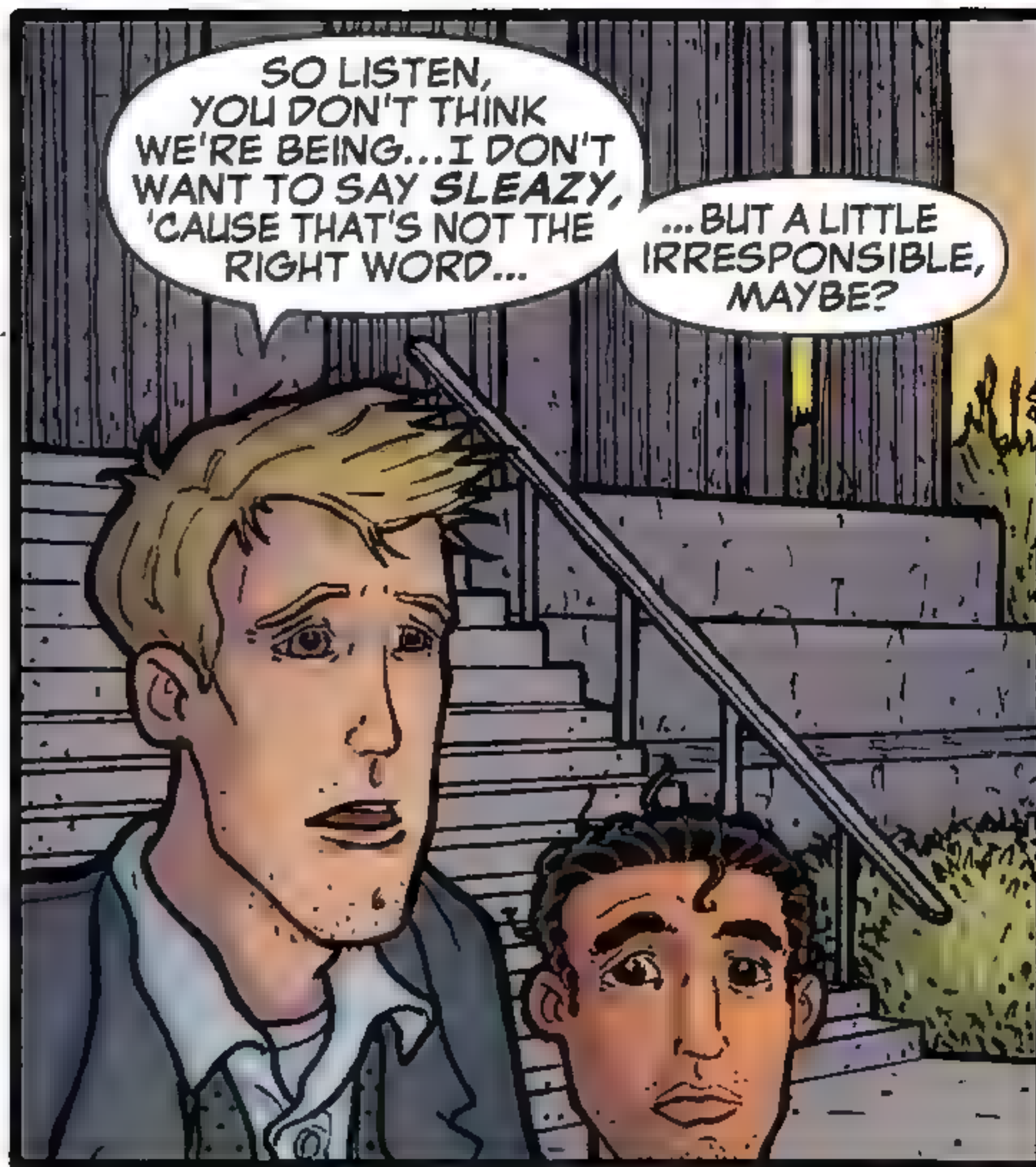
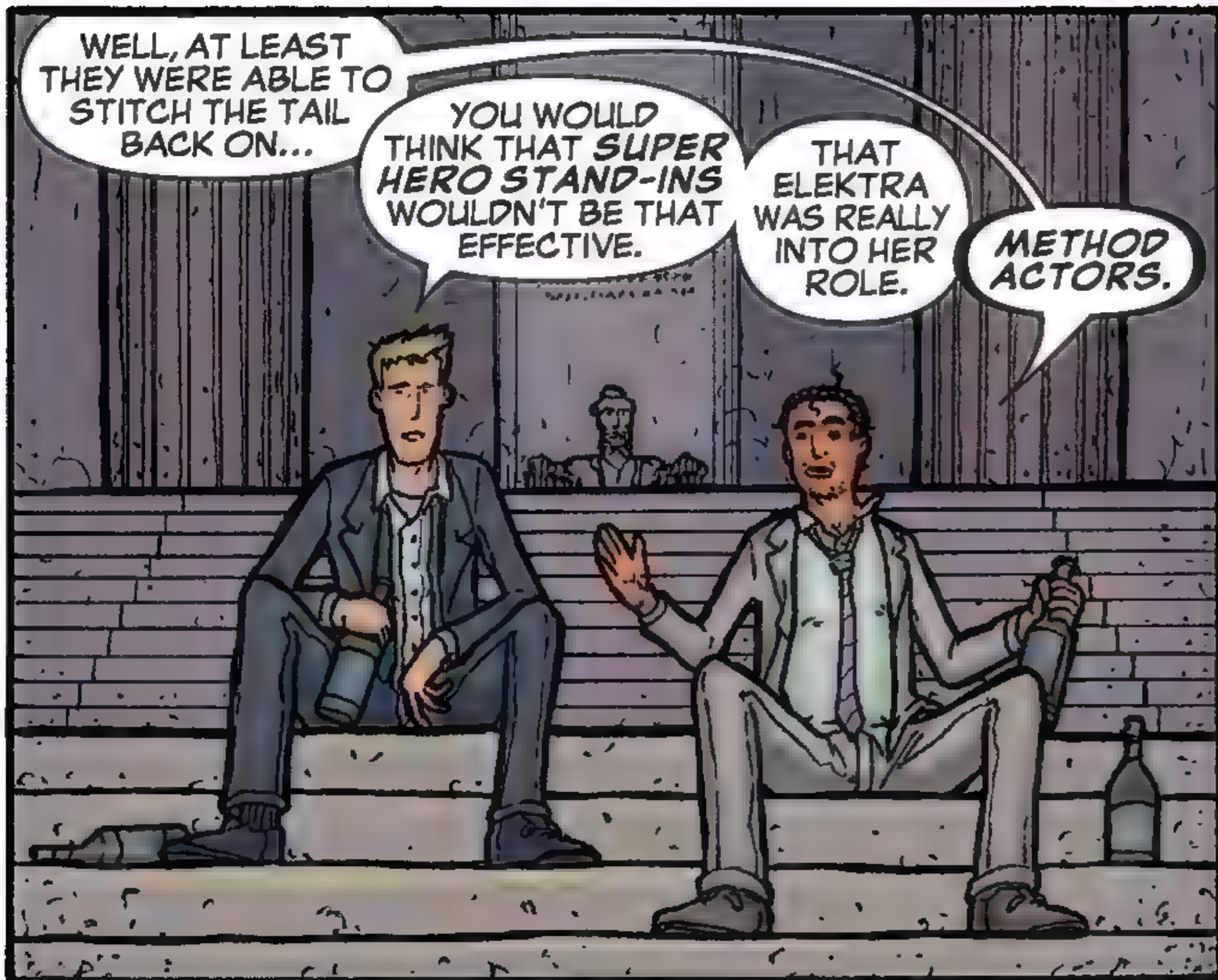
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

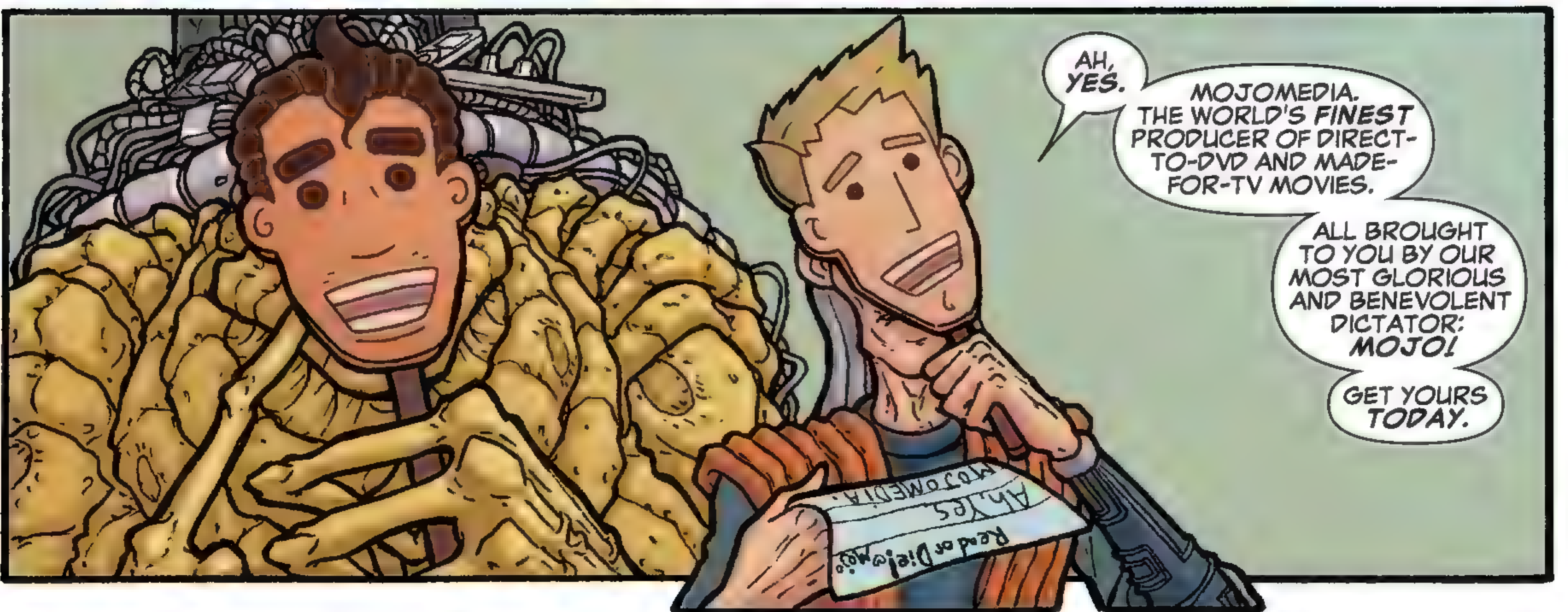
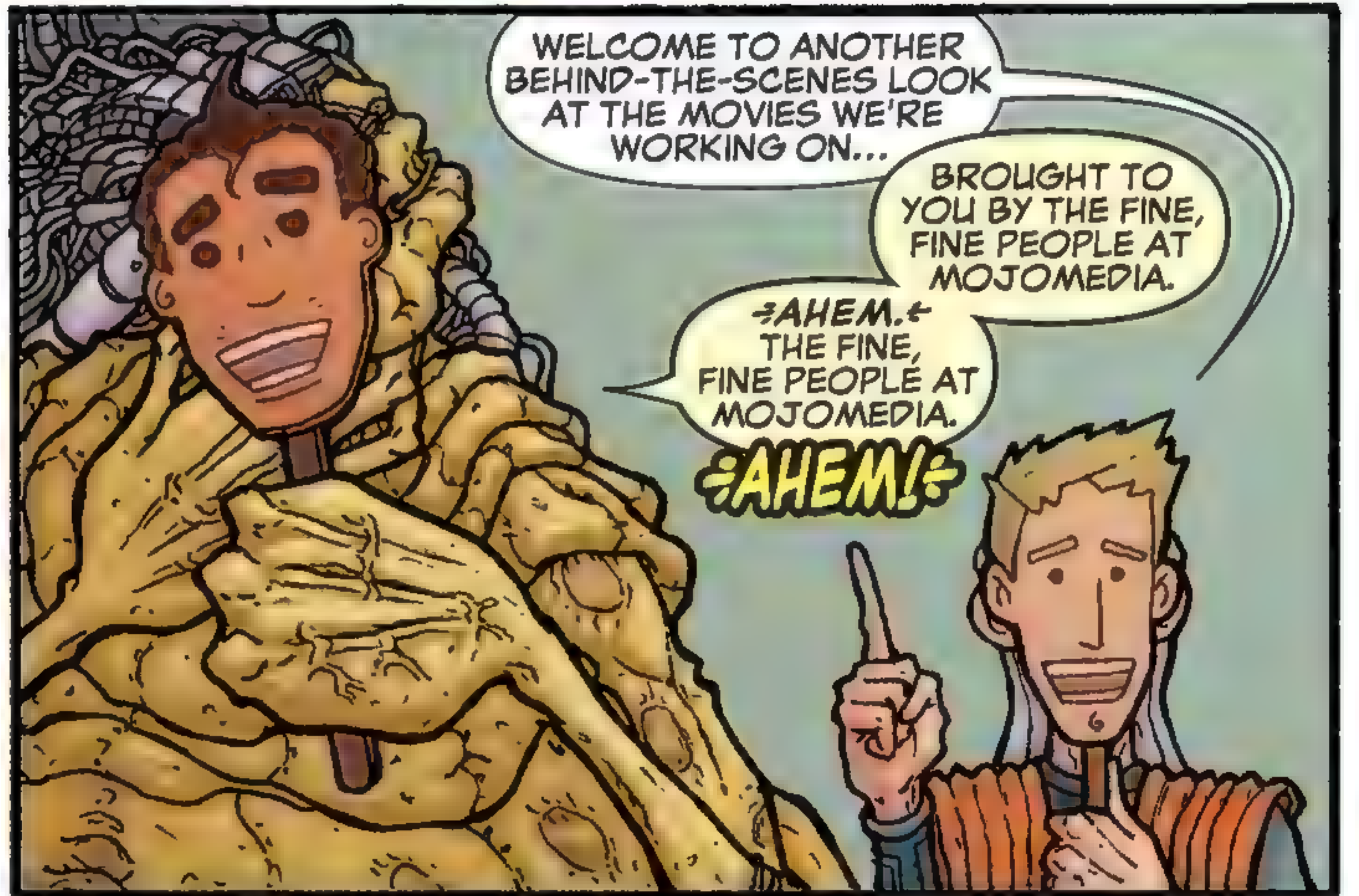
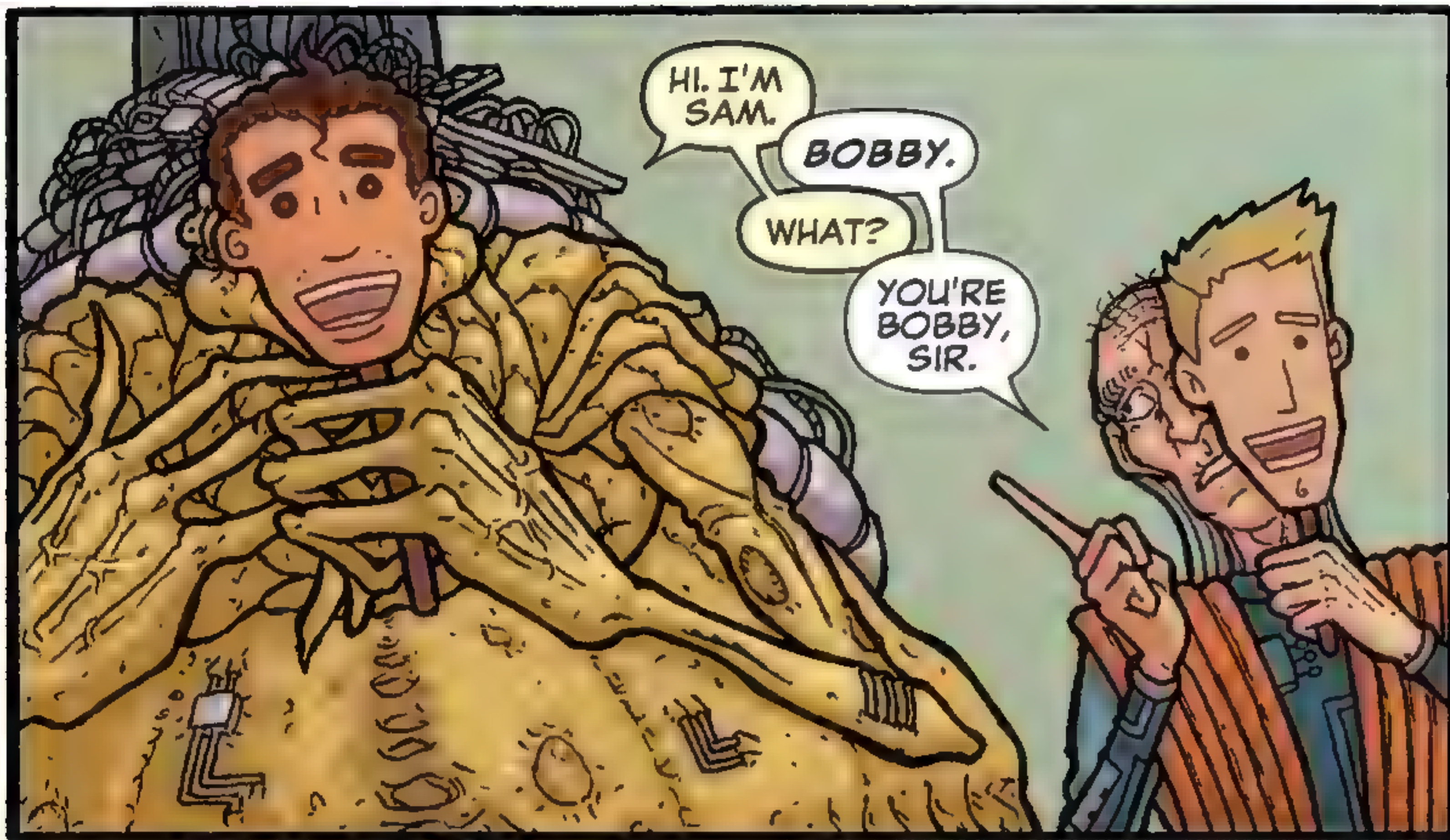
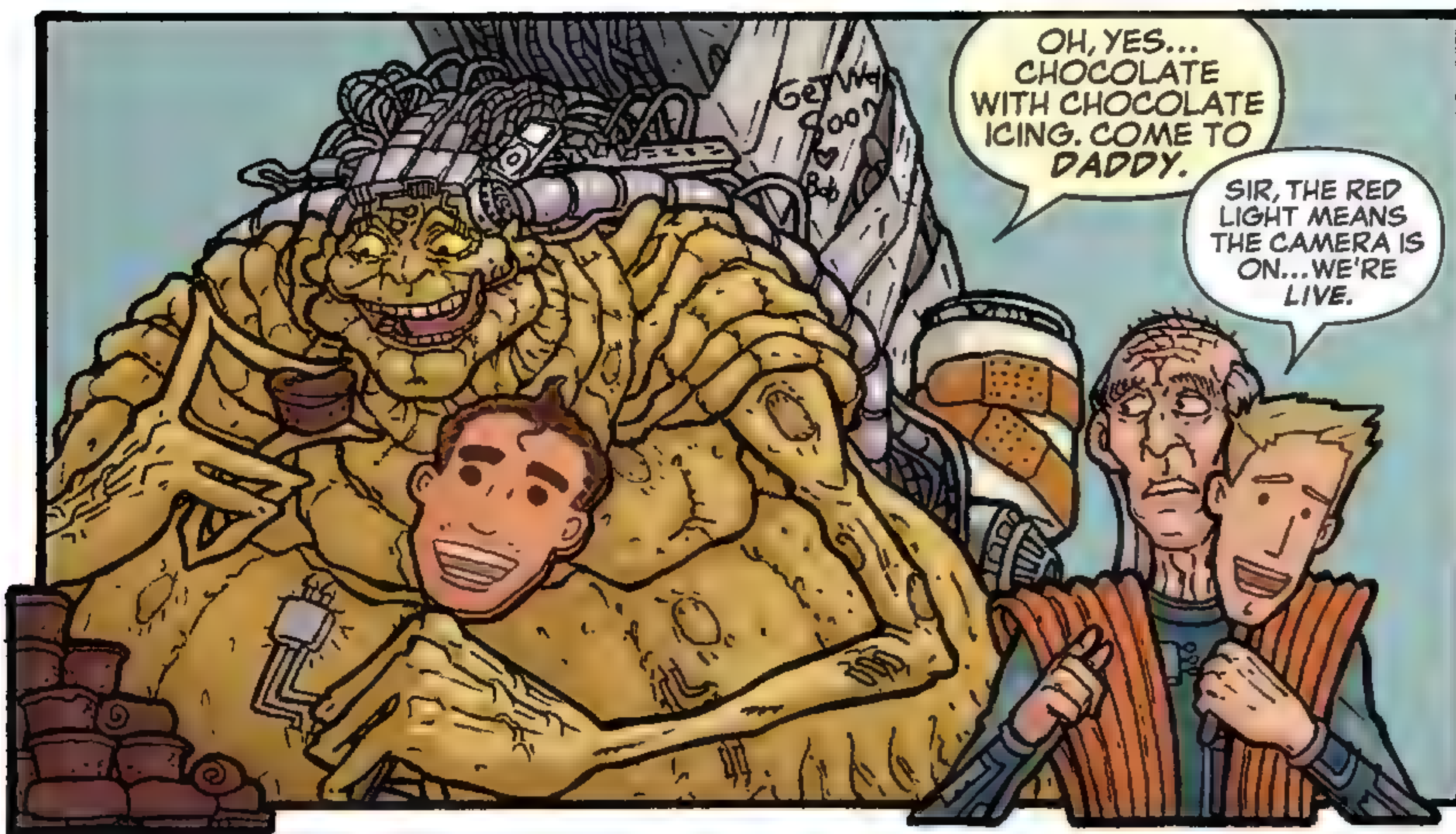
I'M SAYING THAT BEFORE YOU GIVE A NINJA ASSASSIN A BIG PILE OF CASH, YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TELL HER EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS FOR...

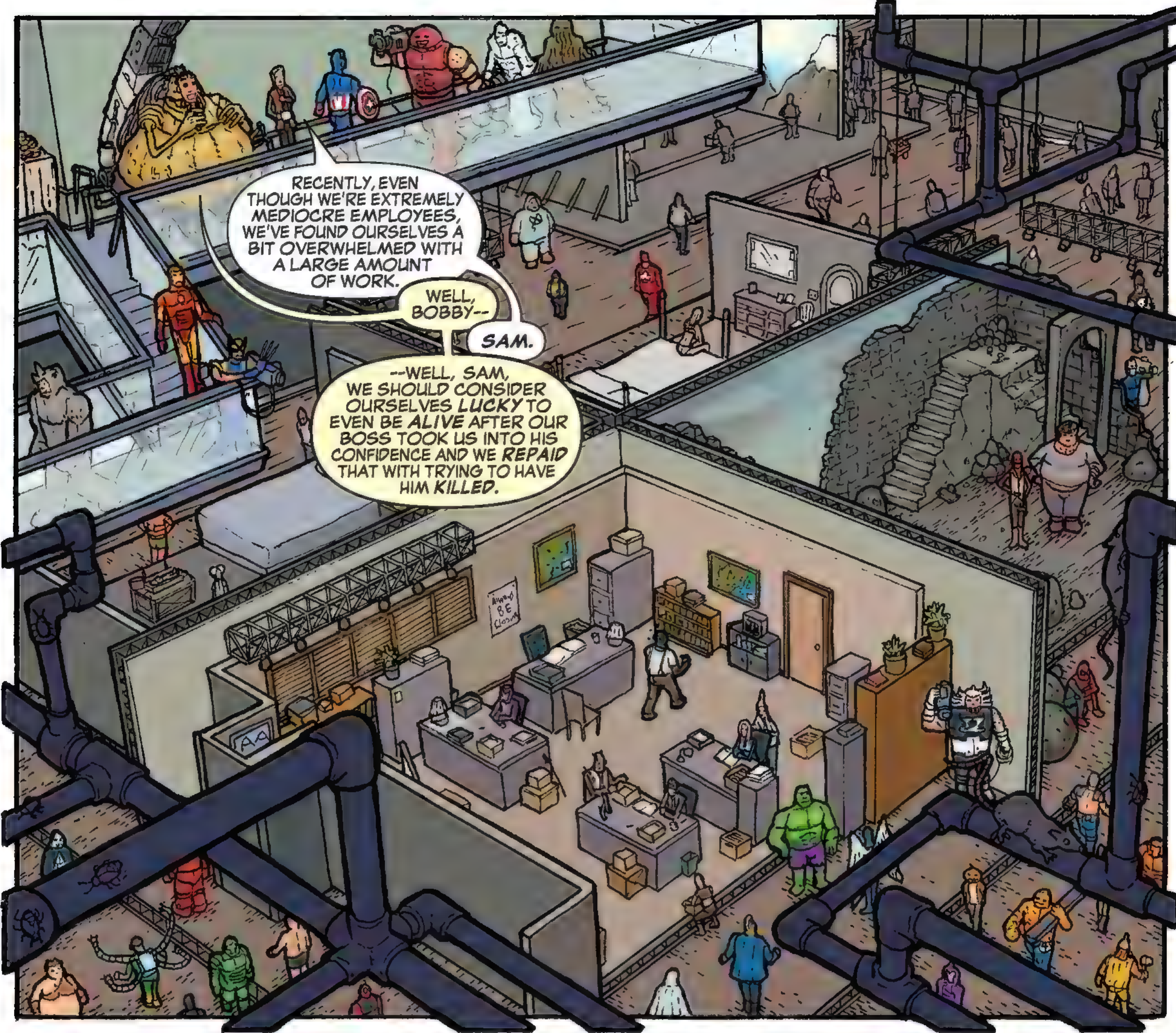
OH, NO...



AAAAAAAAHHH!





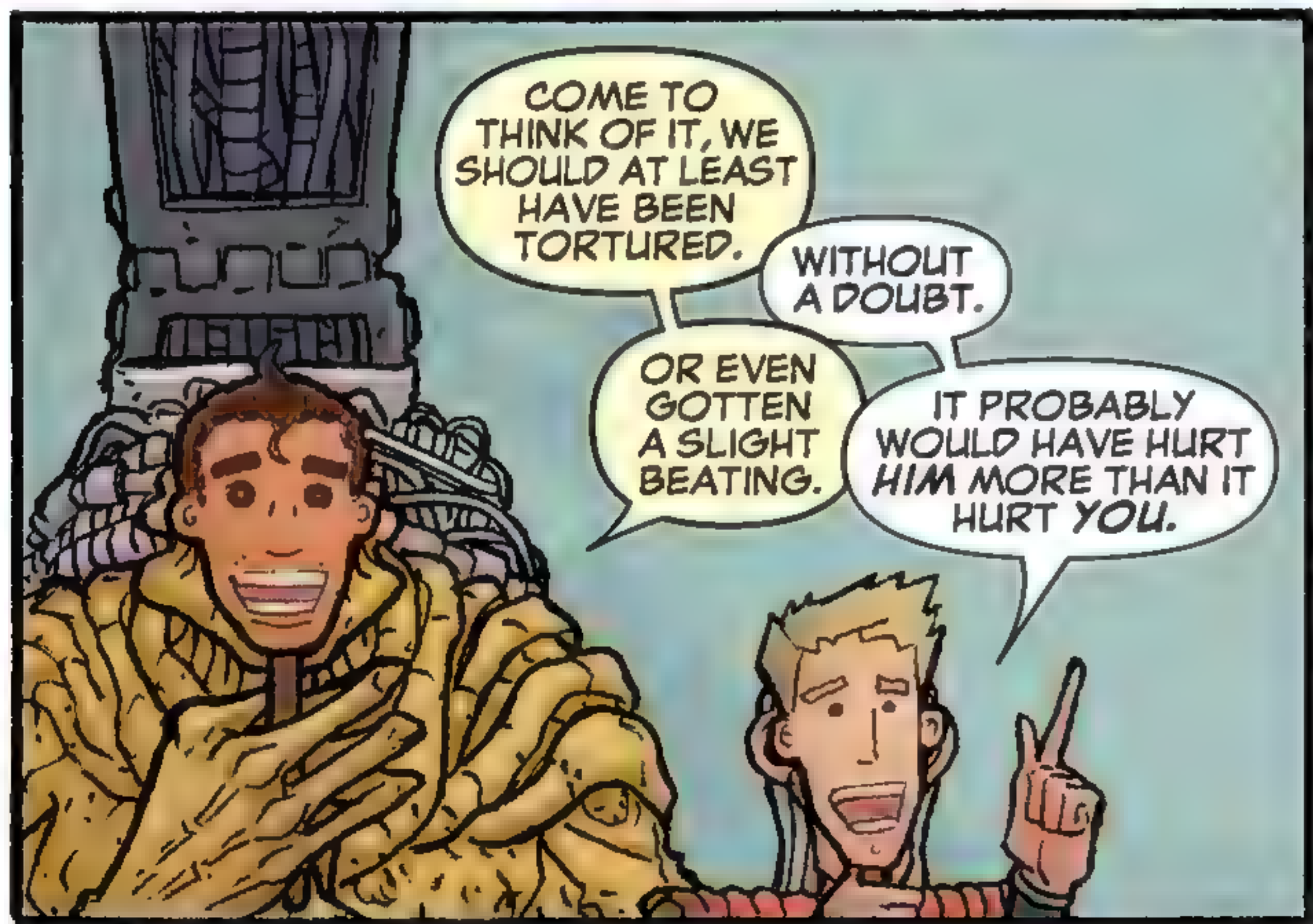


RECENTLY, EVEN
THOUGH WE'RE EXTREMELY
MEDIocre EMPLOYEES,
WE'VE FOUND OURSELVES A
BIT OVERWHELMED WITH
A LARGE AMOUNT
OF WORK.

WELL,
BOBBY--

SAM.

--WELL, SAM,
WE SHOULD CONSIDER
OURSELVES LUCKY TO
EVEN BE ALIVE AFTER OUR
BOSS TOOK US INTO HIS
CONFIDENCE AND WE REPAID
THAT WITH TRYING TO HAVE
HIM KILLED.



COME TO
THINK OF IT, WE
SHOULD AT LEAST
HAVE BEEN
TORTURED.

WITHOUT
A DOUBT.

OR EVEN
GOTTEN
A SLIGHT
BEATING.

IT PROBABLY
WOULD HAVE HURT
HIM MORE THAN IT
HURT YOU.

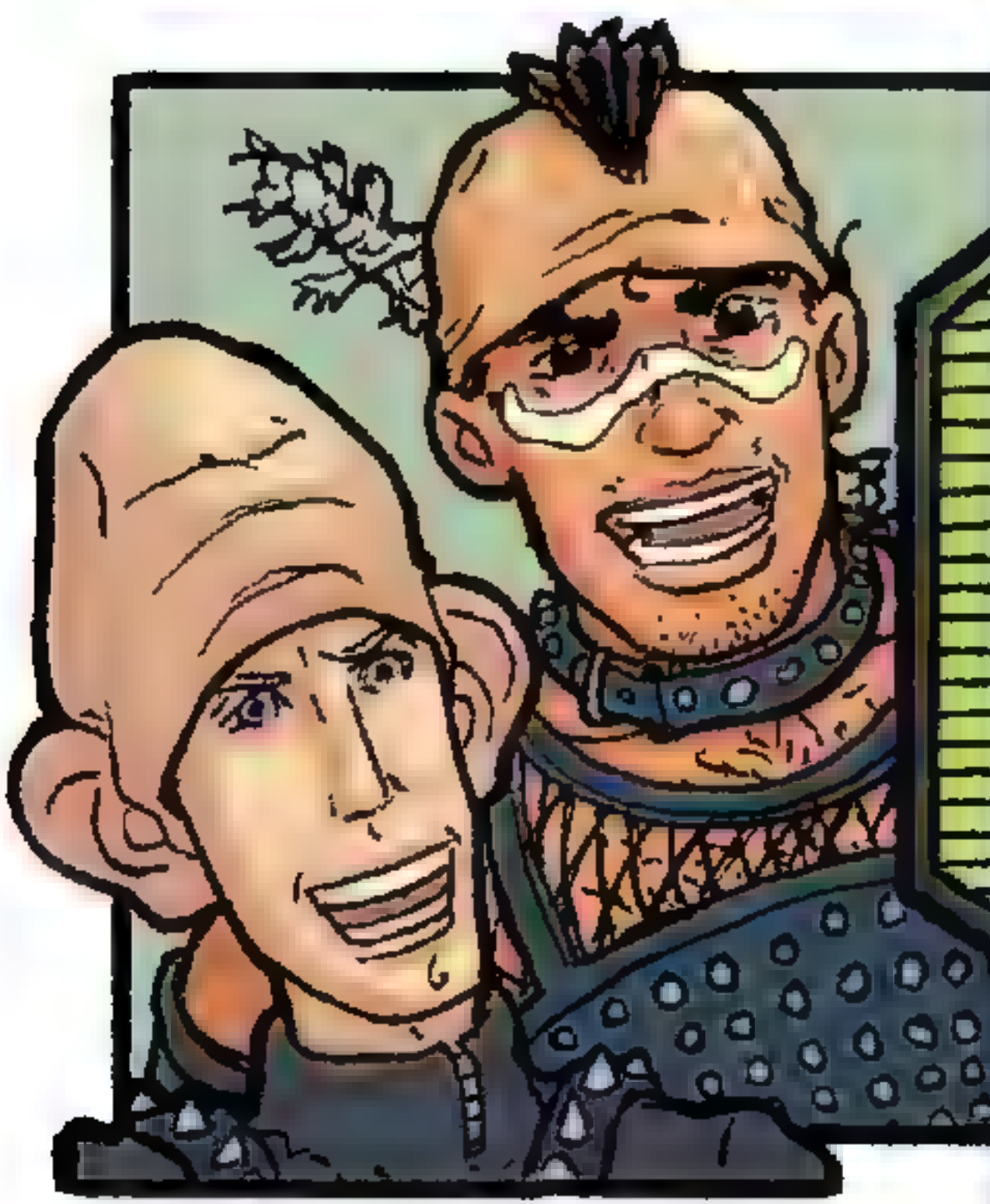


ONLY IF
IT'S BEING
DONE
RIGHT.

ENOUGH
TALK, LET'S
TAKE THEM
BEHIND THE
SCENES.



OKAY, BUT
TRY AND KEEP UP.
WE'RE SHOOTING
FOUR REMAKES
AT THE SAME
TIME.



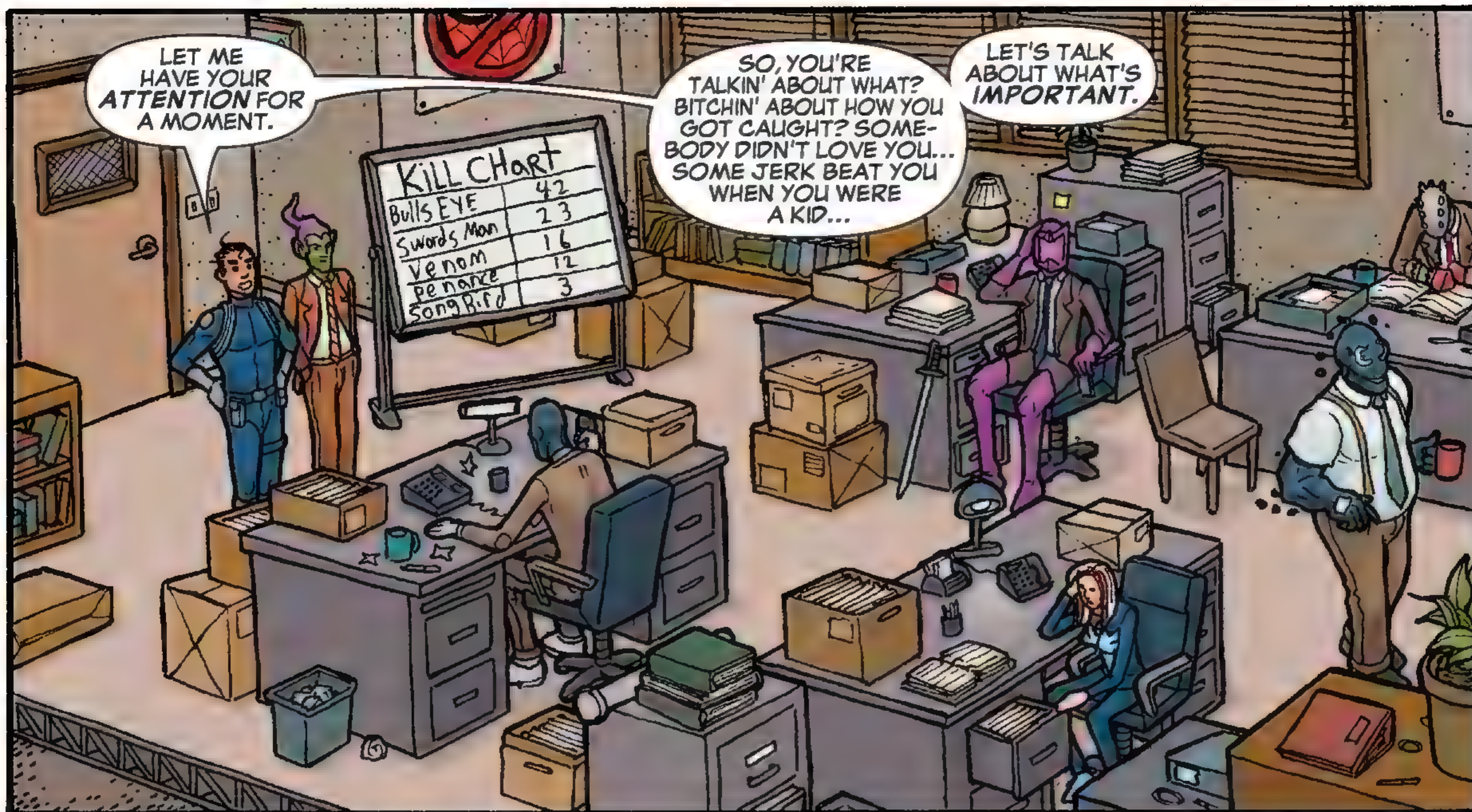
BOBBY AND SAM IN

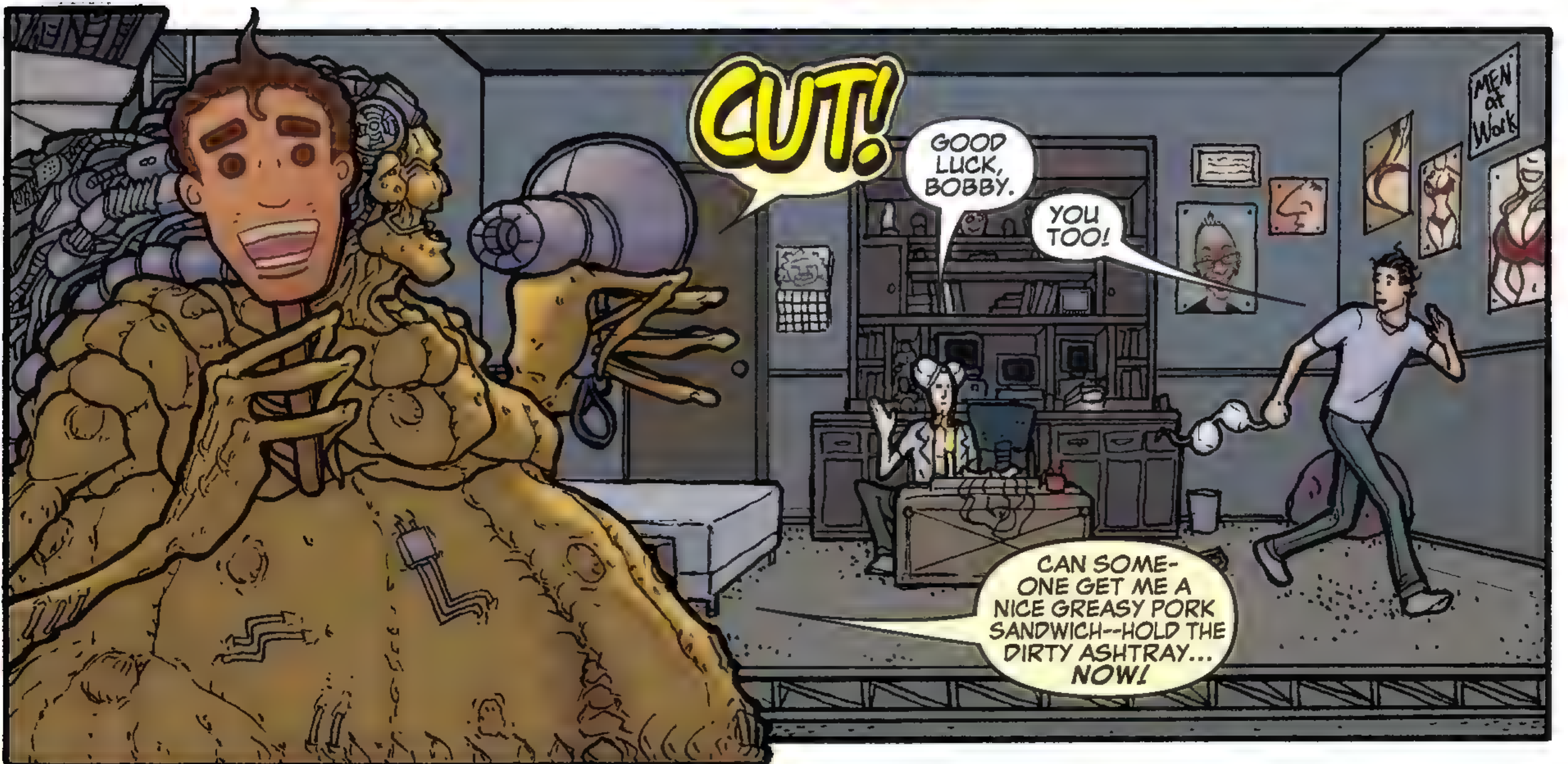
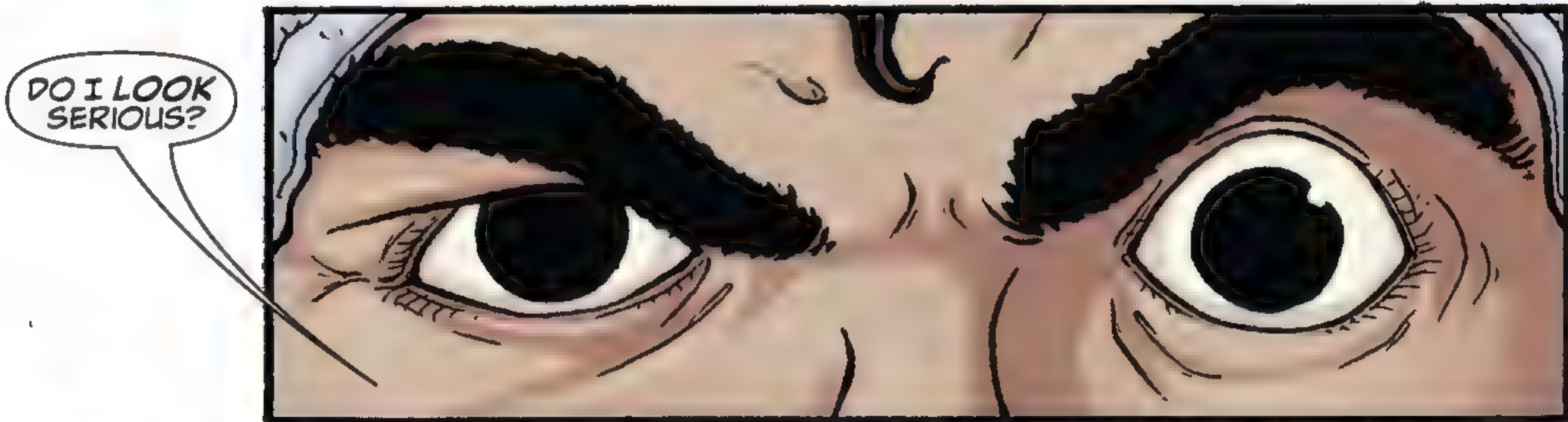
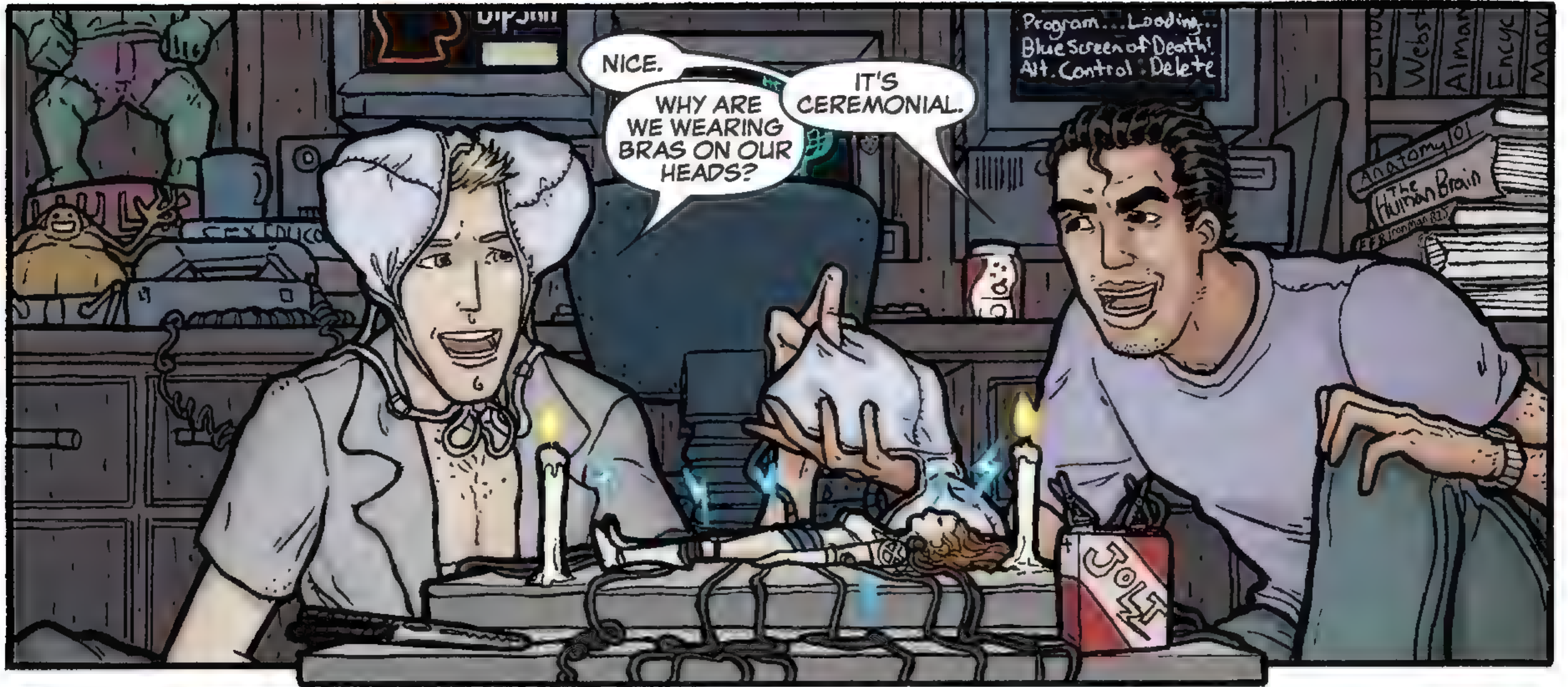
CHAPTER-5... **MOJO WORLD**

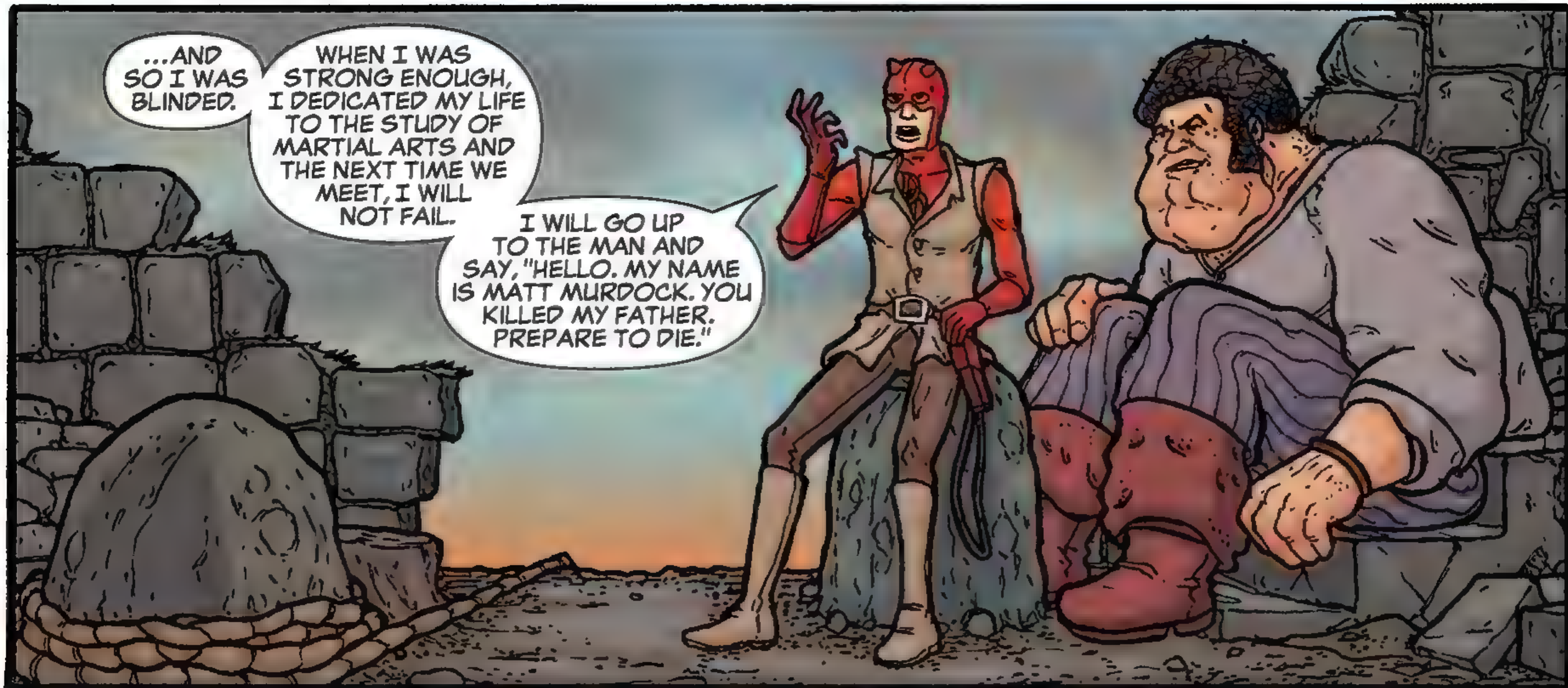
MONTAGE

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COLORS: MATTHEW FAIRBANK LETTERS: DAVE SHARPE
EDITOR: MICHAEL SCHWARTZ CONSULTING EDITORS: BOB AND KAREE
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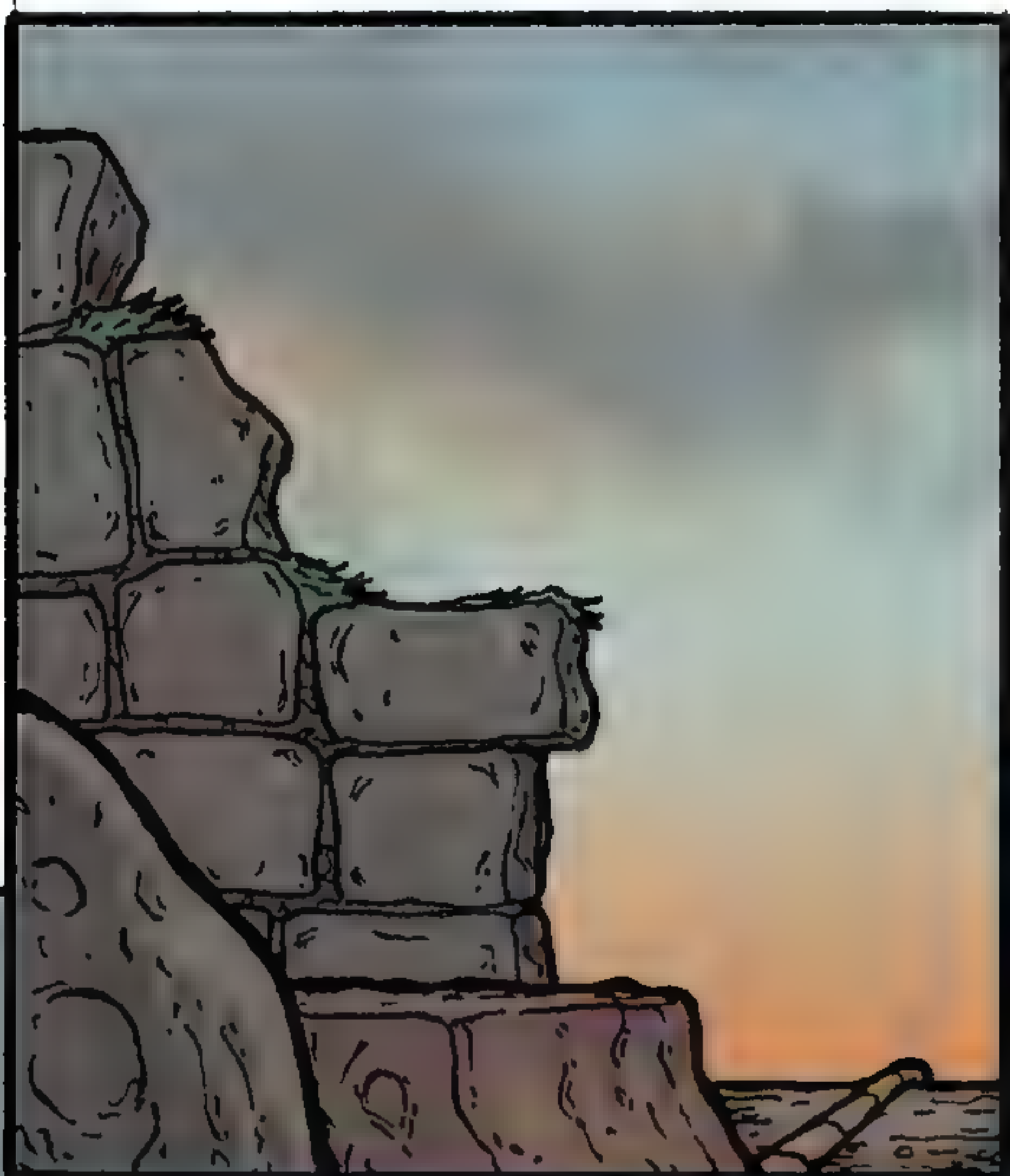




...AND
SO I WAS
BLINDED.

WHEN I WAS
STRONG ENOUGH,
I DEDICATED MY LIFE
TO THE STUDY OF
MARTIAL ARTS AND
THE NEXT TIME WE
MEET, I WILL
NOT FAIL.

I WILL GO UP
TO THE MAN AND
SAY, "HELLO. MY NAME
IS MATT MURDOCK. YOU
KILLED MY FATHER.
PREPARE TO DIE."



RIGHT.
SORRY.



WELL I
CERTAINLY HOPE
YOU FIND HIM
SOMEDAY.



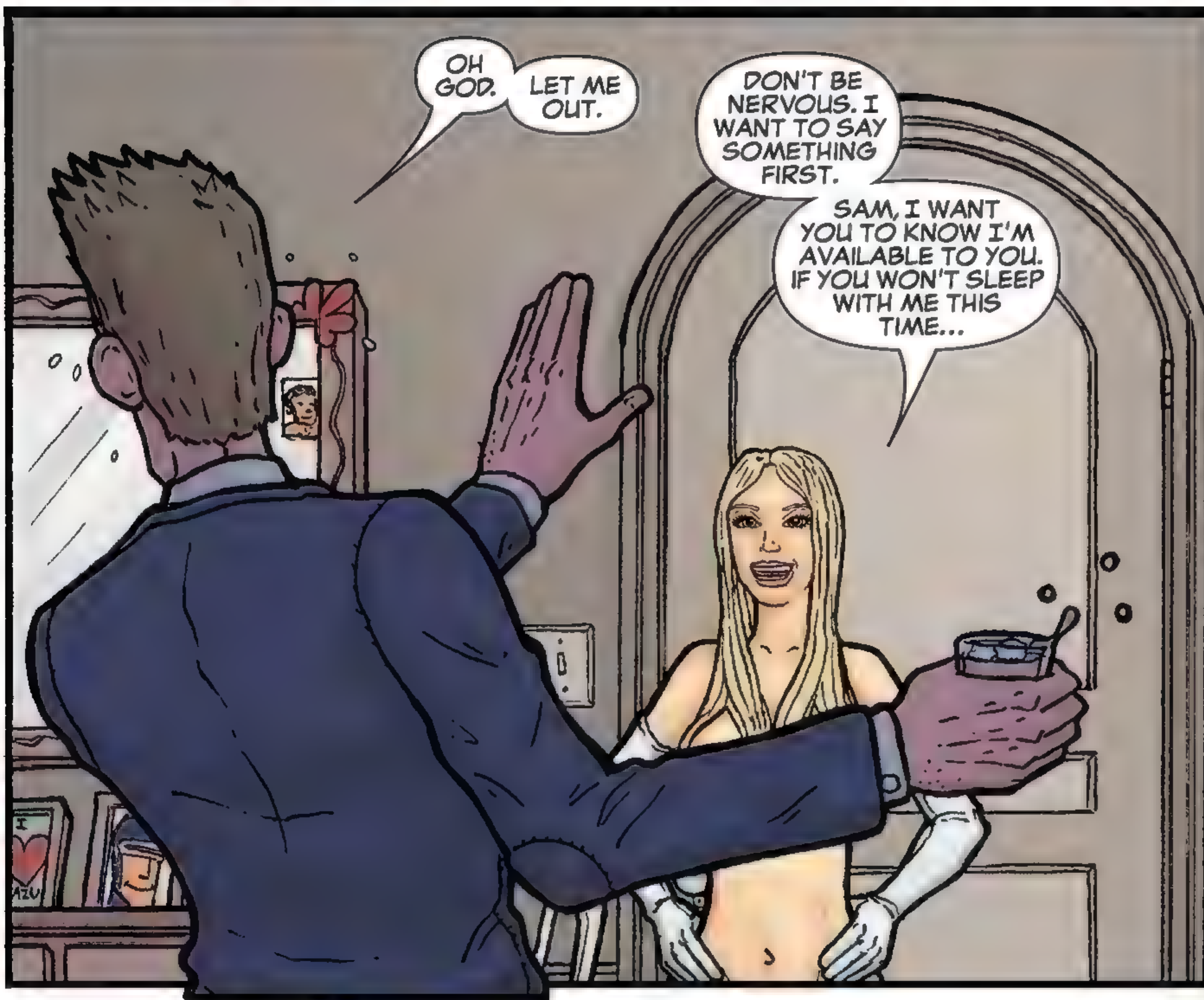
YOU
ARE READY
THEN?

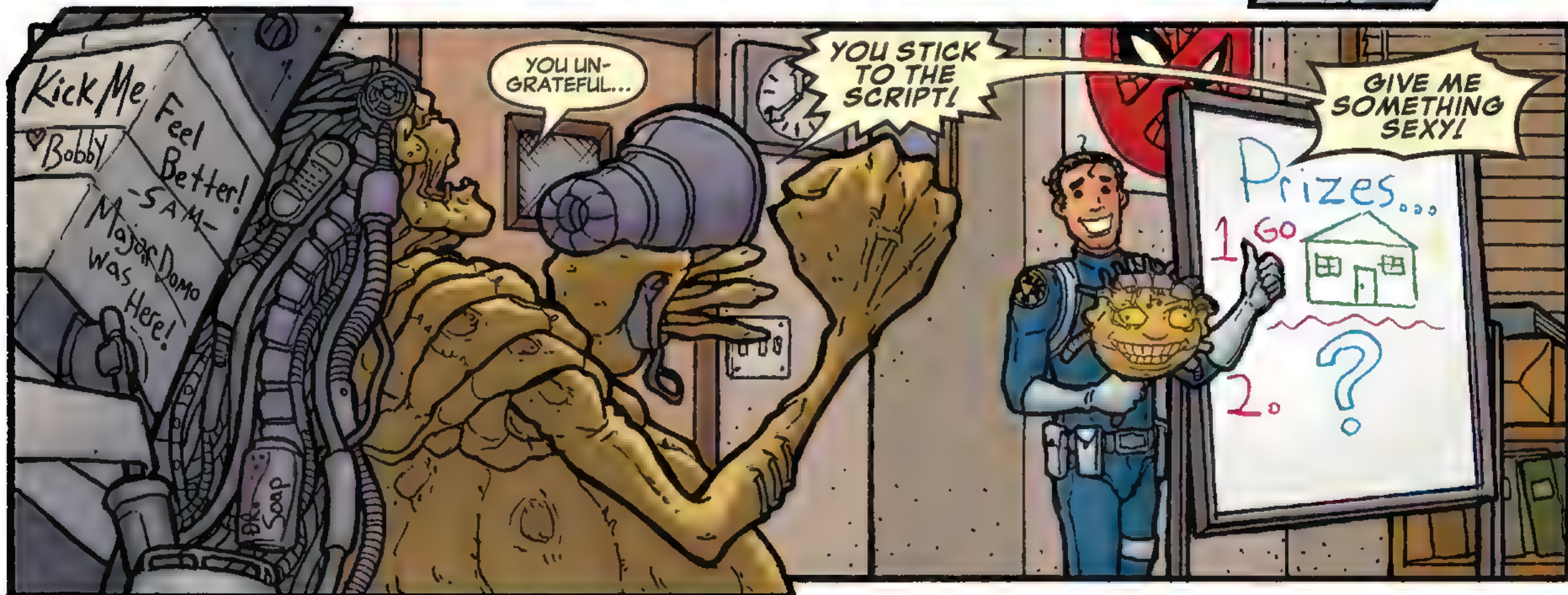
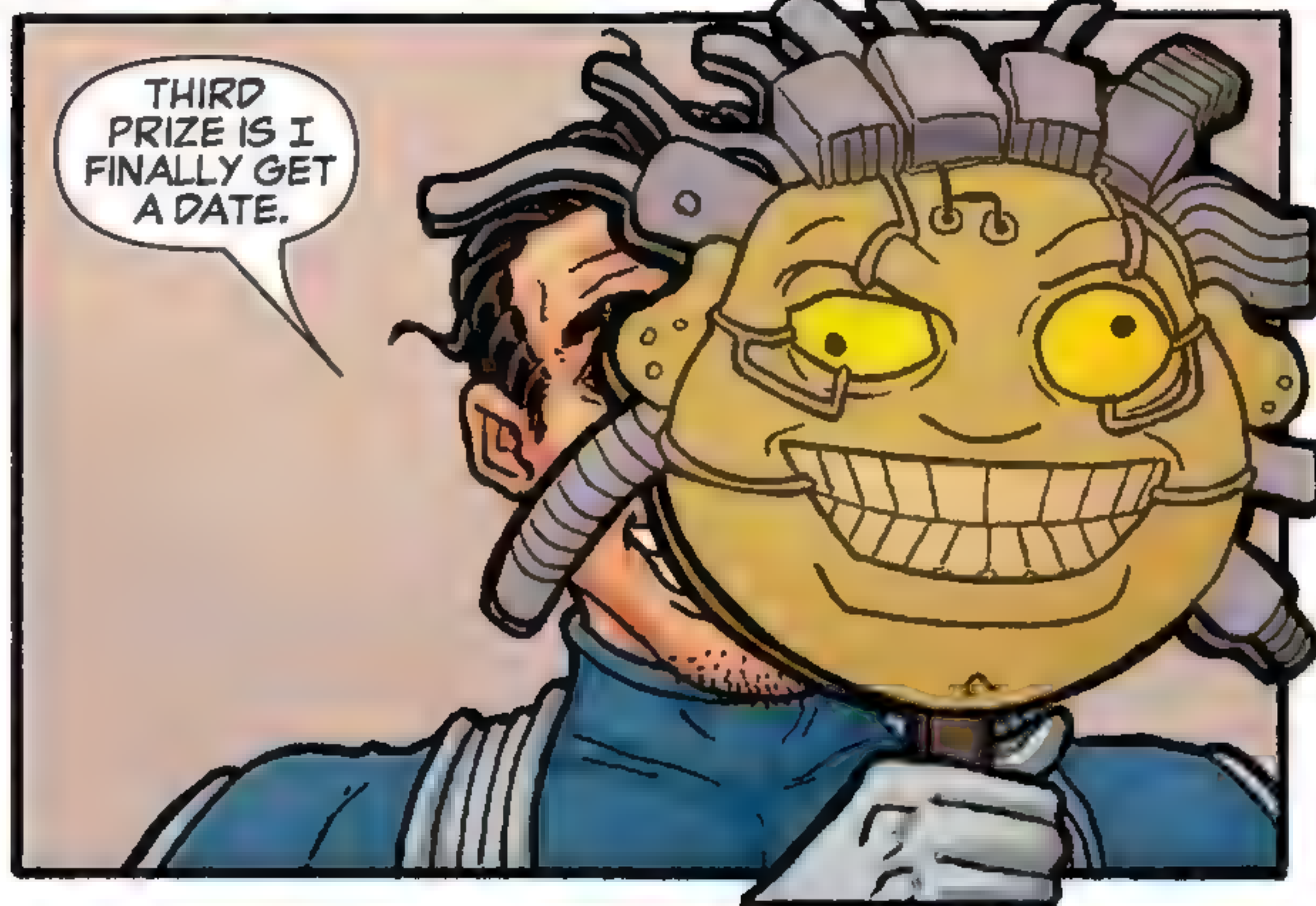
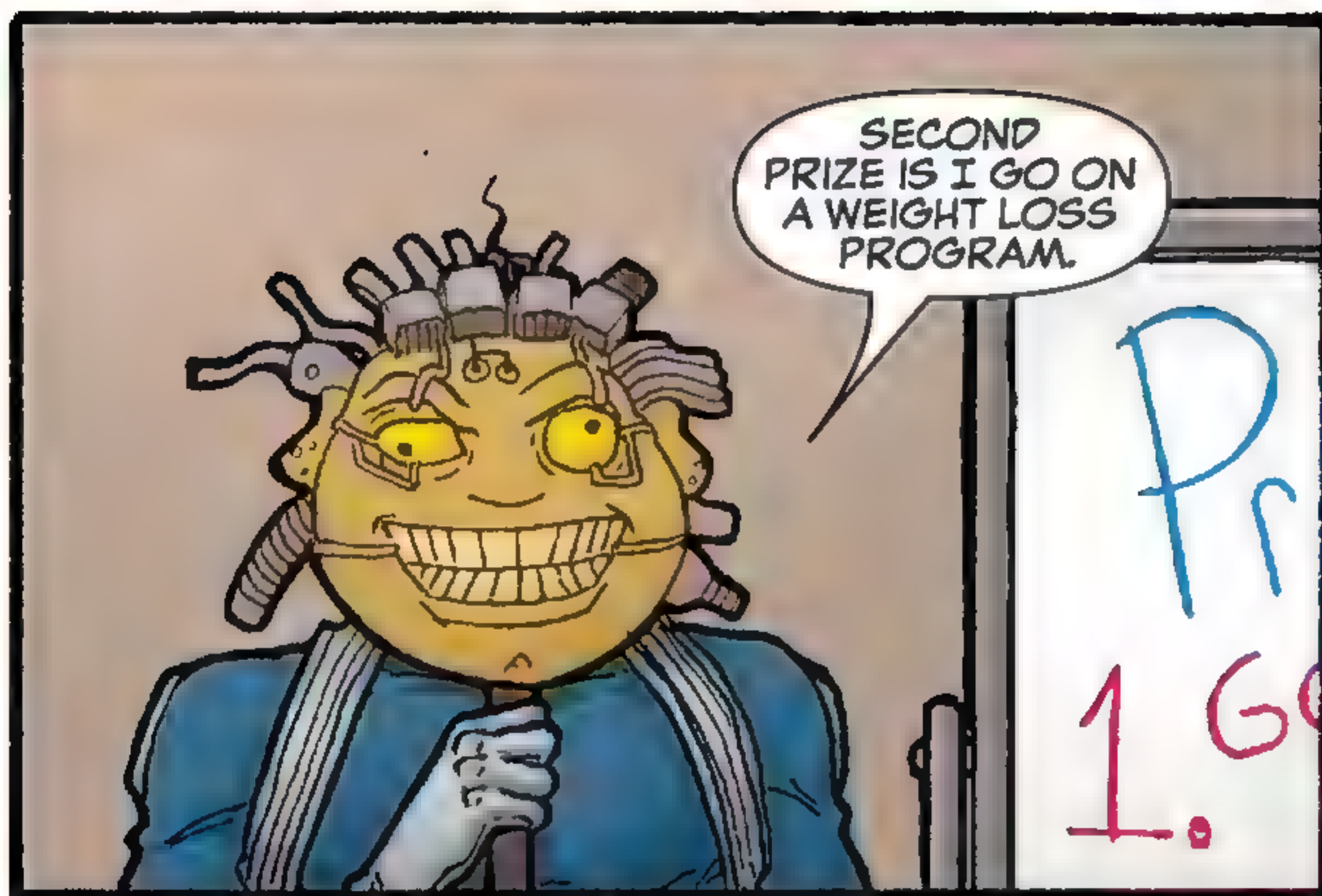
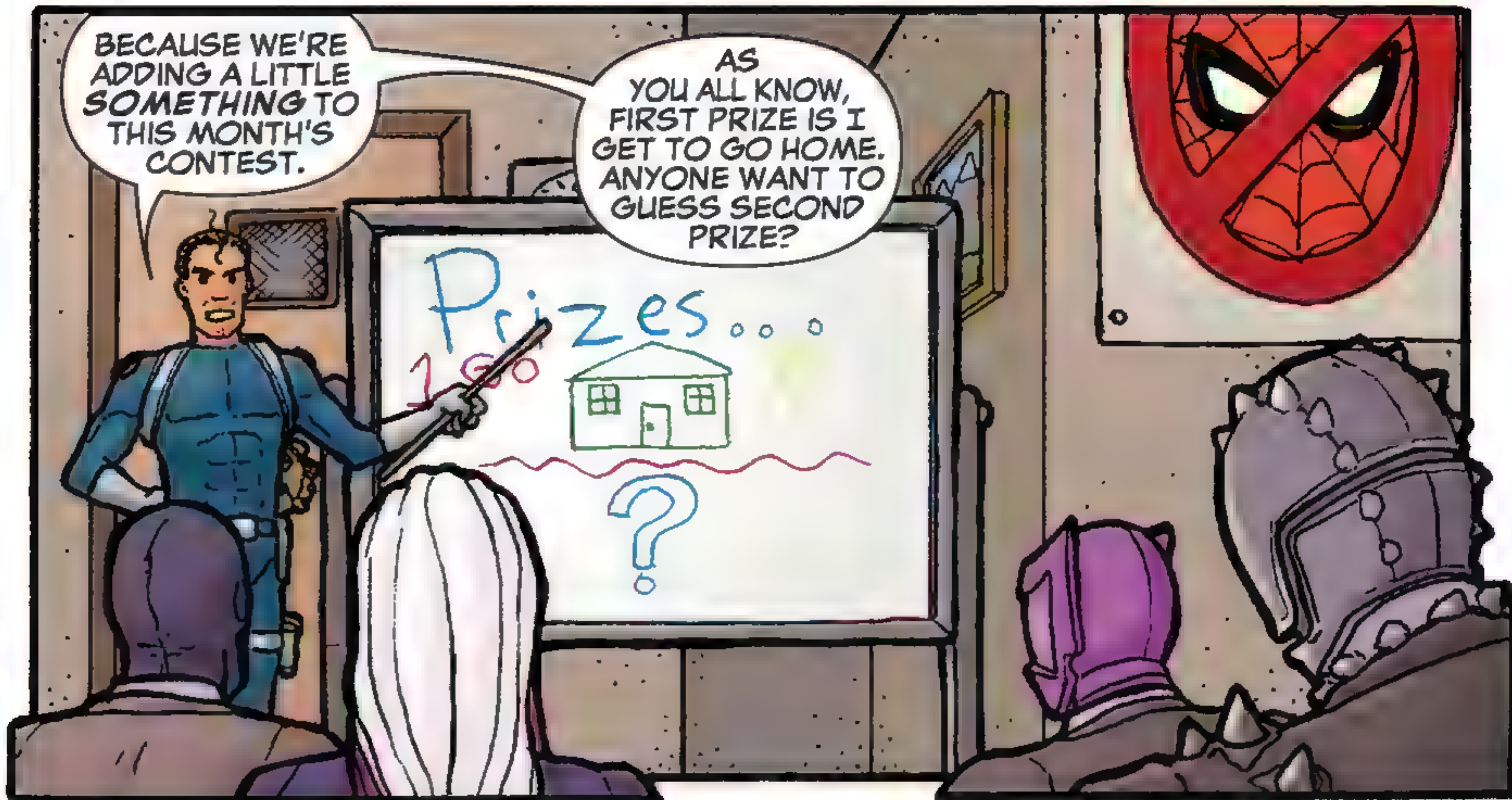


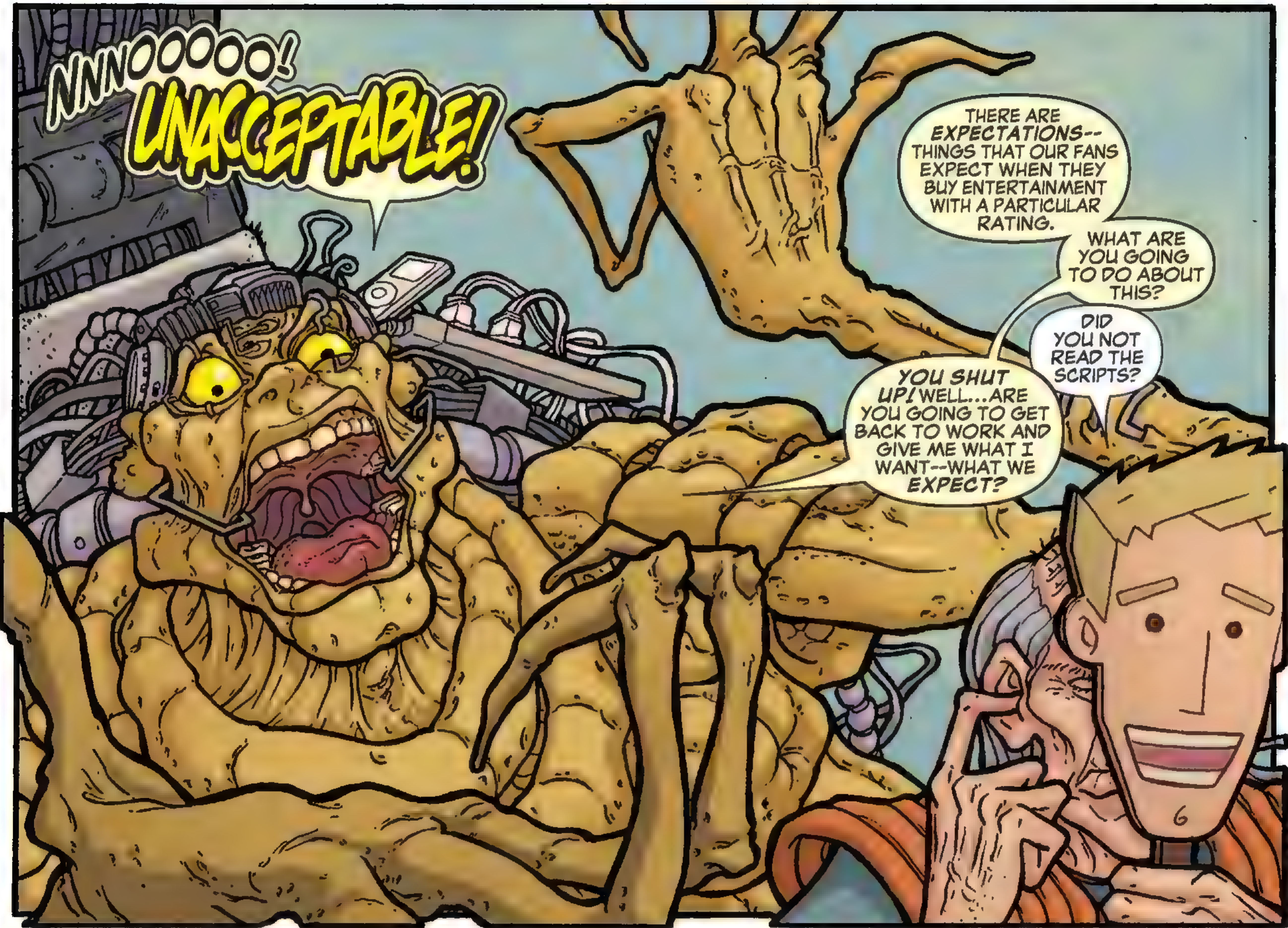
WHETHER
I AM OR NOT,
YOU'VE BEEN
MORE THAN
FAIR.

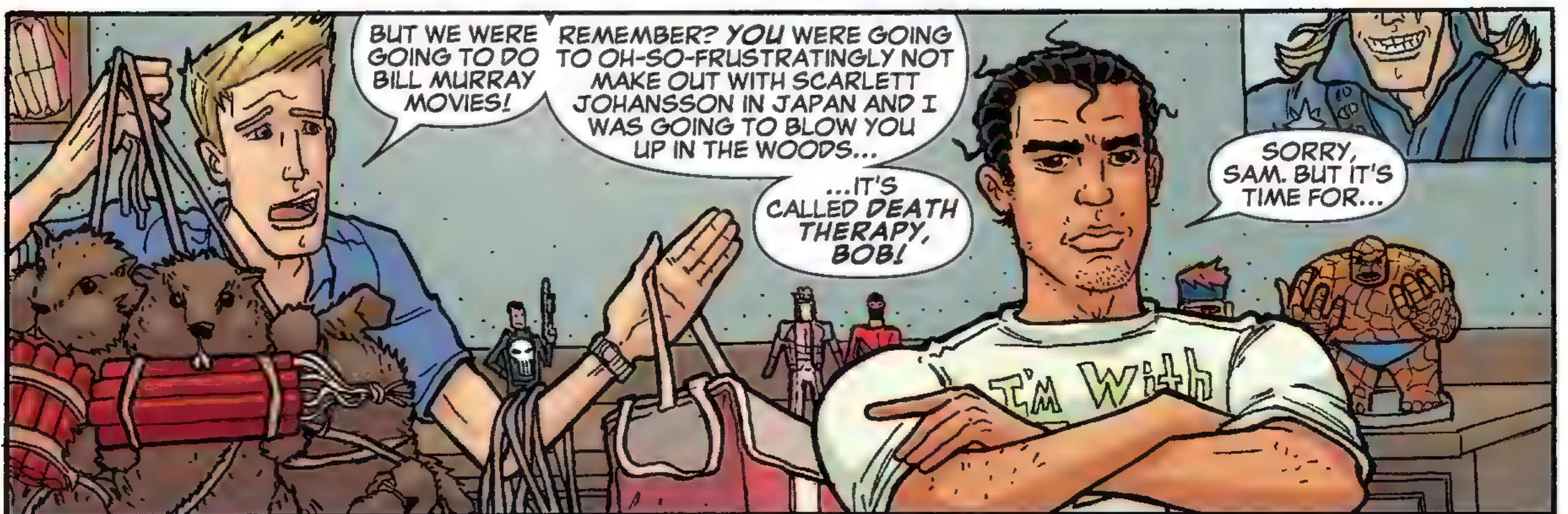
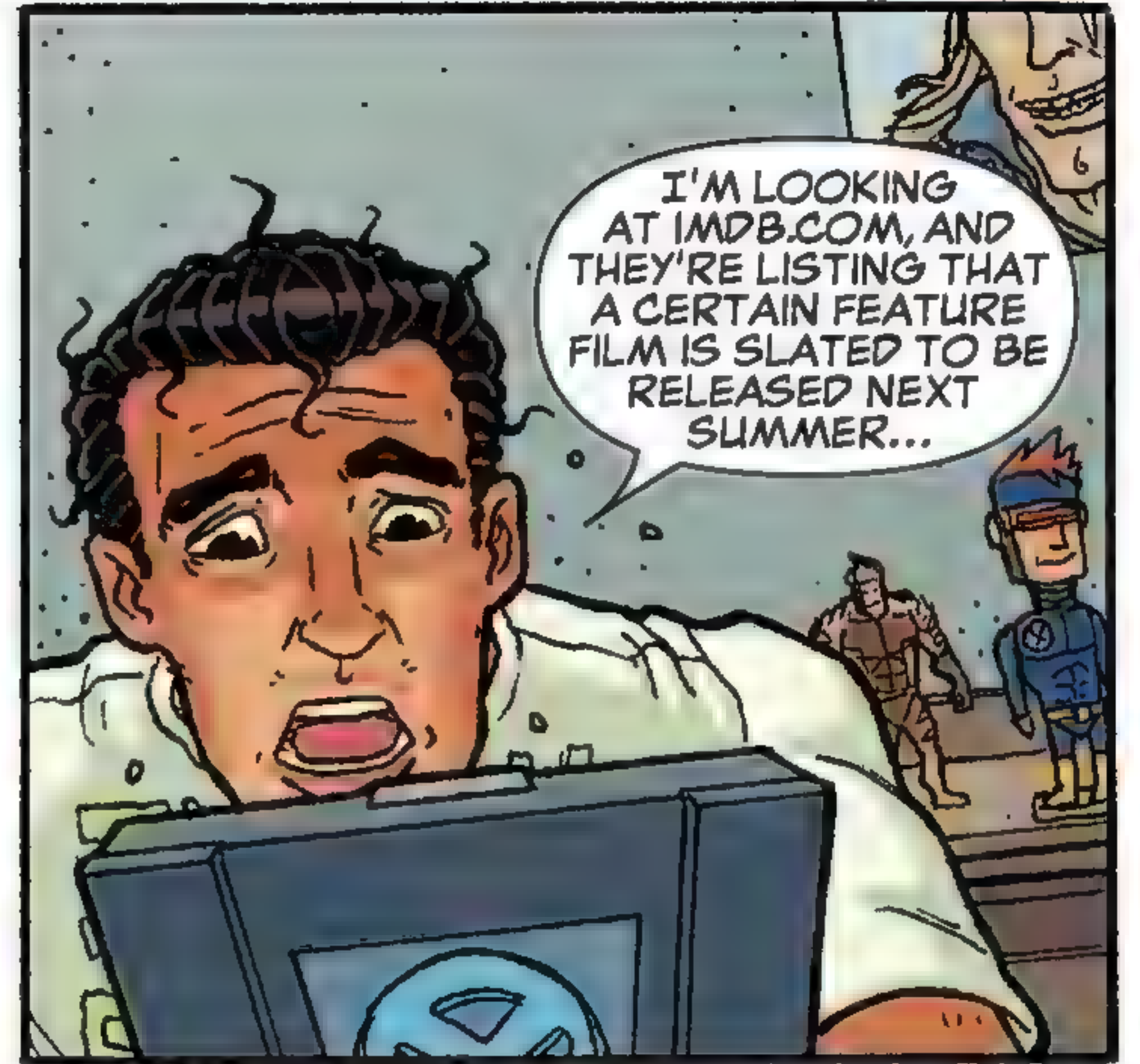
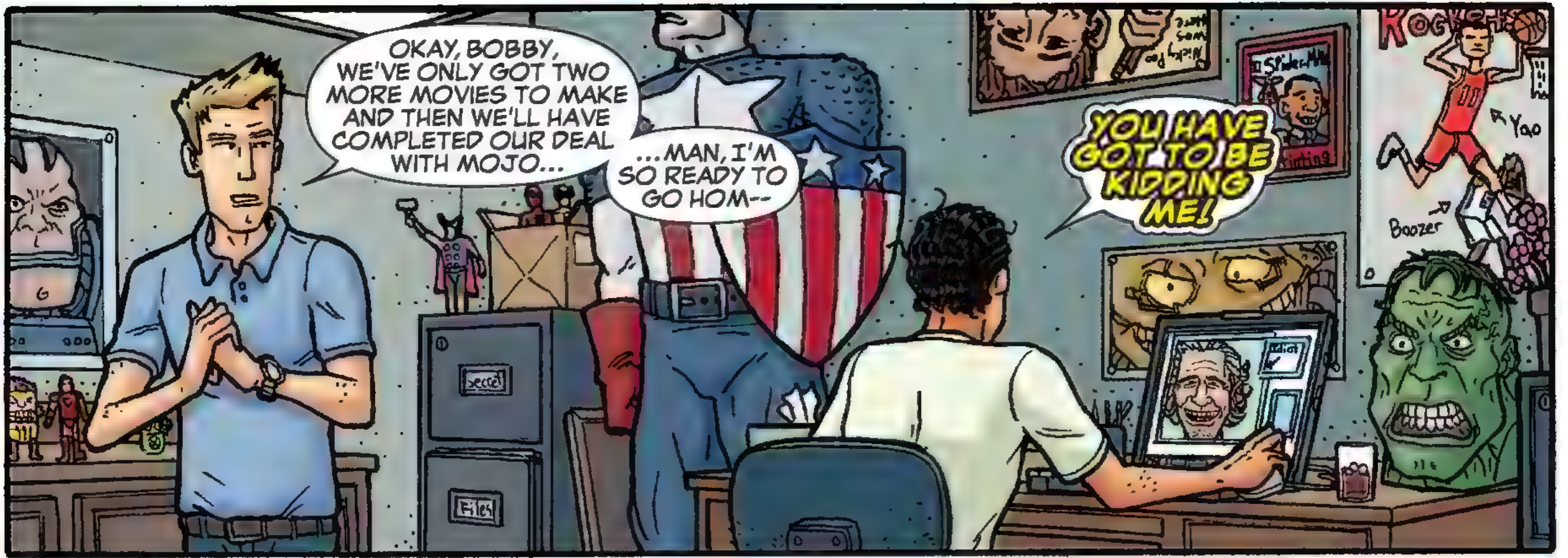
YOU
SEEM A DECENT
FELLOW...I HATE
TO KILL YOU.

YOU
SEEM A DECENT
FELLOW...I HATE
TO DIE.





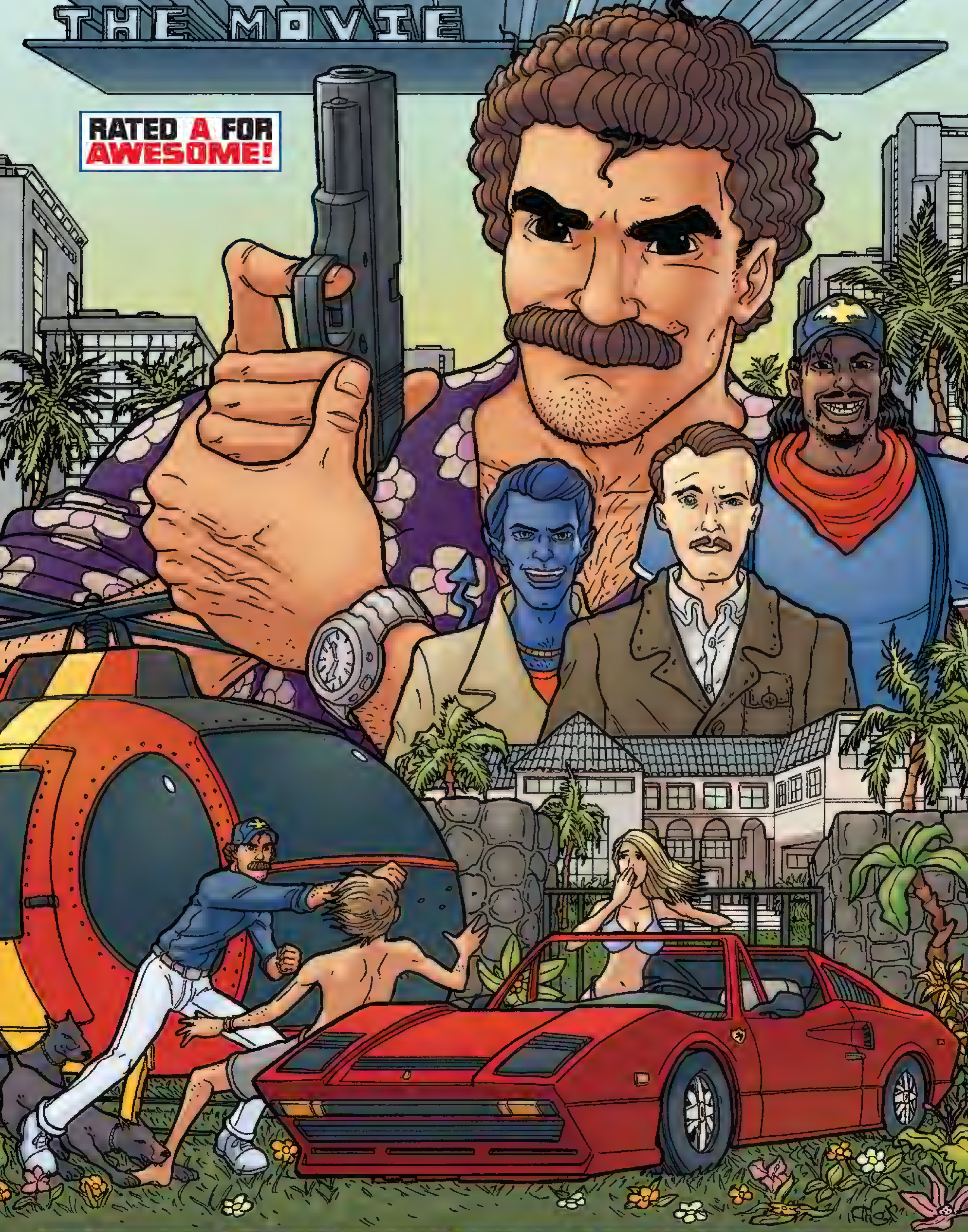




DA COSTA P1

THE MOVIE

**RATED A FOR
AWESOME!**



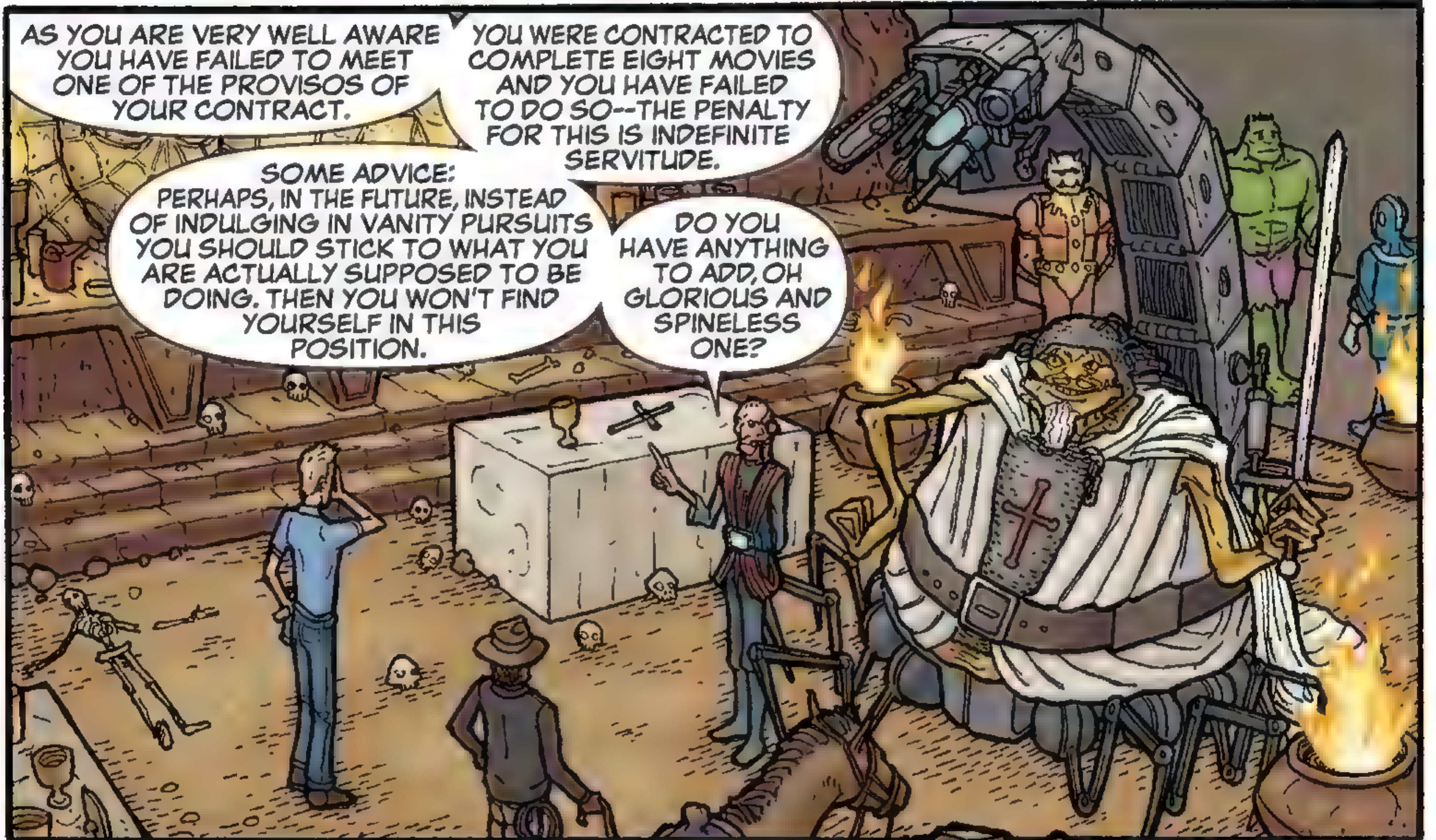
**SCREENWRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK PITARRA
PROP MASTER: NATHAN FAIRBAIRN SPECIAL EFFECTS: DAVE SHARPE BEST BOY: MICHAEL HORWITZ
DOLLY GRIPS: BOOSE & BARBER EDITOR IN CHIEF: JOE QUESADA PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE**

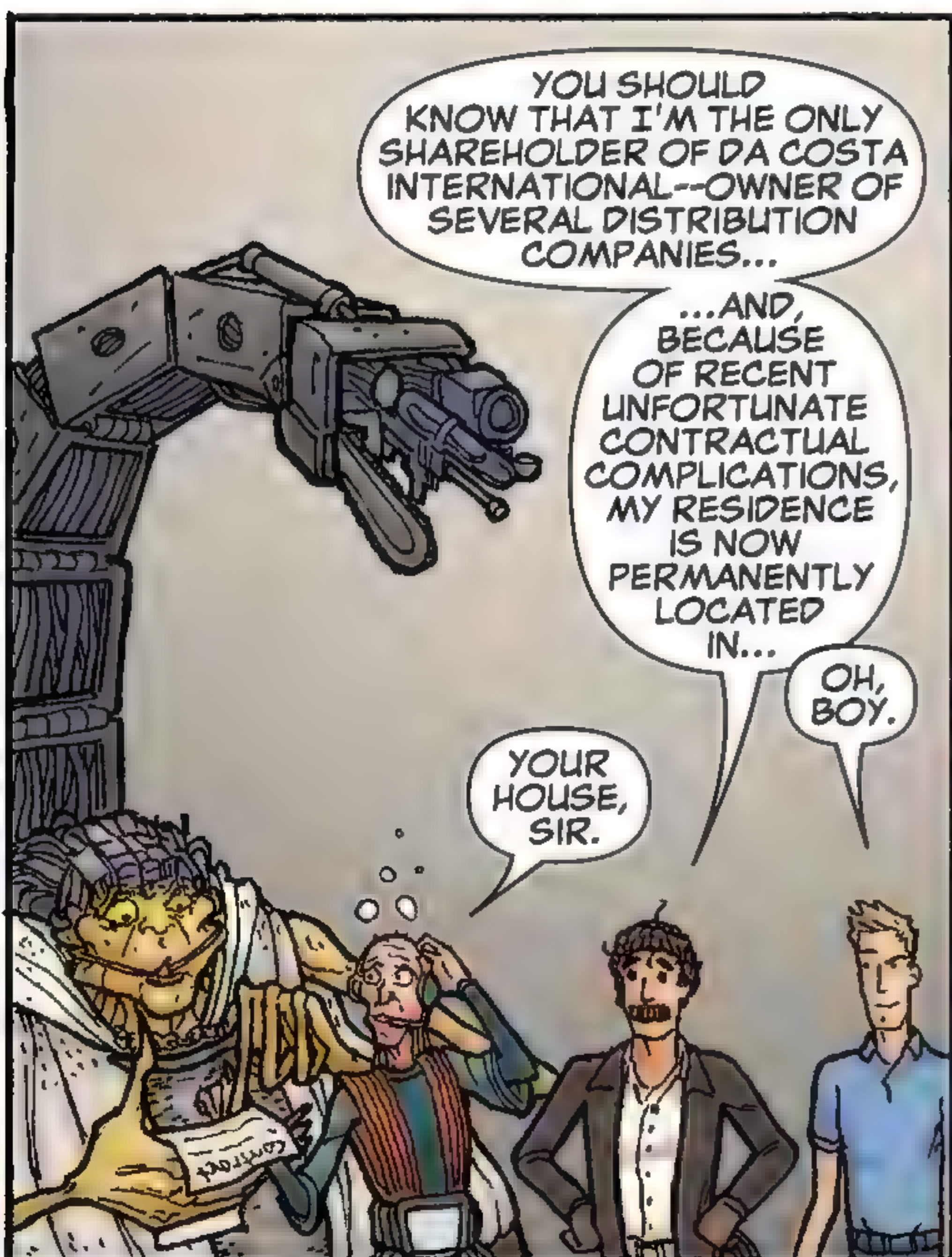
DA COSTA PI.

and the
RAIDERS of the TEMPLE
of the CRYSTAL GRAIL



CHECK OUT THE TRAILER AT **MARVEL.COM**
COMING SOON TO A DIMENSION NEAR YOU!





BACK AT THE DA COSTA COMPOUND...

YOU KNEW
WHAT YOU WERE
DOING THE WHOLE
TIME, DIDN'T YOU,
BOBBY?

PRETTY
MUCH.

I AM
THE BRAINS
BEHIND THIS
OUTFIT.

COME TO
THINK OF IT, I'M
THE MUSCLE AND
THE GOOD LOOKS
AS WELL.

WHAT
EXACTLY IS
IT THAT YOU
BRING TO
OUR LITTLE
PARTY?



HUMILITY?

THERE
IS ALWAYS
THAT.

SO LET ME
GET THIS STRAIGHT--
WE GOT OUR FREEDOM
AND RETAINED A
SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE
OF THE DISTRIBUTION
RIGHTS FOR THE
MOVIES...

UH-HUH.

SOMETIMES
YOU REALLY MAKE
THINGS LOOK WAY
TOO EASY.



WE REALLY
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN
MORE ADVANTAGE OF
THE FREE GIRLS AND
BOOZE.



REGARDLESS,
WE'RE GOING TO
MAKE A LOT OF
MONEY, SAM.

YOU KNOW
WHAT, BOBBY?
I'D SETTLE FOR
BEING AN
X-MAN...

YOU AND
ME BOTH, PAL...
YOU AND ME
BOTH.





A dramatic promotional illustration for the movie Avengers: Infinity War. The scene is set against a fiery, orange-red background with large, glowing geometric shapes. In the foreground, the Hulk stands on the left, his massive form partially in shadow. To his right, Iron Man stands with his chest glowing. Further back, other Avengers are visible in silhouette or partial light, including Thor, Vision, Wanda Maximoff, and Doctor Strange. The overall mood is epic and intense.

**“Truly massive
in scope.”**

— IGN

STORYTELLING ON AN EPIC SCALE!

Jonathan Hickman assembles the largest Avengers roster ever seen, drawing recruits from across the Marvel Universe! But just as the Avengers get bigger, so too do the threats they must face. For when Earth is judged and found wanting by ancient beings, the very cosmos will be made to tremble! Meanwhile, the entire Multiverse is on the verge of collapse — and the only ones who know are the secret group of world-shapers, the Illuminati! And an old enemy is awaiting his moment to strike. Will Earth be razed by the Builders — or claimed by Thanos? The grandest Avengers story of all begins!

Collecting *Avengers* (2012) #1-23, *New Avengers* (2013) #1-12, *Free Comic Book Day 2013 (Infinity)* #1, *Infinity* #1-6, *Infinity: Against the Tide Infinite Comic* #1-2, *Astonishing Tales: Mojoworld* #1-6 and material from *Shang-Chi: Master of Kung Fu* (2009) #1 — by Jonathan Hickman, Nick Spencer, Jerome Opeña, Adam Kubert, Dustin Weaver, Mike Deodato Jr., Stefano Caselli, Marco Rudy, Marco Checchetto, Leinil Francis Yu, Steve Epting, Jim Cheung, Gerry Alanguilan, Rick Magyar, Mark Morales, Livesay, Dave Meikis, Dean White, Morry Hollowell, Justin Ponsor, Richard Isanove, Frank Martin, Frank D'Armata, Edgar Delgado, Sunny Gho, David Curiel, Paul Mounts, Rain Beredo and Ive Svorcina.

T+

MARVEL

Avengers by Jonathan Hickman Omnibus None <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BF2WKZ2X> Collects Avengers (2012) #1-23, New Avengers (2013) #1-12, Free Comic Book Day 2013 (Infinity) #1, Infinity (2013) #1-6, Infinity: Against the Tide Infinite Comic (2013) #1-2, Astonishing Tales: Mojoworld (2008) #1-6, material from Shang-Chi: Master of Kung Fu (2009) #1. Modern visionary Jonathan Hickman begins his Marvel magnum opus! As threats to Earth mount, the Avengers expand! But even the mightiest roster of all may be powerless in the face of what's coming! And while Iron Man and Captain America assemble their Avengers World and strive to decipher the meaning of the White Event, Tony Stark secretly tries to solve the biggest crisis of all, along with his influential allies the Illuminati! While they seek to prevent the collapse of reality itself, the Avengers face a war on two fronts! Protecting Earth from the Builders may only hand it to...Thanos! Scraped metadata from Amazon [ASINB0BF2WKZ2X], [RELDATE:2023-02-08] Marvel 1174 EN 2023 4